

From the Editor

Dear Reader:

As I look over the articles in this issue of the Journal I can't help but think of the Perfusion Scope of Practice, which was ably prepared by AmSECT's Perfusion Quality Committee. I've included a copy at the end of this issue. As perfusionists we have specific interests within the areas of cardiac surgery and circulatory support. But more importantly, we have a responsibility to obtain information that will allow us to perform our jobs effectively and enable us to contribute to successful and safe patient outcomes. I believe the Journal of Extra-Corporeal Technology is an important source for that information.

In this issue, there are two excellent equipment evaluations. These well conceived and executed studies address the important subjects of gaseous microemboli generation in hollow fiber membrane oxygenators and performance factors for neonatal ECMO heat exchangers. There are also two papers dealing with the practice of perfusion. First, a simple and elegant study of something we deal with each day: how soon after heparin administration can an ACT be measured that will accurately demonstrate adequate anticoagulation? The second paper describes the relationship between oxygenator exit pCO_2 and arterial blood pCO_2 . A basic research study exploring flow limits for ECMO is also included, as these types of studies are being done more often in our academic centers. You will also find specific perfusion concerns addressed in the technique paper and case reports.

As always, submissions to the Journal are encouraged and welcomed. We can only keep you current in this dynamic and evolving technology with your participation.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Palmer Stark, CCP
Editor

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