

From the Editor The Prize

AmSECT's International convention in Dallas, Texas, in July of 1974 was notable in that, for the very first time the Society awarded a special prize. The award was given in the name of John H. Gibbon, in recognition of outstanding contributions to perfusion technology. That first year, the award was presented to Clarence Dennis, M.D. Dennis is credited with attempting the first open-heart surgery procedure using cardiopulmonary bypass in April of 1951. The patient died hours later. On June 30, 1955, he followed John H. Gibbon to become the second surgeon in the United States to perform successful open-heart surgery involving a mechanical pump oxygenator. John Gibbon's wife and research associate, Mary Gibbon, presented the award to Dr. Dennis. To date, there have been 37 recipients of this prestigious award.

The AmSECT Executive Committee first contacted Mary Gibbon in 1973 to inform her about the award to be given in honor of her late husband and to invite her to present the award in Dallas the following year. Mary Gibbon enthusiastically accepted the invitation, took a personal interest, and returned to the international conference each year for more than a decade to present the award.

The Gibbon Award was presented at the International Convention earlier this year to Mr. William J. DeBois, Chief Perfusionist at New York Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Center, NY, and we are pleased to publish The Gibbon Award Lecture in this issue of the *Journal*. Like the other Gibbon Award recipients, Bill is a widely respected leader and innovator in our field. Also of note, Bill follows in the footsteps of two others from Cornell, Bennett Mitchell, CCP, who received the award in 1995, and O. Wayne Isom, M.D. in 2005. Bill's lecture provides key insights related to leadership, persistence, and collaboration. Bill has been a perfusionist for almost 30 years. Throughout his career, he has been continuously involved in researching new ideas and techniques to further improve the practice of extracorporeal circulation. He pioneered the retrograde autologous prime technique (RAP), a now well-accepted standard of care. He has been deeply involved in blood conservation and has been the recipient of research and fellowship awards for his work. At his program in New York, he has promoted perfusion education and received awards for his involvement in clinical training for perfusion students. He has contributed to the growth of our profession through countless hours of volunteer work in many professional organizations, including the New York State Society, The American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion, and AmSECT, serving at various capacities where needed. For example, he had an instrumental role in introducing the New York State licensure bill. He currently serves on the AmSECT Executive Committee in the office of Secretary.

It is fitting that the Society recognizes individuals in our field whose work as leaders and innovators has advanced the



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science related to cardiopulmonary bypass. We are fortunate to work in a field among gifted educators, brilliant researchers, and visionary leaders like Bill, that provide a source of inspiration. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "*Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.*" While we celebrate Mr. DeBois' prize, it is fitting to pause for a moment and reflect on our own prize, the privilege to work hard at something worth doing.

"I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God."

Ecclesiastes 3:12–13 (Holy Bible, New International Version, ©2010)

Robert C. Groom, MS, CCP
Editor-in-Chief

RECIPIENTS OF THE JOHN H. GIBBON AWARD

William J. DeBois, CCP 2010
Raymond Hawkins 2009
Gerald M. Buckberg, MD 2008
Ludwig K. Von Segesser, MD 2007
O. Wayne Isom, MD 2006
Madeline M. Massengale 2005
Robert F. Dunton, MD 2004
Michael W. Dunaway 2003
O. H. Bud Frazier, MD 2002
Thomas B. Ferguson Sr., MD 2001
David C. Sabiston Jr., MD 2000
Edward D. Verrier, MD 1999
Jeanne Lange 1998
Theodore Kolobow, MD 1997
Richard A. DeWall, MD 1996
Bennett Mitchell 1995
LeRoy H. Ferries 1994
Michael E. DeBailey, MD 1993
Robert H. Bartlett, MD 1992

W. Gerald Rainer, MD 1991
Dwight C. McGoon, MD 1990
H. Edward Garrett, MD 1989
Henry Swan, MD 1988
James P. Dearing 1987
Norman Shumway, MD 1986
John Kirklin, MD 1985
Yukihiko Nose, MD 1984
E. Converse Pierce II, MD 1983

Marian I. Ioniscu, MD 1982
Arthur C. Beall, MD 1981
Pierre M. Galletti, MD 1980
C. Walton Lillehei, MD 1979
John Osborne, MD 1978
Clarence Crafoord, MD 1977
Denton A. Cooley, MD 1976
Charles A. Hufnagel, MD 1975
Clarence Dennis, MD 1974