

Foreword from the Editor-in-Chief

Ashok Handa MBBS MA FRCS¹

¹*Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, University of Oxford, UK*

So as we come towards the end of possibly the most challenging year for the world since the second world war, there is much to reflect on and much to hope for. The COVID pandemic has changed the world in so many ways and many forever.

In healthcare we have seen colleagues across the world putting themselves in the frontline to care for the sick, despite the enormous personal risks and collaboration in science and the sharing of experiences like never before. The impact on planned surgery has been enormous with millions of procedures cancelled, patients never seen with increased suffering and loss of life from surgically preventable deaths. The true costs are yet to be fully realised.

Surgical education was halted with the temporary closure of many medical schools and surgical training programmes as surgeons in training were redeployed to critical care or simply sent home in some parts of the world.

Educational programmes have now restarted but the overall workload for elective surgery still much lower and a huge backlog of surgery across the world. This issue of the JNDS is set to show that education should and must continue. We have a responsibility to our students and trainees to carry on the best we can.

With the tragic killing of George Floyd and the disproportionately higher numbers of BAME healthcare workers affected by COVID we begin, in this issue, a series of articles celebrating BAME professionals who have made significant contributions to surgical care. We will include a profile of a contemporary colleague as well as historical contributors.

I hope that you will enjoy the content and we all look forward to 2021 being a better year with the hope that the vaccine trials bring about the beginning of the end of the COVID pandemic.