What is claimed is:

1. A valve having an axial length, comprising: a body having:

A first end containing a face configured to be attached to an upstream component;

A second end configured to be attached to a downstream component; and

A bore extending axially from the first end to the second end;

~~a bore,~~ a plunger axially moveable within said bore between ~~a valve~~ an open position and a ~~valve~~ closed position, the plunger having a first end and a second end; and

~~;~~ an actuator operatively connected to ~~said~~ the plunger by a pair of split rings, each split ring including a radially inwardly extending plunger engaging member and a radially outwardly extending actuator engaging member operatively connecting the actuator and the plunger, such that rotational movement of ~~said~~ the actuator causes ~~axial movement of said~~ the plunger to move axially between the ~~from said valve~~ open ~~to said valve~~ and closed positions without altering the axial length of the valve, wherein:~~.~~

the valve is in the closed position when the first end of the plunger is in alignment with the face of the body;

and

the first end of the plunger being in alignment with the face of the body forms a steamable surface and a sterile barrier against the environment to a remainder of the interior of the bore, the plunger and a down-stream component.

2. The valve of claim 1, wherein the actuator is a split ring actuator, each split ring of the actuator having a sloped groove and a groove end for receiving the ~~further comprising a pair of radially inwardly extending plunger engaging members and a pair of~~ radially outwardly extending actuator engaging members~~, said members providing said connection between said actuator and said plunger.~~ in sliding relation, such that, when the split ring actuator is assembled, each radially outwardly extending actuator engaging member rides in the sloped groove of one split ring of the actuator and the groove end of the opposing split ring of the actuator.~~, said members providing said connection between said actuator and said plunger.~~

3. The valve of claim 2, wherein ~~said actuator~~ the body further comprises ~~first and second collars, each having a groove for receiving a respective one of said~~ spaced radially ~~outwardly~~ extending annular outer flanges positioned on an outer wall of the body, and each split ring of the actuator further includes radially inwardly extending protrusions, a length of the actuator protrusions and a length of the body flanges being in contact with one another.~~engaging members in sliding relation.~~

4. The valve of claim 1, wherein ~~said actuator is movable rotationally~~ each split ring further includes a first and a second split ring collar shaped to ride against an outer wall of the body and an interior surface of the actuator.

5. The valve of claim ~~1~~4, wherein the radially inwardly extending plunger engaging member and the radially outwardly extending actuator engaging member are positioned between the first and the second split ring collars. ~~said plunger is moveable within said bore from said valve open position to said valve closed position without altering the axial length of said valve.~~

6. A manifold assembly unit, comprising a ~~at least one~~ filter capsule having a feed port and a permeate port, a pair of ~~fluid transfer devices~~ valves in fluid communication with ~~said~~ the feed port and a pair of ~~fluid transfer devices~~ valves in fluid communication with ~~said~~ the permeate port, wherein each valve has an axial length and independently comprises:

A body having:

a first end containing a face designed to be attached to an upstream component, a downstream component or a second manifold assembly unit,

a second end attached to the filter capsule, and

a bore extending axially from the first end to the second end;

~~said fluid transfer device comprises a body having a bore,~~ a plunger axially moveable within said bore between an ~~valve~~ open position and a ~~valve~~ closed position, the plunger having a first end and a second end; and

an actuator operatively connected to ~~said~~ the plunger such that movement of ~~said~~ the actuator causes ~~axial movement of said~~ the plunger to move axially between the ~~from said valve~~ open ~~to said valve~~ and closed positions without altering the axial length of the valve,~~.~~

wherein:

the valve is in the closed position when the first end of the plunger is in alignment with the face of the body, and the first end of the plunger being in alignment with the face of the body forms a steamable surface and a sterile barrier against the environment to a remainder of the interior of the bore, the plunger and the filter capsule.

7. The manifold assembly unit of claim 6, wherein ~~said pair of fluid transfer devices~~ the valves in fluid communication with ~~said~~ the feed port are coaxially aligned.

8. The manifold assembly unit of claim 6, wherein ~~said pair of fluid transfer devices~~ the valves in fluid communication with ~~said~~ the permeate port are coaxially aligned.

9. The manifold assembly unit of claim 6, wherein ~~each said plunger is moveable within each said respective bore from said valve open position to said valve closed position without altering the axial length of said valve~~ the valves in fluid communication with the feed port are coaxially aligned and the valves in fluid communication with the permeate port are coaxially aligned in a common plane.

10. A manifold assembly comprising at least two of the manifold assembly units of claim 6 in fluid communication.

11. The manifold assembly of claim 10, wherein the at least two manifold assembly units are connected in a parallel configuration.

12. The manifold assembly of claim 10, wherein the at least two manifold assembly units are connected in a serial configuration.