



## President's Message

Madeline M. Massengale, C.C.P.

The Sixteenth International Conference is now behind us and AmSECT moves forward into a new year. That the conference was truly international was attested to by the number of attendees from foreign countries. The conference offered scientific sessions, manufacturer's forum, exhibits, continuing education, business meetings, receptions, and awards. These varied activities give some idea of where the state of the perfusion field is today.

Many of us still remember the days when we were referred to as "pump techs." Today, we are Cardiovascular Perfusionists or Certified Clinical Perfusionists. The role and responsibility has changed as the true perfusionist has evolved. The growth of formal training programs has contributed to change. Certification and recertification have contributed to change. The increased number of patients undergoing open heart surgery has contributed to change. The varied training that the thoracic surgery resident receives in perfusion has contributed to change. With change has come the challenge to the courage of the perfusionist. The degree of responsibility requires greater involvement in many areas.

Perfusionists have now been recognized officially as integral and vital members of the open heart surgery team. We have great responsibilities to our surgeons and the patients as members of this team. Our professional society, AmSECT, must assist us in being ready to accept this challenge of responsibility with courage.

Sincerely,  
"Maddie"  
Madeline M. Massengale