

## INDEX™23 - SEMINARS & NONWOVEN TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

Location: INDEX™ Innovation Lab (Hall 3)

TUESDAY 18 APRIL

13:30 – 15:30

### THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF MEDICAL NONWOVEN

It is estimated that by 2030, disposable medical clothing will contribute to approximately 1 million tons of plastic waste in Europe. The incineration of disposable medical clothing leads to GHG emissions and fossil-based resource depletion. What are the alternatives?

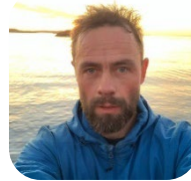
In this session we will explore if mechanical or chemical recycling schemes are able to treat contaminated waste. We will review the learnings from the first recycling pilot trials. We will discuss risks and opportunities in the context of the European Green Deal. Finally, we will discuss what it will take to scale up solutions for medical nonwoven circularity programs across hospitals.



**Moderator:** Christel Dendas, ESG Strategy Advisor - **The Circular Future**



**Presentation 1:**  
**Challenges to go circular for the medical nonwoven industry** **Robert Garcia**, Application & Product Development Director | EMEIA Hygiene & Healthcare, Nonwovens - **Berry Global**



**Presentation 2:**  
**Challenges and opportunities in sustainable healthcare** - **Pontus Lindstedt**, Strategic Sourcing Manager - **Mölnlycke**



**Presentation 3:**  
**Collaborating for sustainability and innovative solutions** **Jelena Bozovic-Vukic**, Global Marketing Manager Hygiene - **SABIC**



**Presentation 4:**  
**How to make the circularity of medical nonwovens more efficient? NHS case study** **David Scheeres**, Director - **Thermal Compaction Group Ltd**

**WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL**

**10:30 - 12:00**

## **SUSTAINABLE USE OF GEOSYNTHETICS**



**Moderator:** Marines Lagemaat, Scientific & Technical Affairs Director – **EDANA**

### **Presentation 1:**

**Sustainable use of geosynthetics in mega projects in civil and geo-environmental engineering**

**Daniele Cazzuffi**, IGS Past President – **CESI**



Over the last 60 years the use of geosynthetics has increased in civil, geotechnical, and geo-environmental projects around the world for a variety of functions.

In more recent decades their use instead of, or in partial combination with, natural materials – such as gravel, sand, clay, and so forth – emphasized their crucial role in terms of sustainability, circular economy, and in the light of the dramatic climatic change issues.

Examples of the following applications from exceptional projects will be briefly shared:

- Dams and reservoirs
- Tunnels and underground structures
- Reduction of snow/ice melting in glaciers

### **Presentation 2:**

**Circular economy: opportunities and limitations presented by recycling nonwoven geotextiles**

**Francesco Fontana**, Geosynthetics Consultant - **A&B**



The environmental impact of geosynthetics must be assessed according to their desired performance, rather than simply their weight. Using recycled polymers to produce nonwoven geotextiles can play an important role in ensuring a circular economy.

Key points to be addressed include:

- The contribution to the performance of the whole project
- The desired durability of the structure in which the geosynthetic is incorporated
- The probability of microplastics being released
- The limits imposed by the current compulsory rules

**WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL**  
**13:30 – 14:00**



**Moderator:** Jacques Prigneaux, Market Analysis & Economic Affairs Director – EDANA



**FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE:  
HOW DOES WTO HELP BUSINESS AT TIMES OF CRISIS**

**Bernard Kuiten**, Head of External Relations – **World Trade Organisation**



This presentation will focus on:

- the major challenges that confront businesses when they trade
- the growing importance and relevance of sustainability in trade and doing business
- what the WTO can do to help companies navigate these challenges

**WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL**  
**14:30 – 16:00**  
**TEXTILES AND NONWOVENS, A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE!**



**Moderator:** Gil Stevens, External Relations & Sustainability Director - EDANA

This seminar will feature short presentations followed by a panel discussion.

