

From the Editor

Seeing Further. . .

“If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants”

Sir Isaac Newton

As my transition from being a reviewer for *The Journal of ExtraCorporeal Technology* (JECT) to being the editor, I have come to realize the importance of the position, as well as all the individuals required to make the Journal a success. As editor, I have had the opportunity to read through all the reviews for a given manuscript. The peer review process is a fundamental to the dissemination of valid and evidence-based perfusion knowledge to the masses. Reading through the reviews, I have come to appreciate the time commitment and expertise that reviewers devote to ensuring that the knowledge put forth is both valid and useful to the perfusion community. Thanks to all the reviewers for their commitment to JECT.

Moving into the position as editor has also provided me with a glimpse of the diversity of manuscripts submitted to JECT. Speaking from experience, writing is hard work. It requires an inquiring mind and time commitment that sometimes get lost in all the other activities of daily life. Yet, it is one of those activities that can really enhance an individual's understanding of perfusion more than just reading articles and textbooks, attending lectures or seminars, or even doing cases. Developing an article for publication in a journal offers an author an opportunity to ask questions, develop new interpretations of the current knowledge to answer those questions, and then to develop new questions that will continue to expand the knowledge base. Authors truly see further by standing on the shoulders of giants and provide the readers a glimpse of what is out there on the horizon. Thank you to all the authors who submit manuscripts to JECT.

One of my goals as the editor of JECT will be to increase the exposure of JECT to the perfusion community (and beyond) and to increase the submissions of manuscript to the Journal. One of the accomplishments of Robert Groom's leadership as JECT editor has been to open the last 10 years of JECT content via PubMed to all. It is now easier to search for and access JECT content. This move to open access has the potential to significantly increase the exposure of JECT. With this exposure, a next step will be to create a larger pool of first time authors who submit to



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JECT. Increasing the pool of authors will not only increase the content available in JECT, but it will also increase the overall knowledge base of perfusionists, a necessary step needed to move forward in any field. One strategy for increasing the pool of authors is to develop a mentor program to help perfusionists (still in training and certified) navigate the maze of developing a topic for writing a manuscript all the way to the submission of manuscript to the Journal. The logistics of such a mentoring program have yet to be worked out, but such a program will be essential to increasing the impact of JECT for the perfusion community by creating more shoulders for others to stand on and see further.

In this issue, there are two articles about the presence of gaseous microemboli (GME) in the perfusion circuit. Both articles demonstrate how the dissemination of information can create an opportunity to see further in terms of improving patient care. The article by Reagor and Holt (1) used an in vitro circuit to highlight the importance of a bubble detector, the location of a recirculation line, and the practice effect for the removal of microemboli that might get into the circuit with an integrated arterial filter. The article by Matte et al. (2) characterized the sources of arterial line microemboli and the average GME load to which pediatric patients are exposed. This article increases the awareness of a problem and provides an opportunity to develop strategies to reduce exposure of patients to GME. Awareness is just one way to see further.

I look forward to the challenges ahead as the editor of JECT and working with the reviewers and authors to create a journal that will have an increased impact for all perfusionists.

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