

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers:

There seems to be some sentiment afoot that there can be a more pertinent, more responsive, less cumbersome and most importantly less expensive organization for perfusionists than the American Society of Extra-Corporeal Technology. Alas, nothing comes without effort and expense. I have been fortunate to witness firsthand the workings of this Society for the last 22 years as I have served as a Board member and on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Extra-Corporeal Technology. It has been both a privilege and, I feel, a responsibility to be a part of shaping the profession of perfusion.

For those of you who do not have this long history in the profession, or for those who haven't been as personally involved in this ongoing process of creating a valid professional society, I would like to offer my perspective. Through the hard work and real dedication of many perfusionists over the years, we have evolved from a ragtag group of technicians garnered from all over the hospital and research labs to a respected medical subspecialty group. We have set standards for our education, certification and recertification. We perform our own research and present this information to our colleagues at our annual conference and in our peer reviewed perfusion journal. This distinguishes us as medical professionals.

I would say that a society that has accomplished this much is worthy of my support. The work we do is important; it takes knowledge, perseverance, strength of character. There are no shortcuts for us when we provide such a critical service to our patients. I hope we will not lose sight of the importance of peer review, both for the safety of our patients and the ongoing credibility of our profession, in our haste to embrace quicker and easier forms of communication. One of the most important contributions of AmSECT to our profession is its support of the Journal of Extra-Corporeal Technology.

Look around, this is a time for consolidation. This is a time for making the most of our resources. Let's work together to continue a job well started.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Palmer Stark, CCP
Editor

© 1999 American Society of Extra-Corporeal Technology. The Journal of Extra-Corporeal Technology® (ISSN 0022-1058) is published quarterly by the American Society of Extra-Corporeal Technology (AmSECT), 503 Carlisle Drive, Suite 125, Herndon, VA 20170. Subscription price: \$70 domestic/foreign. Periodical postage paid at Herndon, VA and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes to the Journal of Extra-Corporeal Technology, 503 Carlisle Drive, Suite 125, Herndon, VA 20170.