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From the Editor – in – Chief: Featured papers in the July Issue

We are so happy to announce the formation of the *American Journal of Surgery (AJS)* Communications and Social Media (#SoMe) Committee. We look forward to their contributions to *AJS*:

Paula Ferrada and Mike Zenilman, Chairs,
 Chelsea Harris @CAHarrisMD, Hossan Abdou @HAbdouMD,
 Luis Felipe Cabrera Vargas @Cirbosque,
 Cathy Nelson @Ajs1Cathy

In the July Issue of *AJS* we feature the manuscripts listed below:

Evaluation of an Instrument to Assess Resident Surgical Entrustable Professional Activities (SEPAs). Entrustable Professional Activities, or EPAs, are a topic that has been quickly evolving in medical education over the last few years. In this paper, Chen and colleagues have adapted these OR procedure-specific tools to a Surgical EPA (or SEPA) for use during procedures¹ with an editorial from Brenessa Lindeman and Rebecca Minter.²

Performance advantages for grit and optimism. Loftus and colleagues explore the positive psychology concepts of grit and optimism.³ The authors make a strong argument that the traits of grit and optimism may decrease burnout. There is an editorial from Greg Kennedy and Sarah Tevis⁴

Representation of Women in Speaking Roles at Surgical Conferences. This study presents data about the current state of underrepresentation of women as conference speakers, particularly in plenary roles.⁵ Paula Ferrada provides an invited commentary.⁵

Variation in long-term oncologic outcomes by type of cancer center accreditation: An analysis of a SEER-Medicare population with pancreatic cancer. Fong and colleagues evaluate cancer-specific and overall survival in pancreatic cancer patients at NCI-Designated, CoC-accredited, or unaccredited centers.⁷ Survival was improved in patients treated at NCI-Designated centers, but no survival differences were identified between CoC-accredited and non-accredited programs with an editorial from Cary Jo Schlick and Tony Yang.⁸

Evaluating how residents talk and what it means for surgical performance in the simulation lab. In a simulation study at a national academic conference, D'Angelo and colleagues suggest that trainees who are knowledgeable enough to recognize errors and are technically capable enough to instruct assistants will have better simulator performance.⁹ There is an editorial from Samantha Baker and Britney Corey¹⁰

Four “My Thoughts/My Surgical Practice” Articles. We are

continuing to feature articles that discuss the effect of COVID-19 on surgical practice and education: The impact of COVID-19 on medical student surgical education: Implementing extreme pandemic response measures in a widely distributed surgical clerkship experience,¹¹ Implications for the use of telehealth in surgical patients during the COVID-19 pandemic,¹² Surgical perspectives and pathways in an emergency department during the COVID-19 pandemic,¹³ and Academic global surgery and COVID-19: Turning impediments into opportunities.¹⁴

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7. Fong ZV, Chang DC, Hur C, et al. Variation in long-term oncologic outcomes by type of cancer center accreditation: an analysis of a SEER-medicare population with pancreatic cancer. *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):29–34.
8. Schlick CJ, Yang A. Is there value in cancer center accreditation? *Am J Surg.* 2020;220(1):27–28.
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