

Robert Kirkton, PhD is currently the Director of New Product Development at Humacyte, Inc. and has nearly 20 years of experience in the regenerative medicine and tissue engineering field. At Humacyte, Dr. Kirkton has served in multiple technical and leadership roles that have advanced the development of tissue-engineered blood vessels and cardiovascular products from concept through preclinical evaluation. This work has led to multiple publications and presentations on host recellularization, biocompatibility and infection resistance, biomechanical characterization, and preclinical implantation of tissue-engineered blood vessels. Dr. Kirkton's prior industry experience includes R&D positions at Cogent Neuroscience, Inc. and BASF Corporation. He earned a B.S. in Biology from Denison University in Granville, OH and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at Duke University where he was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and an American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship. His doctoral and postdoctoral research focused on the creation and use of novel electrically excitable engineered cells and tissues for regenerative medicine and electrophysiological research applications.