

From the Editor

Dear Reader:

Although much progress has been made during the last twenty years towards making cardiopulmonary bypass safe for our patients, we continue to wrestle with some very basic problems. One of these is how to ensure that anticoagulation is adequate and how to verify that it is. Most perfusionists rely on the activated clotting time to measure the level of anticoagulation before and during cardiopulmonary bypass. We present three papers in this issue that examine our ability to measure anticoagulation. One paper studies the effect of hypothermia on the ACT and another compares ACTs measured by three different devices with the circulating heparin level. The third paper looks at the *in vitro* effects of aprotinin on celite and kaolin based ACTs, a very important prerequisite for using this new drug safely during bypass.

This issue also includes a study comparing blood loss in diabetic and non-diabetic patients, an impressive review of over a hundred cases of surgery on the great vessels from Beijing and a paper that should be of great value for those involved in research that measures the accuracy of two different flow probes when used with animal blood. A review article on lipoprotein(a) presents the current knowledge on this low density lipoprotein and its link to coronary artery disease and introduces the concept of lipoprotein removal, a process that perfusionists might become involved in.

We are delighted to publish René Dekkers' article, "A modified collection and rapid infusion system for shed whole blood autotransfusion during aortic aneurysm surgery." Mr. Dekkers won the Fellowship Award for the outstanding scientific presentation of the 33rd AmSECT International Conference for this paper.

Finally, there is a review of an excellent new book on pediatric cardiopulmonary bypass. I hope this will be of interest to all those perfusionists involved in pediatrics.

The Editorial Board and I wish everyone a happy holiday and sincerely hope you will find time to enjoy family, friends, and the season during this traditionally busy time for cardiac surgery.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Palmer Stark, CCP
Editor

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