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## Editorial

## From the Editor – In – Chief: Top papers from the Southwest Surgical Congress



In the December Issue of *The American Journal of Surgery (AJS)* we feature manuscripts from the Southwest Surgical Congress. I want to thank Society Editor Sharmila Dissanaikie for assembling a fantastic issue. We are happy to feature the papers from their annual meeting as highlights below:

**A clinical coagulopathy score concurrent with viscoelastic testing defines opportunities to improve hemostatic resuscitation and enhance blood product utilization during liver transplantation.** Schulick et al. examine the role of TEG during liver transplantation. Intraoperative TEG reporting is attractive as it delineates coagulopathy in a more accurate and sophisticated way than other more routinely reported lab tests,<sup>1</sup> with an editorial from Andrew Cameron.<sup>2</sup>

**The effect of pre-operative diagnosis on patient reported outcomes in patients undergoing colorectal operations: A prospective study.** Yonkus and colleagues found patient reported outcomes in colorectal surgery are dependent upon the patient's diagnosis more than the surgery itself.<sup>3</sup> There is an editorial from Sean Langenfeld.<sup>4</sup>

**Worth looking! venous thromboembolism in patients who undergo preperitoneal pelvic packing warrants screening duplex.** Heelan and colleagues report a retrospective, single center, review of venous thromboembolism (VTE) complications in a population that exclusively received preperitoneal pelvic packing.<sup>5</sup> In this unstable population, they report 32% developed a VTE complication, with an editorial from Michael Farrell and Deborah Stein.<sup>6</sup>

**Fix it while you can: Mortality after umbilical hernia repair in cirrhotic patients.** Hill and colleagues perform a database review of the National Inpatient Sample, identifying 899 patients with cirrhosis who underwent umbilical hernia repair (UHR) and compare these patients with 31,627 patients without cirrhosis who also underwent UHR.<sup>7</sup> There is an editorial from Mark Savarise and Milos Buhavac.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to the Southwest Surgical Congress articles, we present **Six “My Thoughts/My Surgical Practice” Articles.** We are highlighting these six thought-provoking editorials: Guidelines and recommendations during the COVID-19 pandemic: A word of caution,<sup>9</sup> Building a department of surgery communications

program,<sup>10</sup> Artificial neural networks in surgical research,<sup>11</sup> Global surgery in the time of COVID-19: A trainee perspective,<sup>12</sup> Mentorship strategies to foster inclusivity in surgery during a virtual era,<sup>13</sup> and Conference cancelled: The equitable flip side of the academic surgery coin.<sup>14</sup>

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