

## Message from the Editors-in-Chief

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Published online: 11 April 2015  
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“The great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

In August 2015, *Updates in Surgery*, the official journal of the Italian Society of Surgeons, will celebrate its first 5 years of publication. The joyful celebration of this first milestone will, however, be tinged with heartfelt sadness at the death of Prof. Lorenzo Capussotti, one of the two original Editors-in-Chief, who passed away on June 18, 2014. His death was a great loss for the Italian surgery community and for the thousands of patients and friends who had the privilege of knowing him during his life. His endless vitality, infectious human warmth and friendship, and his boundless passion for his work shall never be forgotten.

Under his guidance, *Updates in Surgery* achieved well-recognized status within the Italian surgery community. In October 2014, Dr. Fulvio Calise, hepato-biliary and liver transplant surgeon from Naples, was appointed by the Italian Society of Surgeons to succeed Capussotti as joint Editor-in-Chief alongside Prof. Francesco Basile. We, the current Editors-in-Chief, are honored and privileged to be able to continue the work started by Lorenzo Capussotti and to now guide the journal along its future course of growth and development.

The publishing goals for the coming years will be chiefly focused on improving the quality of articles published and expanding the journal’s international readership. Key points of the new editorial strategy include:

- to renew the membership of the Editorial Board, inviting renowned experts in different fields of surgery to join the team. The members of the Board will play an active role in the peer review process, in close collaboration with the Editors-in-Chief and Associate Editors;
- to enlarge and optimize the panel of reviewers called on to review papers through the online Editorial Manager system, so that the reviewing process is faster and more efficient;
- to stimulate new submissions through the creation of monothematic issues, inviting contributions from authors who are leading experts in their respective field of surgery;
- to improve the quality of the articles published, through a dual policy: on the one hand, by increasing the rejection rate (with regard to spontaneous submissions) and, on the other, by inviting reviews from top cited authors.

Thanks to the partnership with Springer, the journal’s content is currently distributed internationally via SpringerLink, the online Publisher’s platform, which makes articles accessible to a global audience, increasing their usage and citations, and reaching also emerging countries like China and India, through the 400 international consortia deals.

Starting with Vol. 66, Issue no. 1, 2015, the Editors-in-Chief are launching a new editorial initiative of *monothematic issues*, to attract papers from national and international surgeons. The first monothematic issue will be

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published in Issue 2, June 2015 and will be devoted to the topic of Minimally Invasive Liver Surgery, featuring papers from leading national and international surgeons.

In addition, to promote the active involvement of Italian surgeons in the journal, at the coming National Congress of the Italian Society of Surgeons, which will take place in Milan, October 22–24 2015, a special session will be dedicated to *Updates in Surgery*, with eminent surgeons invited to speak on innovations in their field. This initiative on the part of the Editors-in-Chief and the Society will

certainly contribute to raising the profile of the Journal within the Italian community.

We, as Editors-in-Chief in this new chapter which opens up, will strive to fulfill the Journal's goals in memory of the dedicated work carried out by Lorenzo Capussotti, and will do our utmost to guarantee the Journal's continued growth and excellence.

**Conflict of interest** Authors declare that they have no conflict of interest with this paper.