be "involved in CPR" he should support this effort and work within its framework instead of minimizing its importance.

J. KENT GARMAN, M.D.
American Heart Association
National Faculty Member in Advanced
Cardiac Life Support
and
Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesia

In reply.—An expert is one possessing special skill and knowledge of a specific subject. The achievement of this distinction comes from training as well as experience. As the definition of anesthesiology includes "the clinical management and teaching of cardiac and pulmonary resuscitation," the disdain for the nationally-accepted standardized American Heart Association (AHA) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training program expressed by Dr. Allen is regrettable and not in keeping with the spirit of our specialty. Agreeing that one of the major goals of the AHA CPR program is mass public education, what can physicians gain from participation in an AHA Basic CPR course? First, delivery of CPR in and outside of the hospital is most efficient when those participating in the delivery of the care speak a universal language. Only by standardized CPR education can total strangers act in unison, eliminating individual variability in technique. The speed, proficiency and grace with which CPR can be instituted by trained people decreases the period of anoxia and improves chances for survival. Second, if indeed physicians, especially anesthesiologists, must be the teachers of CPR, for the public, paramedical personnel and medical colleagues, they must possess current knowledge of CPR. This relatively young area of clinical care is undergoing constant revision. Comparison of recent national publications in this area demonstrates the state of flux. Keeping current is possible only by continuing education. Third, where physicians are concerned, CPR is cerebral. When the AHA Basic CPR course is used as a framework upon which to build, the sound principles of physiology which are the basis of CPR can be taught, pondered and researched. CPR can and must be presented to physicians not only as a practical skill but as a highly sophisticated, intellectual topic.

If we as anesthesiologists are to honestly be able to call ourselves experts in CPR we must be able to document our skill. Experience, valuable though it may be, is only one way to document skill. Participation in a didactic CPR session, including a knowledge evaluation and objective practical test with a recording Resusci Anne®, is an additional, necessary method to document expertise. As Dr. Garman's editorial recommends, "If you are still a skeptic, subject yourself to the test. The results may surprise you."

ALAN JAY SCHWARTZ, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology
FREDRICK K. ORKIN, M.D., M.B.A.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Research Medicine (Epidemiology)
NORIC ELLISON, M.D.
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology
Department of Anesthesia
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
3400 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

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