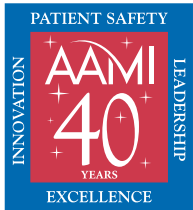


# Introduction



**When we embarked** on this project to look back on AAMI's first 40 years in the medical technology field, we asked many people to share their thoughts and experiences. Memories came pouring in from all corners of the healthcare industry: the pioneering doctors and inventors who were so fundamental to AAMI's beginning; the skilled engineers and technicians who elevated their professions to become such important and respected members of the healthcare team; regulatory officials who have been committed to finding solutions instead of putting up barriers. Retired members, active members, students, and current and former staff chimed in.

From this broad cross section of responders, a unified view emerged: AAMI is a membership organization consisting of smart, dedicated, caring people guiding a remarkable progression of medical technology advancements that enhance patient safety. From these responses we have drawn the theme for this book: people, progress, and patient safety.

**People.** Professional organizations rely heavily on members volunteering their time and talents. AAMI has been blessed with a wealth of skilled and committed people whose leadership, hard work, and dedication have placed AAMI into the global healthcare landscape. This book mentions many, but by no means all, of the people who have contributed to AAMI's growth over the past four decades. Doing justice to all of the people who have played important roles in AAMI over the years would take a book 10 times this size.

**Progress.** In AAMI's first 40 years, we have all had a front-row seat to an astounding era in which advances in science and technology have made the impossible possible. Medical devices have been invented

and improved. New procedures and treatments have expanded boundaries of care. We've been first-hand witnesses to the birth and growth of medical device regulation and modern manufacturing processes. It has truly been a Golden Age.

**Patient Safety.** Quite simply, patient safety is why AAMI was founded. It's why AAMI worked so hard to establish a regulatory framework for medical devices and continues to this day to be an active participant in device regulation and government programs education. It's why AAMI launched its standards program and later expanded it to the international arena. It's why AAMI works tirelessly to provide professional and technical resources for biomedical equipment technicians, clinical engineers, and healthcare practitioners.

And it's why AAMI has, for 40 years, been able to bring together the best minds and unique talents of a diverse range of medical technology professionals to create a body of work which would otherwise have been impossible to accomplish. I hope you enjoy this book of memories as much as so many people from the AAMI family enjoyed being a part of them. Cheers to AAMI's first 40 years and your contributions to make it happen; and best wishes for the next 40.

***Mike Miller, JD, AAMI President***

**P.S.** I want to acknowledge the effort made by Steve Campbell, Jill Williams, and Kurt Larrick to make this book possible. They have committed themselves to making sure that the many people who have made AAMI what it is today are appropriately recognized and they have succeeded. This was no easy task.