

## From the Editor

Dear Readers:

As 1997 unfolds, it is clear that one of the major issues we will continue to face is cost containment in the provision of health care services. As part of our responsibility to the greater community, we are charged with carefully choosing techniques and equipment that wisely use limited medical resources. But as clinicians, our bottom line must always be to ensure optimal care for our patients. In the current climate of cutbacks to both personnel and supplies, our job will be to determine the necessity of these resources for safe patient outcomes. One of the papers in this issue does just that; it looks at the consequences to patient outcomes of eliminating heta-starch from the extracorporeal prime.

Let us all meet the challenge of maintaining the best care for our patients by being ready to demonstrate to the hospital administration, insurance companies, and government what is needed to provide this optimal level of care. And finally, let us help to educate the public about the consequences of the proposed changes in health care delivery. In 1997, we must not only be advocates for the patient, but also advocates for the health care system that serves them.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Palmer Stark, CCP  
Editor

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