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## Commentary



## A Commentary on “Crisis management for surgical teams and their leaders, lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic; A structured approach to developing resilience or natural organisational responses” (Int J Surg 2021; 91:105987)

Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the article by Pring et al. [1] titled “Crisis management for surgical teams and their leaders, lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic; A structured approach to developing resilience or natural organizational responses”, where the authors propose a team-work algorithm to generate an effective and safe organizational response for surgical teams and their leaders, including the participation of non-medical institutions [1]. We thank the authors for providing us with such valuable evidence. However, we would like to comment on the role of surgical interest groups, composed mainly of medical students, in the logistics of surgical team crisis management in both hospitals and universities.

Today’s global surgery has demonstrated the need and impact of involving medical students in the duties and challenges presented by surgical teams, both at the academic and care levels [2,3]. Nguyen et al. [3] inquired about the attitudes of medical students that favor teaching process in surgery, finding that enthusiasm, humility, confidence, teamwork and adaptability are the values that stand out most among students, in facilitating teaching and problem solving in academic surgery [3]. Precisely because of this type of results, authors such as Hernandez et al. [2] propose a curricular modification with emphasis on mentoring programs and professional approach with the medical student, with the objective of bringing them closer to reality, and to develop them on problem-solving skills [2]. In addition, studies such as that of White et al. [4] have shown that involving students in a hyper-realistic surgical training environment promotes emotional resilience and mitigates the symptoms of burnout and anxiety [4]. Based on the results described above, the use of mixed-methods case studies in surgery as a model of clinical education in various medical schools, applying the component of close accompaniment with the surgical team, results in a successful outcome [5].

A strategy to initiate the transition from the traditional learning model to a learning model based on mentoring programs, surgical interest groups play a fundamental role, especially in the pandemic and post-pandemic periods [6–10]. These groups are collectives formed mainly by medical students, which perform academic and research activities in surgery and subspecialties, to deepen knowledge, develop skills not only surgical but professional, participate in events of social appropriation and circulate new knowledge, and have an approach on the lifestyle and problems of the surgeon [6–10]. Ortega-Sierra et al. [7] stated that through the responsibilities and the establishment of roles in the interest groups, these groups become factories of future mentors, and strengthen the commitment of teachers and residents with the mentoring programs [7]. Therefore, the pillars of these groups would allow the gradual transition to the responsibilities of the surgical team in reality,

and acquire responsibilities in surgical teams, organizational responses and management in times of crisis. In this way, it is possible to obtain a better distribution of responsibilities, care load and reduce the risk of developing neuropsychiatric disorders such as anxiety, depression, burnout, among others.

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### Guarantor

Maria Paz Bolaño-Romero, Medical and Surgical Research Center, University of Cartagena, Cartagena, Colombia. Email: [mbolanor1@unicartagena.edu.co](mailto:mbolanor1@unicartagena.edu.co)

### Declaration of competing interest

None.

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Mario Fernando Cartagena-Gutiérrez  
*School of Medicine, Universidad el Bosque, Ak. 9 #131a-20, Bogotá, Colombia*

Frank Jaider Pineda-Trujillo  
*School of Medicine, Universidad del Magdalena, Calle 32 #22-08, Santa Marta, Colombia*

Jhoan Sebastián Robledo-Arias  
*School of Medicine, Universidad del Quindío, Carrera 15 #12N, Armenia, Colombia*

Ángela María Forero-Hollmann  
*School of Medicine, Fundación Universitaria Ciencias de la Salud, Cra. 54 No .67A–80, Bogotá, Colombia*

Maria Paz Bolaño-Romero\*  
*Medical and Surgical Research Center, School of Medicine, University of Cartagena, Cra. 50 #24-120, Cartagena, Colombia*

\* Corresponding author.  
*E-mail address: [mbolanor1@unicartagena.edu.co](mailto:mbolanor1@unicartagena.edu.co) (M.P. Bolaño-Romero).*