# Key developments in medical technology for 2024



The medical technology landscape has experienced significant developments in 2024, showcasing innovations and strategic shifts that are reshaping the industry. Medical Design and Outsourcing has identified some of the most engaging stories from the year, drawing attention to key trends and insights, particularly regarding automation, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies.

One prominent theme has been the ongoing evolution of Medtronic, which successfully retained its position as the world's largest medical device manufacturer. The company was a focal point for readers, with various stories covering its strategies and operational changes. In January, CEO and Chair Geoff Martha detailed plans to streamline operations, including the closure of manufacturing sites and ending relationships with approximately 200 suppliers. This realignment reflects broader trends in consolidation and efficiency that are increasingly prevalent across the medtech sector.

In March, Medtronic's Chief Technology and Innovation Officer Ken Washington provided insights into the company's integration of artificial intelligence into its products and processes. Speaking to Medical Design and Outsourcing, Washington elaborated on the potential of AI to enhance medical device functionality, an indication of the industry's shift towards incorporating sophisticated technologies into daily operations.

Surgical robotics also made headlines in 2024, particularly with the introduction of Intuitive Surgical’s fifth-generation da Vinci 5 robotics system. This system received FDA clearance and featured major design innovations intended to improve surgical outcomes. Following its launch, Medical Design and Outsourcing reported on the insights gleaned from the device's limited rollout and the company’s strategy to harness collected data for future product development. Notably, Virtual Incision's portable surgical robotics system was sent to the International Space Station for unprecedented telesurgery trials, highlighting the potential for robotics in advanced surgical practices and environments.

Leadership perspectives within the medtech sector were another focal point, with notable interviews featuring prominent figures such as Dr. Tom Oxley, co-founder and CEO of Synchron, and Lisa Earnhardt of Abbott. Insights gained from these discussions provide a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by leaders in this dynamic field.

In the realm of market analysis, the annual Medtech Big 100 report remains a significant fixture, ranking the largest medical device companies and revealing critical trends in revenue and employment. Furthermore, the publication highlighted the analysis of gender diversity in leadership roles within the industry, an ongoing conversation that is central to shaping future corporate cultures in medtech.

The year 2024 also saw shifts in sterilization practices for medical devices, particularly in response to new regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency concerning ethylene oxide sterilisation. The FDA’s classification of vaporized hydrogen peroxide as an established method presents manufacturers with alternative approaches to sterilisation, thereby influencing production protocols.

In summary, the developments within the medical technology sector in 2024 are indicative of a trend towards increased automation, data utilisation, and regulatory adaptations. As companies navigate these changes, the implications for business practices and future innovations remain a critical focus for industry stakeholders.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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