

## Message from Your President



My first words to you must be those of gratitude. Having been nominated, elected, and then showered with roses by one's own peers must be one of life's happiest occasions. It was for me, and to you all I am most deeply grateful!

I'd like to repeat myself for a moment for those who were unable to be with us in New Orleans. The American Society of Extra-Corporeal Technology is YOU, each and every one of you! It is not its president, its officers, or even its board. Before saying, "The Society is not doing . . .", I would ask you to stop for a moment and consider that are you not, in effect, saying, "I am not doing . . .?" The Society *is* here, it exists *for* you *because* of you and *because* of your desire to improve patient care.

People have asked about *my* plans for the Society. If I may, I would like to request that you participate in this responsibility. Your board would like to know the ideas, the desires, the goals that each of you feel should be a part of *your* Society. Only by knowing your thoughts can we develop into a Society sensitive to and providing for the needs of you, the members. We would like to see the keyword for the 1970 Annual Conference, "PARTICIPATION", continue as the spirit of the coming year.

It is time now to be done with the growing pains of our infancy. Let us enter into a new era, an era of awareness of our goals that will form us into a strong, cohesive Society, a society that will have *every* member working toward the fulfillment of its goals: organization, the dissemination of information, continuing education, certification, all of which lead to the ultimate goal, the continuing improvement of patient care.

To quote Dr. David B. Rutstein: "New Categories of health professions are frequently being created, such as those of *super-technicians* for servicing artificial organs, nurse monitors for intensive care units, and systems analysts to bring modern management into medical care. The health professions have expanded in number, in member-

ship, and in scope in a completely haphazard way, and duplications and gaps in services to the patient have been the result. The number of health profession workers has increased at an astounding rate from about 75,000 in 1900 to an estimated 900,000 in 1960!"

With the foregoing in mind, what better way to participate in the efficient development of our rapidly evolving Technology than to join AmSECT and contribute to the fullest extent of our abilities? If we are to be, as Dr. Rutstein says, "super-technicians", we have a moral obligation to continuously refresh our knowledge, to review our equipment, and to work towards improving techniques. What is adequate is not ideal, and we owe our patients not just adequate care but the *best possible* care!

To the keyword PARTICIPATION, let us add another, COMMUNICATION. Your national officers intend to keep you all aware of our activities. In turn, we would like all of you to keep us posted on your regional and local activities. Each and every member should consider it their responsibility to stimulate interest in the Society among their professional contacts. In recruiting new members, in expanding the influence of your Society, you will find expression for your aims. Let this be one of the most active years for everyone.

Become more avid Journal readers, and react, in writing, to what you read. Become avid contributors, also. Just as you are interested in what others are doing, we are all interested in what *you* are going. Use the Reader Service card, show our suppliers you are interested in their products and their support. Pass on the subscription cards, too, because, as your Journal grows, it can only serve *you* better.

SHARE with us this year, and in the coming years. PARTICIPATE, COMMUNICATE, and together we will make AmSECT one of the most productive societies, one of the finest societies in the medical profession!

*Kathryn Hargesheimer*