

Figure 2

The MS/MS “interface” is defined generically as the hardware components under vacuum between the ion source and the first mass analyzer quadrupole. These components differ in design from one vendor to another (IonDrive™, iFunnel, Stepwave Ion Guide, Active Ion Management [AIM™]) but have the common purpose of increasing ion transfer efficiency and reducing transfer of neutral species and gases from the ion source to the mass analyzer region. These surfaces receive the maximum exposure to residual matrix from extracted biological fluids and environmental contaminants, and therefore are susceptible to contamination and compromised function. The blue arrow denotes the direction of the ion path.

