

Editorial – Time for Change

The field of surgery is an ancient art, which has not faltered in its original aim, which is to alleviate the suffering of mankind through the scientific manipulation of human anatomy. The rudimentary beginnings of surgery can be traced back to hieroglyphic evidence in ancient Egyptian ruins. In the United Kingdom and indeed globally, there has been a trend towards increasing subspecialisation with more surgeons performing fewer procedures in the hope of improving standards, efficiency and through-put. The evidence for such a policy has been debated at length over the years in various other publications, conferences and meetings.

One poignant issue that is often overlooked is how increasing sub-specialisation will impact on research. The intrinsic isolation of groups of surgeons into increasingly close-knit circles may lead to the sequestration of advancements in surgical knowledge within particular tightly defined specialities. Such advancements may offer considerable benefit to other surgical specialties and their inability to diffuse beyond the definition of the speciality in which they were discovered may be detrimental to patient care.

With such concerns in mind, 'The Journal of Surgery' aims to provide a balanced and carefully selected range of material which surgeons will find intellectually challenging, stimulating and thought provoking. The diversity of the material which, the journal aims to publish will provide the reader with an eclectic overview of the major changes and advancements in surgery.

The Journal of Surgery aims to set new standards in publishing with a fresh and easy to read layout containing fewer advertisements in an attempt to reduce distraction from the point of the publication. This will also decrease reader frustration and allow for more

high quality content to be incorporated into the journal. By publishing three times a year, we hope the journal will be able to provide the highest quality material possible and readers will have sufficient time to read and digest all issues and supplements.

Our market research, experience and intuition shows that monthly journals are often confined to the round filing cabinet prematurely, simply because the busy surgeon does not have the time in their schedule to read and digest potentially invaluable communications. The accompanying website will go live soon after publication and will provide a fully searchable resource which will support the printed journal.

The Journal of Surgery is being launched in a climate in which journals are facing increasing financial constraints and specialty journals face higher levels of competition from yet more specialised journals. The Journal of Surgery hopes to flourish in such an environment and will ensure that surgeons remain broad-minded, a characteristic which we believe to be essential for successful research and clinical practice.

The editorial team are proud to be associated with a journal which contributes to the advancement of surgery and we hope that surgeons will use the journal as a tool for evidence-based medicine and as a source of continuing surgical education. It is our aim for this journal to act as a vehicle, which will propagate the same rapid development, which we have witnessed over the last century.

The journal aims to provide excellent value and its editorial board welcomes input from its readers. This is consistent with the dynamic vision out of which this journal has been born. Please send all comments to the Managing and Executive Editor in the first instance via e-mail, editor@jsurgery.com.

R. Agha and G. Singh