Kathryn Capanna, CDRH, FDA

Kathryn (Katie) Capanna has nearly 20 years of experience in medical device development and regulation. She serves as Deputy Division Director within FDA CDRH's Office of Strategic Partnerships and Technology Innovation (OST), in the Division of All-Hazards Response, Science and Strategic Partnerships (DARSS). In that role, Katie is part of a management team responsible for FDA's emergency response to COVID-19, with a focus on helping ensure continued availability of critical medical devices and supplies, by monitoring for shortages and coordinating regulatory and US government mitigations. She also oversees multiple teams with a broad portfolio of strategic partnerships and programs to drive more patient-centered medical product innovation, evaluation, access, and care, and to advance health equity. While at FDA, she previously served as Senior Advisor in the Office of the Center Director, where she led and supported strategic initiatives around Clinical Trials Innovation, Real World Evidence, and efforts to improve diversity and inclusion in clinical research and product development for medical devices. She also worked in the Division of Cardiovascular Devices, leading multi-disciplinary teams in evaluating an array of lifesaving and life-sustaining technologies, and conducting research and outreach projects working with industry, academia, professional associations, patient organizations, and across government agencies, to advance device innovation and reduce sex and gender disparities in cardiovascular device evaluation and care. Katie is a biomedical engineer by training and spent some time in MedTech industry as well as academic research prior to her time at FDA. She can be contacted at kathryn.capanna@fda.hhs.gov.