A Note from the New Editor in Chief

Julie Ann Sosa¹

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It is an honor and a privilege to assume the role of Editor in Chief of *World Journal of Surgery*, following in the (large) footsteps of my mentor, colleague, and friend, Dr. John Hunter. There have been only four other EICs—Drs. Marshall Orloff, James Hardy, Samuel Wells, and Ronald Tompkins, all international leaders in surgery and surgical science. Together, they have helped to mold *WJS* into the journal uniquely positioned to serve as the premiere international forum for original research, guidelines, and perspectives around major clinical problems in the fields of clinical and experimental surgery, surgical education, and socioeconomic aspects of surgical care.

Pivoting to look forward, there are a number of opportunities, and a few challenges, ahead. Sadly, surgery has had a low priority in global health planning. As a result, the delivery of surgical care in low- and middle-income countries is poorly resourced overall. Surgery merits a higher priority, and my hope is that *WJS* can bring more and more evidence to the debate and deliver innovation around finding solutions for the shortage of surgical personnel, lack of appropriate training, failure to establish surgical standards and appreciate local needs, and poor coordination of surgical care delivery around the world. To do that, we will look to expand our appeal to researchers whose science is focused in health services and health care delivery. Understanding how people get access to surgeons and surgical services, how much surgical services cost, and what happens to patients as a result of surgery is critical to

patients, providers, payers, and policymakers. Variation in practice implies variation in quality of care, and standardization of how we deliver surgical services based on evidence is critical, taking into account limited resources, of course; *WJS* should serve as a vessel for delivering evidence-based guidelines to our readers. To that end, we hope to build our association with the Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) group, among others. Diversity and inclusivity are a competitive advantage, and we will pay special attention to this in terms of the make-up of the science we publish, the topics we address, and the journal team that evaluates the science in order to continue to broaden the appeal of the journal around the globe. We will actively solicit review articles and invited commentaries from thought leaders to help interpret discoveries and their relevance to daily practice, and we will look for ways to spotlight innovations as they emerge. *WJS* has established a presence on social media over the last year, and we already have amplified that with the development of moving, or kinetic, visual abstracts on Twitter that provide viewers with even more information, quickly and dynamically. With the help of the youngest members of the editorial board, Drs. Hari Keshava and Mohammad Abbass, we will plan to keep *WJS* on the leading edge of working creatively to communicate science to the broadest possible international audience.

In conclusion, I'm excited to work together with the talented associate editors and editorial board to make *WJS* the go-to destination for authors looking to find an international audience for their very best science, broadly defined. I am thankful to the leadership of the ISS-SIC for entrusting me to serve as the EIC, and I look forward to aligning the vision for *WJS* and the ISS-SIC with Dr. Andrew Hill—and then Dr. John Hunter (!)—as president. Along the way, I look forward to working together with

✉ Julie Ann Sosa
julie.sosa@duke.edu

¹ Department of Surgery, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA

Yvonne Chan, the publisher of *WJS* from Springer, and Laura Shearer, our managing editor; I also plan to keep our newly minted EIC emeritus on speed dial, as his wise and long perspective will provide the historical context to

inform the change that we will welcome over the coming years.

Let's roll up our sleeves together and get started!