

PERFUSION AND MASS CULTURE SYSTEMS

Submitted by

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INTRODUCTION

Perfusion culture systems are almost as old as the technique of tissue culture. Ross Harrison, while working at The Johns Hopkins University, published (1907) the first paper on the growth of nerve fibers in culture. Associated with Harrison was a young medical student, Montrose Burrows, who subsequently joined Alexis Carrel at The Rockefeller Institute. In 1912 Burrows published a description of a perfusion system in *Anatomical Record*. The contributions of Carrel and Lindbergh to the development of perfusion systems for organ culture are well known. In the late 1940's the marked technical advances in microscopy, the advent of antibiotics, and the perfection of tissue culture methods using microbiological techniques fostered many developments in perfusion systems. Between 1951 and the mid-1960's, some twenty designs were described.

Improvement in design directed toward automation and monitoring the systems has continued. Exclusive of their use as labor-saving devices, the utility of such apparatus lies in their application toward stated goals. The major goal is of course to mimic a tissue's environment in defined terms, or as many authors state, "to achieve as near physiological conditions as possible" principally through avoidance of "feast and famine" during periods of maintenance or growth.

The systems vary in size from capillaries to multiliter vessels and in sophistication from simple gravity flow systems to one designed and carried into space on Sky Lab III. Applications vary from those used in vaccine and hormone production and developing and testing artificial vascular prosthesis to the study of "clearance rate" of drugs mimicking "in vivo" clearance. Systems have been designed to perfuse cells (both monolayer and suspension) and tissues, as well as whole organs.

Mass culture systems are included in this section because it is felt that they lend themselves readily to perfusion systems. The advantages of feeding mass cultures by this method are readily apparent with the potential of re-utilization of spent media, use of monitoring devices, and cell harvesting.

PERFUSION CULTURES — HISTORICAL (pre-1940)

Vertebrate — Cells and Tissue

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MASS CULTURE TECHNIQUES

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