

Foreword from the Editor-in-Chief

Ashok Handa MBBS MA FRCS¹

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

This edition of the JNDs comes to you later than planned due entirely to lapses on my part. We have had a change of administration team combined with some turmoil in the NHS and a time of great change in undergraduate surgical education in the UK.

There has been much uncertainty in the NHS in the UK with strikes from nurses, paramedics and now an unprecedented 98% of junior doctors voting to take industrial action. In the UK this is on a background of a series of rail workers, postal workers and teachers strikes over the last 6 months.

This has caused considerable disruption to the delivery of healthcare, the training of surgeons and educating medical students. I hope that with some positive action for the nurses pay award, there will be an effort to also come to an agreement for Junior doctors so that normal service can resume and we can try to minimise the impact on surgical training and education.

On a national level, due to the mood from the GMC, by removing the requirement for any surgical placements in the foundation programme, we have seen medical schools downgrade the amount of surgery in their hard-pressed curricula. This will inevitably result in fewer graduates entering a surgical career as they simply will not meet surgeons to be inspired by them.

In this issue of the journal we profile the very inspiring Toral Gathani as well as a number of case reports on topics ranging from percutaneous distal venous arterialisation in critical limb threatening ischaemia to the management of resectable gastric cancer and the case of the forgotten ureteral stent.

We intend to get the next issue out before Easter so that we are back on track and would encourage students and trainees, especially from our partner institutions in Africa, Asia and South America to submit their work to the JNDS.