Happy New Year

A very happy New Year to you all! As we head into 2020, you will notice the Journal takes on a slightly new look but the aim is the same – to progress safer surgery and perioperative care.

Over this coming year, Professor Harold Ellis continues his ‘Stories of Surgery’ series, reminding us just how much each of the surgical specialties has advanced over the years. It is a fascinating trip down memory lane for those of us old enough to remember the names of key pioneers and be part of those first surgical innovations. For others, it’s a timely reminder of just how much surgery has developed over time. I remember scrubbing for some of the first patients undergoing laparoscopic surgery in my hospital in the early 1990s, thinking ‘this will never take off’ but the rest, as they say, is history!

One type of surgery that has certainly developed the most in order to save not one but two lives is that of the Caesarean section. In this edition, each paper explores an aspect of care provided to women undergoing this type of operation including the case of a patient with a clam cystoileoplasty and the use of intraoperative irrigation to reduce the risk of surgical site infection. Professor Ellis pays homage to those key pioneers of obstetric surgery including Lawson Tate of Birmingham, UK, and Max Sanger of Germany. The early days of this type of operation are still surrounded by mystery and myth; are the rumours that Julius Caesar was born by this operation true? Read on to find out.

In future editions this year, our new feature, ‘REACH’, recognises researcher contribution to improving care by reaching out to you, the reader, and perioperative practitioner to disseminate research findings locally as well as hopefully inspiring you to undertake your own research study.

No one really knows what 2020 will bring to help advance perioperative practice but one thing is clear, the Journal of Perioperative will still be at the forefront to promote all aspects of perioperative care.

Whatever your role is in 2020, I wish you all a very healthy New Year.

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