

President's Message

These are the best of times and the worst of times.

This coming spring we will mark the 40th anniversary of the Microcirculatory Society. In many respects, this milestone is a testament to the labors and passions of a handful of dedicated scientists who have sought to maintain a tightly focused group, bound together by a common cause, yet uniquely diverse in its composition.

Over the last decade our Society has grown approximately 30%, from about 325 members in 1980 to approximately 420 regular members in 1992, as evidenced by a random sampling of our annual directory during that period which is shown in Fig. 1. (These numbers are based on a count of "regular" members only, with an additional 80 members falling into the categories of associate, retired and student members for 1992.) There are many factors which have contributed to this fairly steady growth rate; the most obvious ones being the fervor of recruitment exhibited by the presiding presidents, a small proliferation of academic positions and meager increases in research expenditures by the National Institutes of Health. It is probably a truism unique to our society that "smaller is better," and while medical science was being funneled toward the microscopic world of the molecular biologist a few stragglers became sequestered in this last frontier of integrative physiology: the microcirculation.

Remarkably, however, we have fared much better than other branches of physiology, although one cannot help but wonder what life would be like for us today if that cursed AIDS virus had a greater affinity for the vascular smooth muscle cell than the macrophage.

That we have endured the whims of Federal research funding so well is indeed testimony to the unique talents of our membership, which is a strange admixture of biologists, physiologists, clinicians, biophysicists and engineers. Analysis of the constituency of our Society, as indicated in Fig. 2, reveals a dominance of researchers from the basic life sciences which amounts to 55% of the total membership. I have included in this group traditional physiologists, biologists and pathologists whose departmental affiliations clearly reflect their affiliation with a basic science department. Following immediately behind in numbers are those members associated with clinical departments such as pediatrics, surgery, neurology etc. A most surprising result (at least to me) was the low 12% represented by researchers

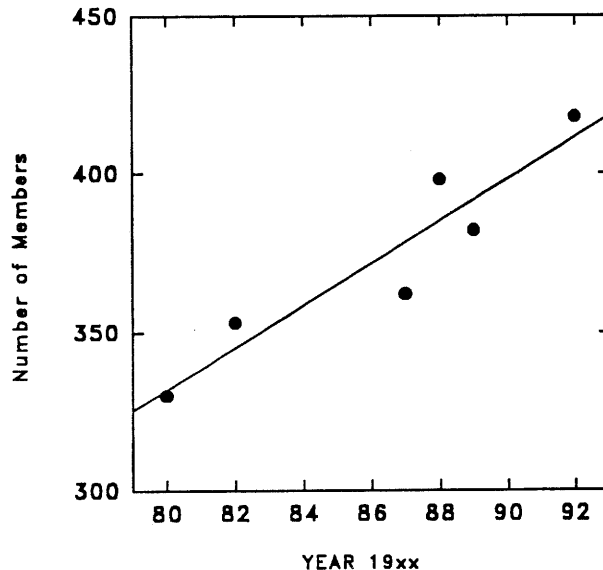


Figure 1: Society membership for the period 1980-92. Only regular members were counted since data were not available for other categories in past years.

from the physical sciences, categorized here as engineering, particularly since a superficial examination of the scientific content of our meetings suggests that many of our most industrious and enthusiastic members are engineers. Most disappointing, is the meager 3% representation by the pharmaceutical industry. And, of course 3% of our members hold administrative positions which defy classification in terms of research interests. It would appear reasonable to expect that one could take this distribution one step further and attempt to seek additional correlations which highlight interaction between these broad categories and the degree to which they enhance the mission of the **MCS**, and thus clearly demonstrate the advantageous position of our membership in pursuing their scientific endeavors.

In general, 1991-92 has been a good year for our society which was punctuated by the Fifth World Congress for the Microcirculation. **Pat Harris** and his team in Louisville did an outstanding job of organizing WC-5 by attracting over 1300 registrants. I have been informed by Pat that he will make a full report to the Society at the Spring meeting in New Orleans. The success of WC-5 also served to highlight the limitations in research and travel funding that affect us all and reaffirmed my skepticism in statistics. As indicated in the reprise of Fig. 3 below, which first appeared in the **MCS** 1992 Anaheim Program, the number of scientific presentations has increased steadily over the past 10 years. Based upon a linear regression of these data, the program committee was led to believe that we would have 230 or more papers submitted. However, due to the success of the Louisville meeting, only 129 papers were presented. As President-elect and organizer of the meeting, I appreciated the successes of Louisville even more in light of the reduction in my labors.

