

Editorial

Introducing Journal of Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences - Welcome Note from the Editor-in-Chief

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I am delighted to welcome you to the inaugural issue of Journal of the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences (JNDS) in Oxford. With the ever increasing number of Medical journals and in particular online media you may well ask why do we need yet another online surgical journal? Perhaps I can start by outlining the stimulus to us for this.

Our undergraduate students each submit a case study as part of their first clinical year course in surgery. So many of these are of such a high calibre that we have been publishing them on our internal online platform (WebLearn) for the last 10 years. Many of these are of sufficient quality to be submitted to clinical journals. We encourage the students to submit their work for peer reviewed journals. Submitting a written piece of work for peer review is an integral part of medical/surgical training, especially for those who aspire to an academic clinical path.

However, most high impact factor journals have moved away from publishing case reports and increasingly towards basic/translational science studies, large randomised trials and systematic reviews. Whilst all these are important developments in surgical journals, there remains an important place for case reports as they allow us to recognise when patients do not follow an expected path, allow us to question our current understanding and be hypothesis generating.

JNDS primarily serves as a portal for Oxford University medical students to submit their work. These will be subject to a rigorous peer review process. This provides an element of academic training beyond the traditional curriculum. Accordingly, article processing fees are waived for work submitted by students or trainees affiliated with Oxford University.

In addition to publication of the highest quality surgical case studies written by Oxford University medical students, we also welcome submissions from researchers and surgical colleagues who seek a new and vibrant Journal to disseminate their work. All submissions will undergo a formal peer review process. We aim to meet the PMC's Scientific Standard and in time apply for review by the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSTRC) for indexing in MEDLINE®.

In this Inaugural issue, we showcase the case studies written by students who served as the Inaugural Guest Student Editors and helped to establish the infrastructure of this Journal. Renewed input from Guest Student Editors will be vital for the future sustainability of JNDS.

Ashok Handa
Editor-in-Chief