

Editorial

Mark Skues, Editor-in-Chief

Astute readers will have noticed the absence of the December edition of this Journal. The reason why this did not appear was simply, a lack of papers to publish. The impact of the COVID pandemic was quite significant on the number of submissions received, but the subsequent fall in number of papers suitable for *Ambulatory Surgery* is quite marked. So, if you wish to continue to receive and read this publication on a quarterly basis, the solution is quite simple . . . please submit something suitable.

As a consequence of this shortfall, the number of papers in this edition is reduced to three. It seemed logical to not delay the publication of these submissions any longer as timeliness of release is important to prospective authors. So here are the three manuscripts that were submitted.

Paper 1 is a submission from Pinto et al, attempting to develop a consensus on quality indicators for Ambulatory Surgery in Portugal. Using a Delphic process, the authors convened a two round process seeking insight from 27 experts regarding importance and relevance of certain indicators in the ambulatory surgery process. They concluded that the chosen indicators were concordant with literature recommendations, but did not reflect all aspects of the quality process.

The second paper evaluates the development of robotic surgery in the United States of America, investigating the characteristics and trends of published material. A progressive increase in output was noted, with use now extending to new surgical specialities. Little discussion was made of Ambulatory Surgery, but I wonder how long it will be before we see a paper describing the use of robotic surgery in the short stay environment?

The final paper is a useful precis of the role and use of intravenous non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents in ambulatory surgery. It offers useful insight into the relative value of such agents, particularly when combined with co-analgesics or gastroprotective agents.

In conclusion; the future of this Journal is in your hands. I will endeavour to maintain publication throughput to my best ability, but without submissions to sustain this, my abilities are somewhat limited. So . . . over to you.

Dr Mark Skues
Editor-in-Chief