

It is quite evident that the face of perfusion as a profession, and the functions of AmSECT in representing and serving that profession have changed rapidly and rather drastically in the past four or five years. Perfusionists are coming into their own in terms of professional recognition and with that, increased personal responsibility (although, of course, the responsibility has always been there—it is just lately being understood and acknowledged by the rest of the medical community). The needs of the members of AmSECT continue to change, as professional growth occurs, and naturally AmSECT keeps altering its perspectives and programs to try to identify and meet those needs. For instance, AmSECT recognized that travel is expensive and difficult for perfusionists who must adhere to a call schedule—so modular self-study programs were developed to allow the perfusionists to pursue continuing education at home. The impossibility of finding adequate malpractice insurance at a reasonable cost was addressed by AmSECT's Board of Directors, and they were able to develop and endorse an insurance program ideally suited to our needs. The difficulty in finding adequate funding for research projects was identified as a problem faced by many perfusionists—so the Board is pursuing a program to offer research grants to members of the society.

As the needs of the members and the role of the society change, so must the journal which also serves the members and reflects the progress of the profession and the society. In this issue you

will find several new features which we hope readers will find interesting and useful. First, there is a section entitled "New Product Information" which illustrates and briefly describes some of the products which have come on the market within the last six months, and which you may not have had an opportunity to see. This section is intended to inform, not endorse products or suggest any statements as to their effectiveness, safety, or use. This feature will appear as often as there are new product releases sent out by the manufacturers.

The addition of the society's membership list to the year-end issue of the journal is more cost-effective than publishing it separately, and it should be as convenient for the members. The elimination of street addresses protects the membership from mailing list abuse. Finally, the addition of a "Perspectives/Dialogue" section should offer some food for thought. The topic in this issue, the origin of vasomotor waves, is one which most of us have seen and discussed but never seriously tried to analyze. If you have a view or data on this topic, we encourage you to share it with us. There are many other topics which could also be discussed in this type of forum—but it is the participation of the readers which will keep this journal feature alive.

Perfusion is growing and changing, and with it AmSECT and this journal. We are looking forward to a dynamic and productive year, and wish the same for you. Happy New Year!

Nancy Achorn