

Welcome from the Editor-in-Chief

Ashok Handa MBBS MA FRCS¹

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

I am delighted to welcome you to this special issue of the JNDS in 2021. It has been a challenging year for everyone all over the world with the pandemic, the associated economic downturn, the family and work turmoil, and the huge disruption to students, teaching and research.

It is to the great credit to the Department leadership and the organising committee of the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences that they decided to continue with a virtual set of “awaydays”. This is an important part of the annual cycle of an academic department of surgery. It allows the different research groups and Principle Investigators to share and showpiece their groups’ research to the rest of the department, for junior researchers to practice presentations and network with other members of the department. This is particularly important when the department has a wide spread in research interests as well as being geographically spread out over the whole University and clinical campus sites.

Further it provides a platform for our Masters and Doctoral students to present their research as well as an opportunity for cross-fertilisation of ideas and to share best practice in research supervision.

In this special issue we report on some of the presentations from the 2021 departmental virtual “awaydays” to give you a flavour of the breadth of research undertaken in Oxford surgery with a foreword by the Deputy Head of Department, Professor Ian Mills.