Foreword

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How far may we push forward, as surgeons, urged by the overwhelming power of technology? UPDATES in Surgery has meant to make the point at the frontiers of where we are: the robotic surgery. In all fields, robot is already changing our life, it is, silently, everywhere. This issue tries to focus on where robotic surgery stands now in our daily practice. An impressive number of patients have already been operated, using robots, in all surgical specialties. It is up to us to understand its potentials provided that many more robotic devices are soon to be seen on the surgical scene, carrying with them economies and possible improvements in clinical outcomes. Do we remember doubts, limits, in some cases even mockery towards the laparoscopic revolution? It was all wrong. Presently, here stands the robot inviting us to step with our hands away from the patient, expropriated by telemanipulators.

UPDATES in Surgery has trusted to Ugo Boggi, Professor in Pisa, with the task to gather outstanding contributions

in the world and certify the technical abilities so far achieved in the abdominal surgery.

Tuscany has been the headlight of man's renaissance in his journey towards modernity. The Tower of Pisa has enlightened villages, towns, regions to let their best *figli* grow: Leonardo, Galileo, Piero della Francesca....Five hundreds years later Pisa, Grosseto, Siena, Arezzo, and Florence have endorsed and forwarded the use of robots in Italy and beyond the borders for the sake of our patients.

We are grateful to the numerous surgeons who have accepted to contribute to this relevant undertaking. First and foremost, all of us hope to be of service to our community.

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