

Foreword from the Editor-in-Chief

Ashok Handa MBBS MA FRCS¹

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

As we go into the long vacation with the removal of most of the COVID restrictions in the UK, there is much uncertainty as to what the months ahead will hold for us in the UK, the Healthcare system, the University and the rest of the world around us. Inspiring to me is that despite all the uncertainty, many of our students have carried on with learning, caring for patients and also writing and discovering.

In this issue we have further excellent case reports from our students on Sister Joseph's nodule, Cholesteatoma and a novel approach to chronic pancreatitis amongst others. We also have tips for students on academic writing and an excellent review on prehabilitation, a subject that needs to be embedded in every undergraduate and postgraduate surgical curriculum. Put simply, for major planned surgery we should be preparing our patients medically, physically, psychologically and emotionally for the procedure and recovery phase. After all you would not just go and do a half marathon unprepared without training!

We also continue our series on Surgeon profiles with a memory of Dorothy Lavinia Brown and a current profile of Kokila Lakhoo from Oxford University Hospitals. They have much in common as surgeons, educators, advocates for children's services and social justice as well as being hugely inspirational. The messages to medical schools, surgical training programmes and surgical leaders is clear: we must support and advance the aspirations of all women and BAME women in particular within surgery.