Preface
Captain of the Ship

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Editor

Over the course of my surgical training and as my practice has matured, I have come to realize that while technical excellence is a laudable goal, it is only 1 component of providing high-quality, cost-conscious, safe patient care. Surgery is becoming more complex with new technology, new data, and new organizational structures. While some may decry the loss of surgeon autonomy as our teams become increasingly multidisciplinary and diverse, we must recognize that our primary goal is to do what is best for the patient. Creating, adapting, and embracing these new frameworks for patient safety will enable us to provide higher-quality care. In this issue, we explore the evolution of these ideas and provide practical tools and frameworks for implementation at your local institution. In the first few articles, we acknowledge the importance of human factors in the design of surgical systems, the need for clear communication between members of the health care team, and how standardization can minimize harm. In the middle section, we examine how technology can help us identify patients at risk for adverse events and how technology can enable us to help patients recover safely at home. Finally, 3 articles examine how we can measure and track patient safety events, the cost of implementing patient safety programs balanced against the cost of patient harm, and how we train the next generation of surgeons in these principles. Surgeons remain the captain of the ship, but now we navigate increasingly choppy waters with a bigger crew and more complicated equipment. It is our hope that
this issue provides you with ideas and tools to help you keep your patients safe and well in their surgical journey.

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