



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Cheryl R. Blanchard, Ph.D.

Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2016

BS, Ceramic Engineering, Alfred University, 1986
MS, Materials Science & Engineering,
The University of Texas at Austin, 1989
Ph.D., Materials Science & Engineering,
The University of Texas at Austin, 1994

President and CEO
Microchips Biotech

Dr. Cheryl R. Blanchard has spent her career building medical device, drug delivery, and regenerative medicine businesses and companies whose products have treated millions of patients. She is president and CEO of Microchips Biotech, a developer of implantable drug delivery devices designed to provide frequent drug dosing for long-term therapy. She also serves as a board member of 5 biomedical companies and advises many others in her role as principal of Blanchard Consulting, LLC.

Cheryl started her career as an engineer at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas. She pursued her MS and Ph.D. at UT Austin while working in San Antonio and commuting to Austin, getting to know every bump on I-35. While building and leading the medical device practice at SwRI, she was also an adjunct professor at The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas. While at SwRI, Keraplast Technologies was founded on her team's inventions using Keratin as a biomaterial, and later commercialized products in the wound care, consumer, and nutrition spaces. She then made the move to Zimmer, Inc., a large cap global orthopaedic implant company, located in Warsaw, IN, where she became senior vice president and chief scientific officer. In that role she was responsible for Research and Development; Advanced Technologies; Quality, Regulatory and Clinical Affairs; and Health Economics. Working to bring many life-changing implants and therapies to orthopaedic patients around the world, she was also a member of Zimmer's executive committee, led numerous mergers and acquisitions, and built and served as general manager of the Zimmer Biologics business.

She holds a BS in ceramic engineering from Alfred University, and an MS and Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from The University of Texas at Austin. She became a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) in 2008 and was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in 2015.

Dr. Blanchard believes strongly in giving back, and has happily spent countless hours in that pursuit. She serves as a trustee of her undergraduate Alma Mater, Alfred University. In the Orthopaedic community of Warsaw, Indiana, she co-founded and served as founding chair of a community organization called OrthoWorx, which supports community, educational, and economic development for the region and the orthopaedic business ecosystem. She has also served on many engineering and bioengineering university advisory boards. Dedicated to mentoring students of all ages and majors, she never says "no" to a request. While she has many accomplishments, patents, publications and career highs, her greatest professional achievement has been improving millions of patients' lives with the many bioengineered products and technologies she had a hand in bringing to the global market.

Cheryl is most thankful to be able to share her successes with her extended and immediate family, including her true Texan husband Ramsey Railsback and sons Loren and Mitchell Railsback (both born in Texas). She reminds everyone not to underestimate the importance of family and friends on their life journey!