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**PERFUSION ROYALTY,  
BEHIND THE  
STANDARDIZATION  
To the Editor:**



I titled this letter to editor “Perfusion Royalty,” to tell how, behind the success of cardiac surgery techniques, there is the background of perfusion techniques linked to the skills of the perfusionist. The relationship and team spirit that unite the perfusionist to the heart surgeon is based on mutual respect and trust. We read with great interest the article: “A Tool to Assess Nontechnical Skills of Perfusionists in the Cardiac Operating Room” by Dias and colleagues. The authors review the Perfusionists’ Intraoperative Non-Technical Skills tool, specifically to the perfusionists’ context, and test its inter-rater reliability, and concluded

that the Perfusionists’ Intraoperative Non-Technical Skills tool presented moderate inter-rater reliability among perfusionists with varied levels of experience.<sup>1</sup> In this context, from our point of view reinforce the article published by the authors saying that all cardiac surgeons extract their skills to their best and benefit their patients with a virtuous and conscientious perfusionist and vice versa. While perfusion techniques can be seen as a standard and reproducible approach, they can also be perceived as subjective and individual approaches tied to theoretical, practical, and human skills. This is why we can define perfusionists as all different and all the same. That’s why behind a great heart cardiac surgeon there is always a great perfusionist.

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**Reference**

1. Dias RD, Riley W, Shann K, Likosky DS, Fitzgerald D, Yule S. A tool to assess nontechnical skills of perfusionists in the cardiac operating room. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* July 1, 2022 [Epub ahead of print]. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtcvs.2021.06.052>

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