
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the previous Editors and the Editorial Staff of the *Journal of Extra-Corporeal Technology (JECT)* for their concern and efforts in its development. We, as a professional community, can be proud of the *Journal*. The current Editorial Staff will make every effort to continue to make *JECT* a most worthy publication.

The following is the policy of the Editorial Staff (1):

1. To deal with content, characteristics of applied science and extracorporeal circulation and reflect the direction of the AmSECT's program in support of the development in use of such a science and to make available events and developments to facilitate the work of AmSECT's members.

2. *JECT* will provide information which will contribute to improving the quality of services rendered to patients.

3. To provide information which will improve the knowledge and skills of extracorporeal technology personnel.

4. To provide knowledge of techniques not in common usage, in which we've demonstrated effectiveness in facilitating goals of practitioners.

The goal of this Editorial Staff is to lead the *Journal* into the 1990s by solving some of the frustrations voiced over the past few years. Two concerns of note are the length of time it takes between when an article is submitted for publication and when it actually appears in print and often, when an article is published, it is altogether different from what was intended by the original author due to the editorial process. The time involved between the submission of an article and when it is actually published depends on many factors. Factors which are within the control of the Editorial Staff are currently being addressed. When a *Journal* comes out quarterly, missing a deadline by one day can often mean six months before an article could possibly come up for publication, not including time for the authors to prepare an acceptable publication. These are some of the factors that are beyond reach of the Editorial Staff.

In response to the second issue, the editorial process that is currently in place is certainly well-intentioned and makes for some very tight articles. It is often a delicate task to publish an acceptable article, while at the same time not stifling the creativity and the literary ability of the perfusion community. The Editorial Staff will be addressing this in the future and trying to develop a way to encourage authorship among the perfusion community, with emphasis on publishing the article. It is the responsibility of the Associate Editors to make sure that an article is scientifically sound and that the conclusions are supported by the evidence therein. As far as grammatical corrections, articles obviously must be literate. Our copy editing should not change the content of the original article. An article can be rejected by our Editors and still have some redeeming qualities. Should this be the situation, then it is our intention to contact the author and present the option of having one of the Associate Editors assist in a restructuring and, consequently, co-authoring the paper for a future publication.

Another area that needs to be dealt with is the lack of quantity of publishable articles. There are many sections

available in the *Journal's* format under which an article may be published. They are as follows: An Editorial, Letter to the Editor, Original Research Articles, Proceedings Articles, Case Reports, Review Articles, Clinical Briefs, Manufacturer's Forum, Surveys and Review Articles. Comments from perfusion educators have often been that it is extremely difficult to develop an intellectual curriculum for perfusion students due to the tremendous lack of published perfusion texts and materials. With the use of the Review Article section, we could make an attempt to address this dearth of information. Articles submitted to this section do not have to be about an original topic, but must be an original composition so that copyrights are not infringed upon. The articles will be reviewed by the appropriate Associate Editors with special focus on accuracy and content. References need to be included. Hopefully, the readership would submit lectures presented at various perfusion meetings and conferences, in-services, new technology lectures and perfusion school lectures, consisting of, but not limited to Pharmacology, Physiology, Fluid dynamics, Pathophysiology, Anatomy, etc. All would be considered for inclusion in this section with the hope of eventually building up a basic body of literature available to the perfusion community. An example of this, present in this current issue, is an excellent review article on the aortic valve.

A section for perfusion students is also being considered. This would hopefully serve two distinct purposes. It would recognize the student as a contributor and help to stimulate student participation in the publishing process.

Ideas are being solicited from the Editorial staff as to how to make the Case Report section more viable. It is anticipated that if the Case Report section and the Clinical Briefs or "How I Do It" articles could be generated with more frequency that this also would help to establish a basic level of knowledge within the perfusion community. The emphasis on these articles differ somewhat. The Case Report is basically a "How I Do It" article with a specific focus on a certain case or type of cases. The "How I Do It" article or clinical brief can be a short commentary on a special technique or technology involved. Both articles may be referenced, if it adds to the authenticity of the article. Please limit references in these sections to not more than five.

Each article submitted to *JECT* will be received in the spirit of wanting the article to be presented to the perfusion community as a publication. It is to this end that the Editorial Staff will be working.

We would like to thank you, the perfusion community, for your continued support of the *Journal of Extra-Corporeal Technology*.

**Roger A. Vertrees, B.A., C.C.P.
Editor**

1. *JECT*. 13,#6,1981 pg. 297-298