
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Traditionally, the President's Address has reflected the accomplishments of AmSECT during the past year. This year we have given you an accounting of what AmSECT has accomplished in the form of "Progress Report—Outlook '85", in your registration packet.

It has become very evident at this meeting how much AmSECT has grown in the past few years. I don't mean solely in numbers, but rather in stature. The recognition of AmSECT as a professional society and you as a professional in the health sciences has never been more evident than it is right now.

It is this professional image I would like to talk with you about for a few minutes. You are a member of the world's largest perfusion society and that is certainly a distinction to be proud of. You are considered by your peers, as well as other members of the health care team as being dedicated, intelligent, knowledgeable and empathetic concerning the interest and the needs of the patients we serve. It is apparent that physicians and their professional societies consider us, as perfusionists, to be more competent than ever before and, in fact, ascending to a level of professional development not imagined a few short years ago.

However, with this professional reputation comes definitive responsibilities:

1. You must uphold the dignity and honor of the profession, accepting its self-imposed discipline and expose without hesitation those who are guilty of illegal or unethical conduct.

2. You must strive to respect the patient's rights of privacy and dignity. It is your responsibility to hold in confidence personal information and at-

tempt at all times to use proper judgment in sharing this information.

3. As members of our professional society, we must strive to uphold the image, goals and ideals of the Society for the betterment of the technology and for greater public understanding of its role in the health sciences.

4. We as professional perfusionists should strive to improve our medical knowledge and skills on a continuing basis.

5. Our public statements should not adversely affect the Society.

6. With the increasing recognition of your expertise, you will be in more demand and may sometimes be called upon to serve as a consultant, for a fee commensurate for services rendered. Those services should not be in conflict with your employer or institution and should always be in the best interest of the patient.

7. The ultimate responsibility is to at all times hold the well-being and interest of the patient to be paramount. The professional perfusionist of today should never allow his own personal interests to overshadow or in any way conflict with the patient's interest.

Today, I have deliberately not discussed the specific activities and projects which constitute the bodily functions of this Society, but rather I have tried to emphasize the need for the continuation of ethical conduct beyond reproach by its members.

For this conduct is *truly* the "life blood" of our profession.

Scutter Newton
President, 1982–1983