



## From the Editor – in – Chief: Featured papers in the July Issue

We are so happy to announce the formation of the *American Journal of Surgery (AJS)* Communications and Social Media (#SoMe) Committee. We look forward to their contributions to *AJS*:

Paula Ferrada and Mike Zenilman, Chairs,  
Chelsea Harris @CAHarrisMD, Hossan Abdou @HAbdouMD,  
Luis Felipe Cabrera Vargas @Cirbosque,  
Cathy Nelson @Ajs1Cathy

In the July Issue of *AJS* we feature the manuscripts listed below:

**Evaluation of an Instrument to Assess Resident Surgical Entrustable Professional Activities (SEPA).** Entrustable Professional Activities, or EPAs, are a topic that has been quickly evolving in medical education over the last few years. In this paper, Chen and colleagues have adapted these OR procedure-specific tools to a Surgical EPA (or SEPA) for use during procedures<sup>1</sup> with an editorial from Brenessa Lindeman and Rebecca Minter.<sup>2</sup>

**Performance advantages for grit and optimism.** Loftus and colleagues explore the positive psychology concepts of grit and optimism.<sup>3</sup> The authors make a strong argument that the traits of grit and optimism may decrease burnout. There is an editorial from Greg Kennedy and Sarah Tevis.<sup>4</sup>

**Representation of Women in Speaking Roles at Surgical Conferences.** This study presents data about the current state of underrepresentation of women as conference speakers, particularly in plenary roles.<sup>5</sup> Paula Ferrada provides an invited commentary.<sup>6</sup>

**Variation in long-term oncologic outcomes by type of cancer center accreditation: An analysis of a SEER-Medicare population with pancreatic cancer.** Fong and colleagues evaluate cancer-specific and overall survival in pancreatic cancer patients at NCI-Designated, CoC-accredited, or unaccredited centers.<sup>7</sup> Survival was improved in patients treated at NCI-Designated centers, but no survival differences were identified between CoC-accredited and non-accredited programs with an editorial from Cary Jo Schlick and Tony Yang.<sup>8</sup>

**Evaluating how residents talk and what it means for surgical performance in the simulation lab.** In a simulation study at a national academic conference, D'Angelo and colleagues suggest that trainees who are knowledgeable enough to recognize errors and are technically capable enough to instruct assistants will have better simulator performance.<sup>9</sup> There is an editorial from Samantha Baker and Britney Corey.<sup>10</sup>

**Four "My Thoughts/My Surgical Practice" Articles.** We are

continuing to feature articles that discuss the effect of COVID-19 on surgical practice and education: The impact of COVID-19 on medical student surgical education: Implementing extreme pandemic response measures in a widely distributed surgical clerkship experience,<sup>11</sup> Implications for the use of telehealth in surgical patients during the COVID-19 pandemic,<sup>12</sup> Surgical perspectives and pathways in an emergency department during the COVID-19 pandemic,<sup>13</sup> and Academic global surgery and COVID-19: Turning impediments into opportunities.<sup>14</sup>

### References

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3. Loftus TJ, Filiberto AC, Rosenthal MD, et al. Performance advantages for grit and optimism. *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):10–18.
4. Kennedy GD, Tevis S. Strategies to prevent burnout: are grit and optimism the answer? *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):8–9.
5. Gerull KM, Wahba BM, Goldin LM, et al. Representation of women in speaking roles at surgical conferences. *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):20–26.
6. Ferrada P. Diving deep: taking a look at our own bias in academic medicine. *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):19.
7. Fong ZV, Chang DC, Hur C, et al. Variation in long-term oncologic outcomes by type of cancer center accreditation: an analysis of a SEER-medicare population with pancreatic cancer. *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):29–34.
8. Schlick CJ, Yang A. Is there value in cancer center accreditation? *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):27–28.
9. D'Angelo A-LD, et al. Evaluating how residents talk and what it means for surgical performance in the simulation lab. *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):37–43.
10. Baker S, Corey B. What do we talk about next? Integrating lessons learned from resident discourse and technical outcomes. *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):35–36.
11. Calhoun KE, et al. The impact of COVID-19 on medical student surgical education: Implementing extreme pandemic response measures in a widely distributed surgical clerkship experience. *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):44–47.
12. Hakim AA, et al. Implications for the use of telehealth in surgical patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):48–49.
13. Alemanno G, et al. Surgical perspectives and pathways in an emergency department during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):50–52.
14. Martin An, et al. Academic global surgery and COVID-19: Turning impediments into opportunities. *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):53–54.

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