

From the Editor Radical, Passionate, and Curious

In his book, *Open Heart—The Radical Surgeons Who Revolutionized Medicine*, David K.C. Cooper captures the essence of heart surgery's pioneers by asking the questions, *Who were these men and what drove them to do what they did?* (1). He masterfully examines their personalities, their strengths, and their weaknesses. Cooper makes the observation that, although they were vastly different in many ways, they all shared a technical flair, and all took bold innovative steps to treat desperately ill people. He also notes that they had an extraordinary singleness of mind and a courage that allowed them to do what they did.

The revolution is ongoing thanks to the radical, passionate, and curious ones in our field today. They challenge conventional wisdom, they are determined to improve care, and they have an insatiable desire to understand. I admire the contributors to this issue of the *Journal*, whose technical flair and desire to help desperately ill patients is evident in their work. Jones and colleagues study the direct effects of cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) on ventricular function in a novel animal model in which the interaction of cytokines is eliminated. Rosin and colleagues wanted to know if patients requiring more heparin during CPB were more prone to bleeding. Cuenca and colleagues examined the effectiveness of a heparin reversal strategy on coagulation and protamine use. Zhang and colleagues examined the trend in plasma fatty acid levels in patients on extracorporeal membrane oxygenator support. Allen and colleagues' case report describes their team's efforts to comply with preferences of a patient's parents. In two of the technique articles, one by Forsberg and the other by Machin, the authors describe methods of simplifying complex techniques to make them safer and more replicable.

In this final issue for 2013, I wish to acknowledge the outstanding work of the *Journal* editorial board



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and reviewers. They spend hours carefully reviewing manuscripts. Their work informs decisions regarding publication and provides advice to authors that will improve their work. Their contribution is enormous and it is magnanimous.

The words of Ernst Henry Starling are a reminder that such efforts are not in vain.

"In physiology, as in all other science, no discovery is useless, no curiosity misplaced or too ambitious, and we may be certain that every advance achieved in the quest of pure knowledge will sooner or later play its part in the service of man" (2).

I wish you all the best in 2014. May we all become more radical, passionate, and curious in the coming year!

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Editor-in-Chief

REFERENCES

1. Cooper DKC. *Open Heart—The Radical Surgeons Who Revolutionized Medicine*. New York, NY: Kapan Publishing; 2010.
2. Starling EH. The Linacre Lecture on the law of the heart (given at Cambridge, 1915). *Nature* 1918;101:43.