

Preface

The current special issue of Seminars in Pediatric Surgery titled – “ Academic Pediatric Surgery – A Worldwide Perspective “ brings together an international list of guest authors from the USA , Canada , Mexico , France, Germany, Italy, Hong Kong , Japan , New Zealand and the UK. As co-editors we encouraged the contributors to “*Be Yourself*” thus offering their unique reflections and perspectives of academic pediatric surgery – the challenges, opportunities, and successes, including advice and mentorship to aspiring young surgeons wishing to develop themselves as academic surgeons.

Agostino Pierro and Mashriq Alganabi (Toronto) provide an excellent article highlighting the milestones and pathway journey for the surgeon in Canada to succeed in the speciality field. A view from Mexico by Jaime Shalkow and colleagues tells a different story of “*Work Life Balance* “ where the surgeon workforce is challenged by health service delivery coupled with poor salary income, often meaning working in several hospitals to support themselves and family while also delivering academic activities at universities in very limited ‘*protected time* ‘. Writing and Researching for pediatric surgeons in Mexico is often undertaken ‘*after hours* ‘ after a busy full working clinical day from the surgeons’ computer laptop at home ! Work to be done here then for Universities in Mexico to create better academic pediatric surgery opportunity(s).

Crossing over to Europe, Sabine Sarnacki (Paris) highlights the French system model where academic openings for the pediatric surgeon can flourish with strong interdisciplinary collaboration promoting great advances and innovation in our surgical speciality. Such models inspire young academic pediatric surgeons to seek out and join the best teams. Steve Warmann and Jörg Fuchs (Tuebingen) working at one of Germany’s finest University hospitals outline the history of academic pediatric surgery in their Nation tracing developments from its earliest beginnings through the re-unification period in the early 1990’s to 2021. Whilst many departments provide delivery of pediatric surgery across Germany it seems those well integrated and having partnership linked with Adult Hospitals provide the academic surgeon with the ‘*winning hand* ‘ to

succeed. Italy provides yet another landscape. Pietro Bagolan and Francesco Morini (Rome) share history of the development of academic pediatric surgery in their country with mapping for the Seminars readership the location of centres that “*got it all started* “. The article is nicely written and offers quotations from noteworthy people to inspire the young surgeon reading this issue.

Hong Kong and Japan provide “*A view from Asia* “. Guest Co-editor Paul Tam with Patrick Chung (Hong Kong) share a timely, optimistic and pragmatic narrative on academic pediatric surgery. The opportunities and journey are shared for all to read – “*Just do it, if you really want to* “ ... Shigeru Ono and Naomi Iwai (Japan) provide a short account of a surgeons ‘ life experience as an academic with commentary memoirs for reflection.

Crossing the Ocean to New Zealand Spencer Beasley (Christchurch, NZ) offers a compelling article full of great wisdom citing the roles and responsibilities of the academic pediatric surgeon working in a “ team of surgeons “ and how to create harmony. First you “*must be a good surgeon* “ to establish peer group creditability with department surgical colleagues. Next you must excel and inspire others ... The rest of the article we will leave you all to read .. “ Great stuff “ ..

The UK has a strong tradition of developing Academic Pediatric Surgery since the 1950's . Many of the “*Giants in our field* “ notably Sir Denis Browne (London) Peter Paul Rickham (Liverpool & Zurich) and Lewis Spitz (London) are examples of how academic paediatric surgery has benefited from international training. The modern generation of university-employed academic surgeons are now a mix of UK nationals, Irish and European citizens. Paul Johnson (Oxford) in this issue offers a personal view and a ‘*report card* ‘ for 2021. The article is particularly relevant for the UK and sets the landscape for the current era. Crucially we need to actively promote academic pediatric surgery. The “*best departments* “ can be proud to have academic university staff surgeons delivering teaching , research and world class health care in partnership with NHS colleagues. Paolo De Coppi (London, UK) and Tracy Grikscheit (Los Angeles,

USA) in this issue take us to the laboratory to briefly highlight the history and insightful contributions of regenerative medicine to the field of academic pediatric surgery. A common theme is a reflective praiseworthy account of the scientific pioneers – Dr Judah Folkman (Boston), Jay Vacanti (Boston) and Anthony Atala (Boston) with organ replacement by regenerative substitutes. Finally, Guest Editor Paul Losty (Liverpool) summarizes this special edition with his personal views - Academic Paediatric Surgery – Why Not ? ... Read on!

We hope you all enjoy reading this special issue.

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