

Meeting of  
THE STATE COMMITTEE  
FOR PERFUSION  
Friday, March 13, 2026  
1411 Broadway and NYSED Remote Conferencing Sites

Mr. Boese called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**Committee Members Present:** Michael Brewer, Michael Cronin, Karen Smith and Public Member Jason Wiles.

**Committee Members Absent:** Physician Member Dr. Frank Manetta, and Dana Mullin.

**NYSED Staff Present:** Stephen Boese, Executive Secretary for the State Committee; Michelle Pawlowski, Education Credentials Specialist 2; Carla Gibbons, Education Program Assistant 2; and Lee Fitzgerald, Education Program Assistant 2

**Guests Present:** Stephanie Maes, and Kelly Murphy from the NYSED Professions Connections Unit.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Since the previous meeting, five new members have joined the committee. The committee membership has changed almost entirely since it was established in 2016.

Michael Brewer is a NYS licensed perfusionist from Dix Hills, NY. He earned a BS from Arcadia University, a Masters in Cardiovascular Perfusion from CW Post LIU, and an MBA from the Jack Welch Management Institute. Mr. Brewer is currently Chief Perfusionist at NY Presbyterian/CHONY. Mr. Brewer is a skilled perfusionist and has a number of academic papers and presentations to his credit.

Dana Mullin is a NYS licensed perfusionist from New City, NY. Since 2016, Dana has been Chief of Clinical Perfusion-ECMO Services and Education at NYP-Columbia. She earned a Master of Science in Perfusion Technology from the CW Post Cardiovascular perfusion program and a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from Stony Brook University. She is certified by the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion, a member of the American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion and a Fellow of the American Society of Extra Corporeal Technology.

Michael Cronin, a NYS licensed perfusionist, earned his Master of Science in Clinical Perfusion at SUNY Upstate, and a BS in Biology from Le Moyne College. He is currently a staff perfusionist at Rochester General Hospital. He previously worked as a perfusionist at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, and as a Surgical Tech at SUNY Upstate. Mr. Cronin is also a volunteer faculty member at SUNY Upstate. Mr. Cronin is certified by the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusionists and a member of the American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion, the NYS Society of Perfusionists and the American Society for Extracorporeal Technology.

Karen Smith is a NYS licensed perfusionist who is currently the Chief Perfusionist at the University of Rochester. She earned a BS in Perfusion from Upstate Medical University of Syracuse and a master's in health care administration from the Robert Wesleyan College, Rochester, NY. Ms. Smith presents a rich history of professional presentations within the national perfusion community and a similarly rich history in professional continuing education.

Jason Wiles is a public member of the NYS Perfusion Committee. Dr. Wiles earned a Ph.D. in Biology from McGill University, an MS in Geoscience from the Mississippi State University, an MS in Teaching Biology from Portland State University, a Graduate Certificate in Religious Studies from Harvard University and a BA with Honors from Harding University. Dr. Wiles is currently an Associate Professor in Biology at Syracuse University. He presents a rich academic history and teaching history, along with an impressive list of community activities and professional memberships.

### **Executive Secretary Report:**

Licensure Update: Perfusion is a relatively new profession that became licensed by the Office of the Professions in 2016, and has roughly 500 licensees statewide. Today is the first official meeting of the committee since 2022 (a meeting of the committee in 2024 did not meet quorum). Since there are several new members in attendance today, Mr. Boese takes the opportunity to encourage feedback from committee members on issues that impact the profession. The committee is allowed to meet up to 4 times a year, but actual meetings are scheduled based on need.

Board Membership/Leadership: There are currently two immediate vacancies on the committee for a physician member, and a public member. There is also a vacancy for one of the current existing members to be elected as committee chair. No candidates were named in today's meeting.

Limited Permit Edits: Some editorial changes were made to the limited permit application for perfusionists to more closely match the wording of the NYS regulations. The limited permit allows applicants who meet the education requirements for licensure to practice under supervision until they are able to sit for the licensing examination.

Review of Disciplinary Issues: There has only been one disciplinary action against a perfusionist in NYS, and the misconduct was not perfusion-related. It is not widely known, but important for licensees to understand that convictions such as a DWI can result in professional misconduct and discipline on a license.