Another interesting departure from the overall trends delineated in Fig. 3 is the undeniable success of the 1985 **MCS** meeting organized by **Paul Johnson** in Tucson. In light of the 30% increase in papers over the previous year's meeting in 1984, one might question the benefits of continually meeting with FASEB year after year. I remember the Tucson meeting well; both the weather and the science were equally hot and invigorating. Perhaps we should indeed consider alternatives to our long standing, and increasingly stifling, pre-FASEB meeting. With the help of the APEX airline fare, it might be more fruitful to hold our annual meeting at a university site during the 2-3 day period prior to FASEB. I would certainly enjoy hearing from the membership on this issue.

Other developments during the 1991-92 year with

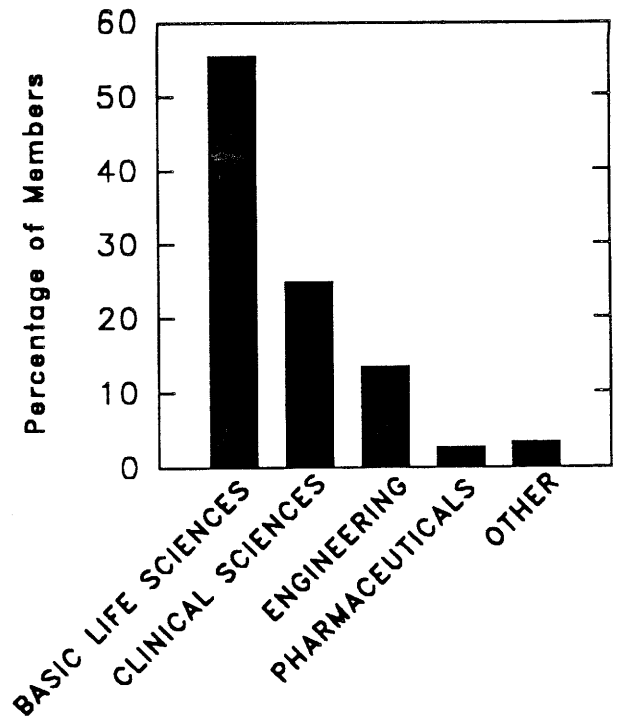


Figure 2: Composition of the MCS membership. Each category was determined on the basis of departmental or institutional affiliations.

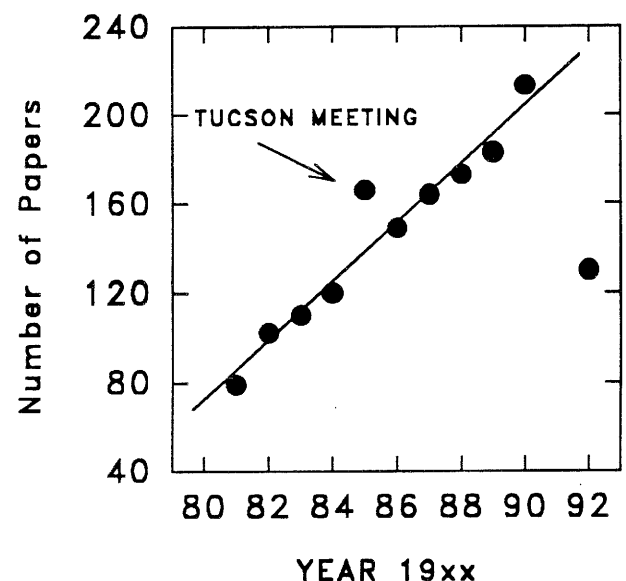


Figure 3: Number of papers given at annual **MCS** meetings. A linear regression is shown for the period 1981-90 ($r=0.967$).

potential impact upon our Society have brought to focus new insights into future directions for the **MCS**. During our 1992 meeting in Anaheim, our president **Neil Granger** and I attended a session of the **FASEB** board to explore the **MCS** membership in **FASEB**. Following a period of deliberation on this issue, the **FASEB** board concluded that the **MCS** was too small a group and contained too large an overlap in membership (80%) with the **American Physiological Society** to justify its full membership at this time.

On a more positive note, **Mary Gerritsen**, Chair of the Publications Committee, reports that her committee has made substantial progress in pursuing the establishment of an **MCS** journal. Negotiations with publishers have resulted in a contract offer from Plenum Press that looks very interesting and further discussions are now underway. The committee intends to have a firm proposal for the membership before December 1, 1992. The publications committee also proposes to develop a series of **MCS** monographs, to be published on an annual basis. If you have a proposal for a book, please send a potential list of authors, scope and subject and approximate length and time frame, with a description of how the book would provide new and useful information on the subject and any other relevant information to the publications committee chairperson, **Mary E. Gerritsen**. All proposals will be addressed by the committee and if sufficient interest is indicated, prospective authors and editors will be contacted.

As for the coming year and my own agenda for the future, there are many pursuits which might enhance our Society, promote its growth and amplify its strengths. First and foremost is the need for a more vigorous effort in facilitating our visibility within the scientific community. It was disappointing last year to see the name of our Society scribbled on a piece of notebook paper, pointing the way toward the scientific sessions at our annual meeting. We need to invest a few dollars in making some attractive billboards and other materials which call attention to the **MCS**. Toward this goal, I will be working with the Program and Liaison Committees in creating new means of making our presence known, not only during the **FASEB** meeting, but other meetings as well.

Second, a potential key to our success rests in the participation of our society in other national and international meetings. Toward this goal, I have charged the Long Range Planning Committee with the task of identifying specific meetings which are relevant to our cause, **MCS** members who regularly attend these meetings, and possible sources of funding to support our annual participation in the form of **MCS** sponsored symposia. In addition, I have offered in the following a questionnaire which aims to poll the membership on their views toward the conduct of our annual meeting; which will be subject to some uncertainty as **FASEB** reorganizes and changes the format of its annual meeting.

Third, I have charged the Long Range Planning Committee and Council with the task of investigating the means by which we may strengthen the stability of our society and enhance its function through the restructuring of its officers and committees. One possible reconfiguration is to extend the term of President to a period of two years. Another scenario is to take advantage of the secretarial services available to us through our long forgotten compact with the **American Physiological Society** on a fee for service basis to hire permanent secretarial support in the organization of our meetings and preparation of our mailings.

With these items on the agenda, and many other prospects for changes in the future, I am sure that the **MCS** will continue to grow and prosper. I would be delighted to hear from all members with their suggestions and look forward to serving you during the forthcoming year.

Sincerely,
Herbert H. Lipowsky, President

MCS Committee Assignments 1992-93

Committee	Term Expires	Telephone No.	Committee	Term Expires	Telephone No.
Awards:			Nominating Committee:		
Mary Ellsworth (Chair)	93	314-577-8231	Phil Watson (Chair)	93	803-733-3242
Alan Groom	93	519-661-3053	Donald Bell	93	518-445-5393
Joe Unthank	94	317-630-7866	Peter Kvietys	94	318-674-6010
Karl E. Arfors	94	609-951-4358	Robert Rosselli	94	615-322-2602
Timothy Secomb	95	602-626-4513	Gary Anderson	95	502-588-5371
Fred Miller	95	502-588-7562	Rakesh Jain	95	617-726-4083
Finance:			Liason Committee:		
Antal Hudetz (Chair)	94	414-257-8266	Jim Basingthwaighte	96	206-685-2005
Aleksander Popel	93	301-955-8419	Neil Granger	96	318-674-6010
Matt Wolf	94	803-733-3241	Roland Pittman	96	804-786-9545
David Kern	94	615-929-5625	Ingrid Sarelius	96	716-275-7729
Giles Cokelet	95	716-275-5283	Long Range Planning Committee:		
Development:			Neil Granger (Chair)		
Gerald Meininger (Chair)	93	409-845-7491	James Basingthwaighte		
Mary Gerritsen	93	203-937-2104	Harris Granger		
Eric Svensjo	93	46-46-166-236	Robert Gore		
Larry Argenbright	94	203-798-5426	William Joyner		
Tom Adair	94	601-984-1801	Patrick Harris		
Historical:			Marcos Intaglietta		
Robert McCuskey(Chair)	93	602-626-6084	Brian Duling		
Herbert Berman	93	617-353-2440	Alan Groom		
Sidney Sobin	93	213-223-2355	Aubrey Taylor		
Billy Barber	94	606-257-2816	Program Committee		
Aubrey Taylor	94	205-460-7004	Roland Pittman (Chair)		
Benjamin W. Zweifach	95	619-524-4277	Hermes Kontos		
Membership:			Aleksander Popel		
Cynthia Meininger (Chair)	93	409-845-3689	Virginia Huxley		
Ann Baldwin	93	602-626-6569	Herbert H. Lipowsky		
Mike Hill	94	804-446-5610			
Steven House	94	201-761-9052			
Frank Reilly	95	304-293-2212			
Steve Segal	95	203-562-9901			

The Microcirculatory Society, Inc.

Nomination of Officers for 1993 Election of Officers

Nomination Ballot

Please record your nominations for the officers and council in the spaces provided. Send the completed ballot to:

Philip D. Watson, Ph.D.
Department of Physiology
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

President-elect

Treasurer

Council members

Deadline for receipt of nominations: January 10, 1993

For you information, the following serving officers cannot be nominated. President Herb Lipowsky, President-elect Roland Pittman, Treasurer Anatal Hudetz, councillors Mike Davis, Virginia Huxley, Bill Chilian, and Ron Korthuis. The following are presently serving and can be re-nominated: councillors Gerald Meininger and James Faber.



Tuscon, Arizona, Satellite Symposium

"The Venous Microcirculation"

Chairs Alexander S. Popel and Paul C. Johnson

Friday, March 26, 1993

Information will be mailed to all members.

Contact Lura Hanekamp (602) 626-7642 for more information.