

## From the Editor

### Letters to the *JECT* Editor

Fortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has had no effect on article submissions. In fact, the initial pause in elective surgeries likely provided authors with more time to work on their articles, judging from the continued volume of submissions we have received. Without detracting from the excellent original articles presented in this issue, I would like to highlight the publication of supplemental information in our Journal.

This issue of *The Journal of ExtraCorporeal Technology* contains, for my first time as editor-in-chief, a letter to the editor. This is by no means unprecedented for the Journal as *JECT* has in previous volumes published letters to the editor. But because our “Instructions for authors” does not yet specifically provide guidelines on such submissions, I would like to use this space to relay some common ways in which this article type might be used, with the goal of perhaps attracting more submissions of this form.

A customary use for the letter to the editor is to comment on or re-analyze work previously published in *JECT* or some other journal. It should go without saying that strong scientific work often undergoes scrutiny, discussion, or debate before consensus is ever reached, if at all. *JECT*'s role in facilitating and documenting this scientific process can be implemented through letters to the editor of this type.

The letter to the editor in this issue represents a second use of this article type, raising a topic of general interest either to the perfusion community or to the membership of our sponsoring society, AmSECT. Colligan and Snider introduced the development of AmSECT's new Pillar Award to recognize perfusion centers of excellence. They briefly describe the history, goals, and the piloting of the program, which is very appropriate for this short publication format.

The third form of letters to the editor is commonly used for brief reports of research findings within our Journal's scope and those that are of interest to the perfusion community. This third form may be most useful in this COVID era of fast-moving developments, as a way to disseminate limited data. It could also be used to introduce compelling innovative concepts or propose new studies and research directions as well.

The need for peer review of letters to the editor submissions will be at the editor's discretion but will likely be



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needed when research data are presented. Some loose guidance for formatting include 1) abstracts should be short, unstructured single paragraphs, no longer than 150 words, emphasizing key findings in the article, and raising major points; 2) the abstract should not contain abbreviations or references; and 3) the total length of letters to the editor should be between 300 and 1,000 words and can include figures and tables. This guidance will be integrated into the Journal's author instructions by the next issue.

This issue is also different for me in the publication of another article type containing supplemental information, and that is a book review. Again, not unprecedented in *JECT* but it is with pleasure that we can offer a concise yet thorough book review courtesy of our emeritus perfusionist Gary Grist. Here too, I wish to invite textbook authors and

readers alike to submit or request reviews of books that are helpful to our community and our practices. Reviewers can either be suggested or the editor may solicit a suitable one from our team of excellent peer reviewers. The book reviewed in this issue, *The Perfusion Crisis Manual*, is a rather unique checklist-oriented, spiral-bound, tab-indicated

set of guides that I anticipate will be truly helpful in my other role as an educator and also in our clinical practices. Do take a look!

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*Editor-in-Chief*