

Abstracts

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Perfusion and cardiac surgery. From marriage to adultery and divorce?



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Clinical perfusion is an intriguing biomedical specialty. Apart from circulating oxygen and blood, a continuous interaction with the patient's organs and the machines occurs. In this contribution, I will point at the various challenges, in terms of oxygenation and microcirculation of human organs and the application of the newest engineering technology.

From the point of view of cardiac surgery, clinical perfusion was a booming specialty thanks to the intimate relationship between the disciplines. However, the future for clinical perfusion can only be guaranteed when the discipline of clinical perfusion seeks alliances with other specialties such as anaesthesiology, haematology, and polymer sciences. There will be a continuing tension in the relationship between cardiac surgery and clinical perfusion due to the developments in the area of pursuing business primarily by perfusionists. Also, disputes about control of the technology will occur. However, for both cardiac surgery and clinical perfusion continuation of the fruitful relationship should be encouraged and maintained: an exciting marriage.