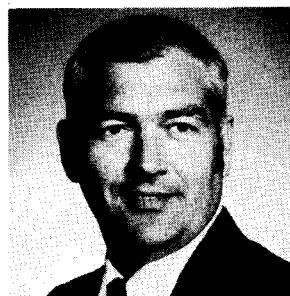


Presidential Editorial



It is a privilege and pleasure to finally be able to announce that perfusion technology has been recognized by the American Medical Association as an Allied Health Profession. It was a long time coming! Now that we have been recognized, all sorts of communication channels and opportunities become available to AmSECT.

Other milestones have been reached since the annual convention in Chicago. In March in San Francisco, AmSECT participated as an invited user group in the Oxygenator Standards Committee meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI). The committee hopes to develop one set of standards from the two already created by the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs (ASAIO) and Health Industry Manufacturers Association (HIMA). For some time, AmSECT has been represented as a consultant to the HIMA Blood Oxygenator Task Force.

While in San Francisco, Emily Taylor and I had the opportunity to informally meet with Mr. David Link, Director of the Food and Drug Administration's Bureau of Medical Devices and Diagnostic Products, and Mr. Larry Pilot, the Bureau's Compliance Director. I believe a meaningful dialogue has been initiated as relates to potential AmSECT representation on panels, committees, and subcommittees.

Our main goal at this time must be to keep AmSECT progressing and the internal mechanics running smoothly. To accomplish this, we are instituting a program to define committee functions and describe chairpersons' responsibilities. A part of this effort is to carefully plan and set goals. A method has been activated through which committees must formulate goals and establish plans of action. Further, a more aggressive involvement and provision of direction has been requested from the National Office. Proposals are currently being evaluated.

AmSECT will continue to encourage and promote professional interchange. In an earlier communication to you, I told you how we once "almost demanded professional recognition." Now, by our professional attitude and actions, we have achieved this goal. I also asked, "Where From Here?" Corporately and individually, we must face the reality: "We are a professional Society and you, as member perfusionists, are professionals." An awareness of this is necessary when functioning within AmSECT, but more importantly, when representing our profession to other professional or public groups.

Getting this far was not an accident. It is the result of extreme devotion by many dedicated people. I pledge to do my part to sustain AmSECT's progress and professionalism. I ask that each of you make a similar pledge.

LeRoy H. Ferries