

Joe Amaral, MD



Dr. Joe Amaral is Medical Scientific Officer for Ethicon, Johnson & Johnson Medical. Dr. Amaral is accountable for co-leading the Surgical Innovation group (previously referred to as Future of Surgery) with responsibility for creating specialty strategy innovation roadmaps, developing evidence strategies and engaging key opinion leaders to define the next wave of surgical innovation. His appointment to this new role is effective immediately, reporting directly to me.

Dr. Amaral was instrumental in the success of the Ultracision startup company that was purchased by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc. and evolved into the HARMONIC® platform. Most recently, he served as WW Vice President of Surgical Sciences for Ethicon Energy. His responsibilities included developing scientific and clinical insights of energy-based technologies, engaging a global network of key opinion leaders, and shaping the Energy evidence strategy and integrating clinical and scientific data to develop a robust innovation pathway.

Dr. Amaral joined Johnson & Johnson in 2009, as Vice President of Science and Technology for the Medical Devices and Regenerative Medicine with the Corporate Office of Science and Technology (COSAT). In this role, Dr. Amaral provided scientific leadership to the MD&D sector by identifying sustaining, disruptive and/or white space science and technology opportunities of strategic relevance; provided context, and perspective to MD&D companies on areas of emerging science and technology; and lead the scientific and technical diligence for the J&J Development Corporation.

Prior to J&J, Dr. Amaral held roles as President and CEO of Rhode Island Hospital (RIH) and its pediatric division, Hasbro Children's Hospital; President of the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation, the hospital's philanthropic organization; chair of the Lifespan Information Systems Strategic Planning and Steering Committee; Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Brown University School of Medicine; Chief of Surgery at Rhode Island Hospital; President of University Surgical Associates; and Executive Chief of Surgery at Lifespan Affiliated Hospitals.

Dr. Amaral is an internationally-recognized pioneer in laparoscopic surgery. He introduced minimally invasive approaches to New England in 1990 and has performed more than 3,000 laparoscopic procedures and trained hundreds of surgeons in these techniques across the U.S. and around the world. He has operated in 20 countries and on five continents and is member of 25+ professional societies, author of 80+ papers and book chapters and has delivered 250+ national and international presentations.

Dr. Amaral graduated summa cum laude from Providence College where he currently serves as a trustee. He obtained his MD degree from Brown Medical School and completed his surgical residency training at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital.