2020s

Tesler UF. A History of Cardiac Surgery: An Adventurous Voyage from Antiquity to the Artificial Heart. Lady Stephenson Library, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020. [Why do books on the history of cardiac surgery often end with a chapter on the artificial heart? This book follows such a pattern and includes descriptions of early left ventricular assist devices. But, in credit to the author, the history began in the 19th century when Professor Ludwig Rehn sutured a stab wound to a man's heart; the patient lived, and this success was followed by others, most notably by Dr. Luther Hill in Montgomery, AL, in 1902. That teenage patient survived the surgery, but in a sad irony, died 40 years later after being stabbed again in the heart. The amazing work of Alexis Carrel in suturing blood vessels, blood transfusion medicine, development of safe anesthesia, cardiac catheterization, and the whole panoply of remarkable advances that made open-heart surgery practical are admirably recounted in this book. As is fundamental in describing any history, people are the focus of these stories. Many lithographs and photographs of the luminaries are found within the pages of this excellent book, but, regrettably, little is written about the technology that most perfusionists would find most interesting based on their own experience.]

Miller CA. A Time for All Things; The Life of Michael E. DeBakey. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020. [This is the definitive biography of Michael Ellis DeBakey – often referred to as the greatest surgeon of the 20th century. Spanning 610 pages, this book reveals all sides of DeBakey – father, military veteran, surgeon, innovator, and medical statesman. The author is a vascular surgeon and gifted writer, who was a Michael E. DeBakey Fellow in the History of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. This book represents scholarship of the highest order as revealed in personal interviews with those who knew Dr. DeBakey and from voluminous primary sources (77 archival boxes) housed at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, MD.]

Jones C. The Organ Thieves; The Shocking Story of the First Heart Transplant in the Segregated South. New York: Gallery Books/Jeter Publishing, 2020. [An award-winning journalist digs deeply into the subject and provides astounding details of the first cardiac transplant at the Medical College of Virginia in 1968. It was controversial because the donor's family was not contacted before the heart of their deceased relative was removed. The author puts the event in the larger context of the "race" by other surgeons and the racial inequities of that era and the flurry of heart transplants before the procedure became safer after the introduction of cyclosporine in the 1980s. This is a compelling read that profiles the people and larger issues of societal implications of cardiac transplantation.]

Englert J, Marschel C, Hedlund KD (Eds.). The Manual of Clinical Perfusion, Third Edition. Charleston, SC: Palmetto Publishing, 2023. [This lab coat-sized book has been a favorite resource of perfusionists for over three decades. Like the previous versions, this third edition is authored and edited solely by perfusionists. Burgeoning to over 400 pages, readers will delight in the numerous standards and guidelines (denoted in italics) that supplement the text. Newly added figures and diagrams complement the early chapters, and QR codes directly link the interested practitioner to additional web-based information. Source material is bountiful, including an appendix that cites useful parameters, formulas, and conversion factors. Emerging technology, such as normothermic machine perfusion of donor organs, is appropriately examined, and new chapters include HIPEC, the Angio Vac system, and platelet gel. The discussion on myocardial protection remains unchanged from previous versions of this book except for statements about Del Nido formulation and microplegia. The specification table for arterial line filters, included as part of the Filtration chapter, is woefully out of date and should be omitted. Overall, this manual delivers on its purpose – a resource intended for pump-side use by today's working perfusionists.]

Falter F, Perrrino AC, Baker RA (Eds). Cardiopulmonary Bypass, 3rd Edition. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2023. [The third edition offers a comprehensive and up-to-date reference text to extracorporeal cardiopulmonary support. This book provides a clinically focused tutorial with chapters spanning technical aspects, patient related considerations, and human factors essential to contemporary practice of cardiopulmonary bypass. Written concisely to allow the reader to gain and apply critical knowledge to the clinical setting and featuring artwork that has been extensively updated to include numerous figures and color plates imbedded into each chapter. A remarkable collection of international experts in the fields of perfusion, anesthesiology, and cardiac surgery were recruited to co-author chapters, providing a multidisciplinary approach to case management. This completely updated edition includes expanded content on developments in minimally invasive extracorporeal circulation, anticoagulation, organ injury, and human factors. The comprehensive coverage of perfusion practice in a concise, highly illustrated format makes it the go-to, portable reference manual for perfusionists, cardiac surgeons, and anesthesiologists.]

Bartlett RH. 65 Years in Surgery: A Memoir. Hirschl R, Zwischenberger, O'Rourke, Stead C (Eds). Ann Arbor, MI: Extracorporeal Life Support Organization, 2026. [Appearing as a typical memoir, this manuscript is in fact an anthology of Dr. Robert Bartlett's professional life. Each chapter begins as a story told by Bartlett himself. His musings, for instance, about his mentors Drs. Robert Gross and Francis Moore are delightful reading. Further enriching the chapters is the added commentary by the editors – all close personal friends of Bartlett. This book is not chronological, but it is divided into five distinct sections.

Bartlett begins by introducing several influential characters such as Al Gazzaniga, his trusted partner in Irvine. Also mentioned is Bartlett's wife Wanda, who cleaned disc oxygenators as a crucial source of income during his meager years as a surgical resident in Boston. Bartlett's candid remarks about Medicare and the unstable economics of healthcare are a passionate plea for reform. Of course, ECMO is the featured topic in these pages, and Bartlett covers it expertly from origins to fruition. The pictures that accompany this portion of the book are extraordinary, including a ne'er seen photo of Drinker's "paint shaker" membrane oxygenator which Bartlett helped develop in the late 1960s. The last section, entitled "Stories Invited by Bob", regales the reader with accounts from Bartlett's most intimate circle of colleagues. In particular, the chapter penned by perfusionist John Toomasian, a loyal comrade of Bartlett's both in Irvine and Ann Arbor, is a first-hand look at how the world's earliest ECMO programs were developed. The ECMO community knew Bartlett as an indomitable pioneer and scientist for sure. This book shows his human side, and how marvelous a person he was to many.]
