



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Turk J Surg 2024; 40 (3): VIII
10.47717/turkjsurg.2024.20240301



Surgical education: Ensuring knowledge transfer to future generations

In the field of surgery, the transmission of knowledge and skills from one generation to the next is of paramount importance. Surgical education not only ensures the continuity of expertise but also facilitates the innovation and development of new techniques and procedures. However, in recent years, numerous challenges have emerged that threaten the effectiveness of surgical education.

Challenges in the current era: Pandemic and financial constraints

The recent global pandemic has undoubtedly disrupted all facets of healthcare, and surgical education has been no exception. While technology has offered some solutions, such as virtual surgical simulations, these tools cannot fully replicate the hands-on experience of real-time surgeries. For instance, a study by Ellison et al. emphasizes the severe reduction in clinical case volumes for residents during the pandemic, which has had a profound impact on their learning experiences (1).

Additionally, global financial issues within healthcare systems have further strained resources. Hospitals and educational institutions are facing budget cuts, leaving less funding available for training programs, research opportunities, and infrastructure development.

The role of scientific publishing in surgical education

Scientific publishing plays a critical role in the dissemination of new knowledge, advancements in surgical techniques, and outcomes of clinical trials. However, the current landscape of academic publishing is not without its problems. The rise of predatory publishing, where journals prioritize profit over quality, has become a serious concern. These journals often lack rigorous peer review processes, leading to the dissemination of unreliable or low-quality research.

At the same time, the criteria for academic advancement are constantly evolving, with an increasing emphasis on the quantity of publications rather than their quality (2). This places additional pressure on surgeons and researchers, who must navigate a publishing environment where the opportunities to conduct and disseminate meaningful research are dwindling. Limited time, funding, and access to reputable platforms all contribute to this growing challenge.

Looking forward: Addressing the gaps in surgical education

To address these issues, there is a need for systemic change. Healthcare institutions must prioritize investment in surgical education, ensuring that future generations of surgeons receive the training they need to succeed. Moreover, scientific publishing needs to uphold its integrity by fostering high-quality peer-reviewed work, while simultaneously providing equitable access to publishing opportunities for all researchers, regardless of financial constraints.

In conclusion, surgical education is at a critical moment. While the challenges are significant, so too are the opportunities for innovation and improvement. By addressing the systemic issues in education and publishing, we can ensure that the next generation of surgeons is equipped with the skills, knowledge, and integrity to advance the field of surgery.

Sincerely,

Kaya SARİBEYOĐLU 

Editor-in-Chief
Turkish Journal of Surgery

REFERENCES

1. Ellison EC, Spanknebel K, Stain SC, Shabahang MM, Matthews JB, Debas HT, et al. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on surgical training and learner well-being: Report of a survey of general surgery and other surgical specialty educators. *J Am Coll Surg* 2020; 231: 613-26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2020.08.766>
2. Ioannidis JPA. Evidence-based medicine has been hijacked: A report to David Sackett. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2016; 73: 82-6. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2016.02.012>