As the world is currently dealing with the ramifications of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, contingencies are shifting in hospitals to address the need for space to treat those infected. A major issue is the limited capacity of intensive care units. The solution in many clinics seems to be to postpone elective and urgent elective operations to make room for COVID-19 patients. Of course, this is an undesirable situation, as patients with resectable cancers, among others, are now facing prolonged periods of therapy.

While countries around the world move in and out of lockdown to address the rising numbers of coronavirus infections, there is little that we can do as surgeons to influence this situation. However, despite the chaos around us these days, we might use some of the time that has been freed up by cancelled operations to encourage and focus on scientific work. The authors of the current volume of Surgical Technology International have accepted this challenge.

The section on general surgery presents various excellent articles with a focus on minimally invasive surgery. In addition to a technical note on the bariatric operation of one-anastomosis gastric bypass, a report on the Senhance® Robotic System is included. A review article describes a combined technique of laparoscopic and open treatment and a study describes the use of Indo-Cyanine Green Fluorescence in laparoscopic cholecystectomy. This section also contains two more articles describing an update on microwave ablation in the liver and the prognostic value of lymph node status for long-term survival in pancreatic cancer patients.

During these challenging times, when we as surgeons are forced to reduce the pace in our daily schedules or even stop all together, it may be time to focus on refreshing our scientific knowledge. The current volume of Surgical Technology International should support this endeavor. We hope the readers will enjoy the interesting articles in this section.