Medical Advisory Board

We, the editors, would like for you, our readers, to become more familiar with the men who are serving as the AmSECT Medical Advisory Board members.

In this our first issue of 1974, we introduce four of the eleven doctors who will be in this appointed capacity from July 1973 to July 1975.

Between rigorous operating schedules, hours at the lectern, enduring conference and committee meetings, and the agony and ecstasy of the research laboratory AmSECT is proud of these eleven pacesetters within our fields of 'the technology'.

Dr. William J. Kolff received his medical degree in 1938 and his Ph.D. in 1946 in Holland. In 1950 he emigrated to the United States to become a member of the Research staff of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio. Here he continued his work in the field of hemodialysis and became active in the field of kidney transplantation. Also his basic work in the field of high blood pressure and the building of heart-lung machines progresses at 'the clinic'. He was appointed Professor of Clinical Investigation and Head of the Department of Artificial Organs while in Cleveland. In 1956, Dr. Kolff became a United States citizen.

In 1967, Dr. Kolff moved to Salt Lake City and the University of Utah. Here he holds the positions of Professor of Surgery, Head of the Division of Artificial Organs, Research Professor of Engineering, and Director of the Institute for Biomedical Engineering of the University.

In 1942, Dr. Kolff received the Landsteiner Silver Medal from the Netherlands Red Cross for establishing two blood banks during the war in Holland. Other awards, but by no means all: the Silver Cup to commemorate the first dialysis in 1943 from ASAIO in 1968; the Gold Medal from Rudolf Virchow Medical Society in New York, 1968; the first Gold Medal of the Netherlands Surgical Society, 1970; and continues to be Commander in de Orde van Oranje—Nassau by Her Majesty, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands—an honor comparable to knighthood.

Current projects now include his deep involvement with the artificial heart (a record was achieved recently when a calf lived for 18 days with an implanted artificial heart).

His publishing efforts include over 300 publications; 2 books; 5 chapters of books; and 5 forwords for books by others. Dr. Kolff and his wife, Janke, have five children—three of whom are doctors. His son, Albert, remembers the whole family working in the laboratory basement after dinner, with simple tools, including an orange juice can, a beer can, and a grapefruit can. From these experiments evolved the twin coil kidney.
Staff members recall invitations to come out to his farm to enjoy its beauty; of trips to a maple syrup factory; and today readily admit to their admiration of a dynamic man who can wear his whole staff down when he ‘moves’ on a project.

Dr. Denton A. Cooley, a native of Houston, Texas, is the surgeon-in-chief of the Texas Heart Institute. He received his M.D. degree in 1944 from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His internship and surgical residency were completed there also. In 1951 he finished his term as Senior Surgical Registrar, Thoracic Surgery, Brompton Hospital for Chest Diseases, London, England.

After 18 years of full time academic affiliation, Dr. Cooley resigned in 1969 as Professor of Surgery, Baylor University College of Medicine. His professional society memberships are numerous but include: American Association for Thoracic Surgery; American College of Cardiology; American College of Surgeons; American Society of Artificial Internal Organs; International Cardiovascular Society; Society of Thoracic Surgeons; Southern Thoracic Surgical Association; Texas Academy of Science and the New York Academy of Sciences.

Among his many awards are the Rene Leriche Prize (for the most significant contribution to cardiovascular surgery), 1965-1967; the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Johns Hopkins University, 1971; and the Vishnevsky Medal, USSR, 1971. In September, 1972, Dr. Cooley completed his 10,000th “pump case”.

Dr. Cooley is married to the former Louise Goldsborough Thomas and they have five daughters. He enjoys golf and has played in the Bing Crosby pro-am. He is an avid tennis player and this past fall played an exhibition tennis match in Houston against Bobby Riggs prior to the famed Riggs-King match in September 1973.

No new face to AmSECT, Dr. Charley Gutch has served as a Medical Advisor to the Certification-Education Committee for the past three years. He received his medical degree from the University of Iowa in 1943. After military service in the navy, his internal medicine residency was completed in December 1951 at the V.A. Hospital of Lincoln, Nebraska.

He has been involved in dialysis since 1956 (the V.A. Hospital in Lincoln was the first V.A. to have its own artificial kidney). Dr. Gutch was also involved in early work on long term peritoneal dialysis, and developed an indwelling silastic catheter for that purpose.

In 1970 he moved from the University of Colorado to the University of Utah in Salt
Lake and there worked with Dr. K. F. Kopp while he was developing the single needle device. While serving as Medical Director, Hemodialysis Training Center in the Division of Artificial Organs, he had a part in developing the dialysis technician training program there.

In August 1972 he became Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine with the administrative title of Chief, Dialysis Programs, University of Arizona Medical Center, and V.A. Hospital, Tucson.

Publications include some 40 papers, one book and a chapter to another. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, a member of the International Society of Internal Medicine, ASAIO, ASN and the Editorial Board of Clinical Nephrology. He is the liaison ASAIO member to AmSECT.

Dr. Gutch and his wife Betty have one son, John. Dr. Gutch's candid sense of humor shines through in the darkest hours of committee meetings, all calmly revealed with the pipe in his hand and the smile on his face.

Dr. Albert Starr, born in New York, was educated at Columbia and received his medical degree from the College of Physicians & Surgeons in 1949. Upon finishing his residency at Presbyterian Hospital in 1957 he came to the University of Oregon Medical School.

In 1959 he began work with a retired engineer, Lowell Edwards, to develop an artificial heart valve. In August, 1960, he successfully implanted the first mitral ball valve in a patient. Since that time, over 150,000 valves of this design have been implanted throughout the world.

He was named Chief, Division of Cardiopulmonary Surgery in 1963 and an Associate Professor of Surgery. In 1965 he became a Professor of Surgery.

Dr. Starr is a leader in not only valvular surgery but also congenital heart surgery and coronary artery surgery. He has received numerous awards from surgical and cardiology societies throughout the world as well as humanitarian awards and honorary degrees. His committee involvement includes membership on the Advisory Council for Thoracic Surgery, American College of Surgeons, 1972-73; Executive Committee, Cardiovascular Committee of American College of Surgeons; Central Advisory Committee, Council on Cardiovascular Surgery, American Heart Association; Editorial Board, American College of Cardiology and Heart Training Committee, Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Dr. Starr is an accomplished skier and in between his travel and busy surgical schedule, he finds time to drive to one of the many resorts in Oregon. He is also a rancher and makes it a point to be present during branding season to participate in the event. He is an accomplished rider and has proved to be an accomplished cowboy.