### **Review of Recent Issues:**

Clinical Laboratory Tests: Perfusionists are allowed to order "point of care" testing under their scope of practice. In practice, these allowances can be institution-specific where an employer may make a determination based on the perfusionist's education and training.

ECMO: Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) is a life-support system that acts as an artificial heart and lung. ECMO has become more common in the last 10-12 years, and it is not unusual to see this performed in the field by a Respiratory Therapist or Nursing. ECMO is commonly within the perfusion legal scope of practice. Hospitals may authorize respiratory therapists or nurses to perform certain ECMO procedures.

Shortage of Perfusionists: The shortage of perfusionists was an issue a few years ago, but this is not a concern today. A large number of perfusionists retiring post-covid may have contributed to the shortage at that time. Larger graduating class sizes from perfusion programs have helped correct this. Committee members shared anecdotes of having a healthy number of applicants reply to perfusion job listings at their institutions.

Evolving Role of Perfusionists/Technological Advancements: The committee discusses if major changes in the perfusion profession have been identified in the past 10 years—AI & automation are still considered a future aspiration with no real implementation in the field.

NRP is a practice that has grown significantly more common in the past decade. Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) is an advanced organ procurement technique for Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD) that restores oxygenated blood flow to organs in situ using ECMO. Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) are typically commissioned by hospitals to perform the procedure. There is concern that OPOs are inappropriately referring to themselves as perfusionists—in NYS, only a licensed perfusionist may legally use the title “perfusionist”.

With organ sharing and OPO, there is confusion if a perfusionist is needed to perform the procedure. The committee members agree that NRP falls under the scope of practice of perfusion, and NRP would need to be performed by a licensed perfusionist.

Cell Saver Machine: The Perfusion Committee received an inquiry from the Nursing Board asking if an RN is authorized to use a cell saver machine. A cell saver machine is a device that suctions blood lost during surgery, filters, washes, and concentrates the red blood cells, and returns them to the patient via an IV. There is a national certification available to train individuals to use the device. Some hospitals will utilize licensed perfusionists to handle this task, while others will hire a “cell saver tech” who holds the national certification.

The individual using a cell saver machine must be trained and competent to do so, but does not need to be a licensed perfusionist. Heparin is a medication that is commonly added to the collected blood to prevent clotting. Some hospitals have determined that cell-saving must be performed by a licensed professional who can administer medications as part of their scope of practice (such as an RN), and that an unlicensed “cell saver tech” would not be appropriate.

Review of Regulations: Under the education law, commissioner’s regulations 52.47 concerns registered programs for perfusion. To be eligible for a NY perfusion license, applicants must obtain a baccalaureate degree or higher in a credit-bearing program for perfusion. There are specific coursework requirements that are related to practice including an “appropriate number of procedures”. This standard defers to the national accreditor.

The national licensing examination has also remained unchanged since the profession was first licensed. The committee did not find any need to change the current regulations for perfusion.

**Presentation: Paths to the Professions:**

Kelly Murphy and Stephanie Maes visit from the NYSED Professions Connections Unit to give a presentation on the Paths to the Professions website. The Professions Connections Unit serves as a liaison between NYSED and licensed professionals, working together with students, educators, and other agencies. Paths to the Professions is intended to raise awareness on the career paths within licensed professions. Perfusion is a good example of a profession that young students may not be familiar with, but may match well with their skillset.

The “Explore Careers” page lists all the professions with links to individual pages. Each page has a general description of the profession, an informational video, salary information, job locations, interests/abilities the profession would appeal to, and professional skills needed to succeed in said profession. Each profession also has a “Print Profile” which is an informational flyer that can be displayed on a wall in a school. Each Print Profile has a QR code that leads directly to the Office of Professions website.

The Unit is looking for feedback from the committee members to ensure that the information on their website is accurate. They are also looking for materials such as educational videos, or news articles that may highlight the profession.

**Selection of Next Meeting Date:** If specific issues arise for the profession, the committee will schedule a future meeting date at that time. Mr. Boese encourages members to be open and reach out with specific concerns relating to perfusion.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:35 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Fitzgerald  
Education Program Assistant 2