Healthcare Packaging Consortium & Its Projects (2010 - 2012)

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Abstract: The Healthcare Packaging Consortium was founded at Christian Brothers University (Memphis, Tennessee, USA) in 2010. Currently, there are eight companies that are members, namely Evergreen Packaging, FedEx, Medtronic, Merck, Plastic Ingenuity, Smith & Nephew, The Pallet Factory, and Wright Medical. Its mission is to advance healthcare packaging knowledge through research and education. The consortium research work is supported by the CBU ISTA’s certified package testing commercial lab. This paper gives an overview of the consortium and its R&D projects during June 2010 to May 2012, including plastic tote distribution, water absorption of wooden pallets, correlation of peel and burst testing of pouches, peel testing analysis, and performance of recycled corrugated boards/boxes.

Keywords: Healthcare packaging, plastic totes, wooden pallets, peel test, burst test, recycled corrugated boards/boxes

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Ray Brown – Dr. Brown is Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering at Christian Brothers University. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame. He has also served as mechanical engineering department chair and engineering dean at CBU. His interests include mechanical and thermal systems. He is a member of ASME.

Asit Ray – Dr. Ray is Professor of Chemical Engineering at CBU. He earned his Ph.D. from Lehigh University. He spent seven years in the polymer industry and is actively engaged in laboratory research in polymeric and biomaterials. He teaches various packaging classes at CBU, including principles of packaging, distribution and medical device packaging, and sustainability. He is a member of IoPP and AIChE.

Larry Rutledge – Mr. Rutledge is retired from FedEx where he managed FedEx Packaging Design and Development department for over 18 years. Larry earned his B.S. in Engineering Technology from Memphis State University and M.S. in Technical Education from University of Memphis. Larry has a diverse background in mechanical systems design, facility planning, industrial engineering, project management, package testing and design and logistics solutions. Larry is past Chairman of the IoPP Transport Packaging Committee, Board of Directors for ISTA, and Board of Director for Michigan State University Consortium on Distribution Packaging. Larry is continuing his Packaging Career as a consultant. He also serves as Manager with CBU’s ISTA Certified Lab.

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