

Andrew M. Middleton, Ph.D.

Sr. Manager,
Global Quality Operations, Pfizer Inc.

TITLE: Rapid Microbiological Methods: Are the needs of the pharmaceutical Industry really being met?

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The use of rapid microbial methods (RMM) in the pharmaceutical industry has been discussed for many years, yet the uptake of such methods by laboratories has been relatively slow. Many published articles have questioned the reasons for this and have offered guidance on overcoming the perceived hurdles to implementation. This talk will explore the slow uptake of RMM from another angle, asking the question, "Are the methods and commercial systems currently available appropriate to our needs?"

Andrew Middleton is currently a Group Leader and Global Head of Microbiology within GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare R&D, responsible for oral microbiological research and in vitro method development, as well as microbiological support for new product development. In addition to his microbiology responsibilities, Andrew also runs a new product development group involved in all aspects of formulation development through to scale-up manufacture. He began his career as a diagnostic microbiologist, going on to do clinical research microbiology. He joined GSK in 2002, moving through a number of roles to his present position.

Andrew holds a BSc in Bacteriology and Virology from Manchester University, an MSc in Biomedical Sciences from Surrey University and a PhD in Medical Microbiology from Imperial College, London. He also holds Royal Chartered status in Science (CSci) and Biology (CBiol) and is a Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences (FIBMS). Andrew continues to publish in the academic literature, is a Visiting Lecturer at Kingston University, London and an Honorary Teaching Fellow at Manchester University. Andrew maintains an interest in rapid microbiological methods and has recently presented and published a number of papers on their potential use within the pharmaceutical industry.