**Presentation 1**



**Effectiveness of textile fibres recycling**

**Mark Croes**, Consultant Hygiene and Medical - **Centexbel**

- The mapping of textile recycling activities and technologies
- The economic and environmental aspects of the textile recycling technologies
- Some options to advance textile-to-textile recycling

**Presentation 2**



**Circular pioneers in Textiles**

**Heidi van den Hul**, Business Development Textiles and Nonwovens – **fabriCreation**

- Showcases of circular pioneers in the Netherlands
- Recycling integral part of the business model

**Presentation 3**

**Opportunities for nonwoven due to textile recycling**

- Introduction of an innovative and future pilot unit
- Automated sorting technology for textile circularity & sustainability
- Recyclable textiles for nonwovens production



**Alexandre Butte**

General Manager  
ANDRITZ Laroche

Business Development Director  
**ANDRITZ Nonwoven**



**Benoit Rombaut**

Technology Director  
**ANDRITZ**



**Marie Watier**

Circular Projects Manager  
**Les tissages de Charlieu**

**The following topics will be discussed during the panel discussion:**

- Which recycling processes are already available for creating nonwovens from textile waste?
- What are the bottlenecks and opportunities?
- Market outlook for post-consumer use for recycled textiles following the extended producer responsibility
- Innovative solutions

**THURSDAY 20 APRIL**  
**10.30 – 12.00**

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION IN THE NONWOVENS INDUSTRY**

The importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the workplace is crucial, but it is an element that has historically been overlooked. In recent years, it has gained traction, and this seminar will look at examples of how players in the nonwovens industry are addressing DEI to ensure both diversity within their own workplace, as well as within their respective supply chains.

Split into two panels, the seminar will welcome speakers from:



- The first panel will address DEI more broadly, with a focus on gender equity
- The second panel will feature women working in manufacturing and tackle the gender bias around the role that women can play in manufacturing in the nonwovens industry and beyond.



**Moderator: Allyson Zimmermann, CEO, LEAD Network**

**Speakers Panel 1:**



**Katja Hibschenberger,**  
HR Business Partner Corporate  
Service Companies, Human  
Resources  
**Freudenberg**



**Stefan Mohr,**  
Director European Affairs  
**Johns Manville**



**Federica Pompei,**  
Senior Vice-President &  
General Manager for Feminine  
Care Europe  
**Procter & Gamble**

**Speakers Panel 2:**



**Dr. Katharina Ellmer,** Director  
of Innovation and Expert  
**Freudenberg**



**Monika Nagl,**  
Spunbond Group Plant  
Manager Europe  
**Johns Manville**



**Ana Elena Marziano,**  
Chief Purchasing Officer  
**Procter & Gamble**

**THURSDAY 20 APRIL**

**13:30 – 14:30**

**NONWOVENS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE MOBILITY TRANSITION**



**Moderator:** Marines Lagemaat, Scientific & Technical Affairs Director – **EDANA**

**Presentation 1:**



**Nonwovens will continue to play an essential role in the expansion of electro mobility, the digital economy, and future energy storage demands**

**Ian Dowdle**, Sales / Operations leadership - **Hollingsworth & Vose**

The presentation will cover the application of nonwoven technology to enable:

- Safety and Security of e-Mobility
- Data storage demands of the digital infrastructure
- Digital commerce
- Smart grid

**Presentation 2:**



**Nonwovens in fuel cells: role of 3D architecture of the structure**

**Siddharth Shukla**, PhD Student - **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**

- Delving into the integral role of nonwovens as gas diffusion layers (GDLs) in fuel cells
- Unravelling the 3D structure of nonwoven GDLs and its impact on their wettability and compression behaviour
- Applicability of the basic principles of stereology in the quantification of structural heterogeneities of nonwoven GDLs

**THURSDAY 20 APRIL**  
**15:00 – 16:00**  
**NONWOVENS TUTORIAL**

This free one-hour nonwovens tutorial is intended for newcomers to the industry, or any interested potential user of nonwovens in one or more of their multiple end-uses.

Visit our [Training Courses](#) page to find out more about the extensive training programme that EDANA offers.

**Marines Lagemaat**, Scientific & Technical Affairs Director – **EDANA**

