Arthroplasty Today 5 (2019) 1

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Arthroplasty Today

journal homepage: http://www.arthroplastytoday.org/

Editorial

Note from the Editor

This year, *Arthroplasty Today* wanted to explore how cutting-edge digital health tools are being applied in the care of patients undergoing arthroplasty by soliciting and publishing manuscripts that highlight the use of digital technology in our field. We chose to highlight "digital orthopedics" in the March edition of *Arthroplasty Today* to follow the very successful Digital Orthopedics Conference San Francisco (DOCSF.health), which seeks to "bridge the worlds of digital health and clinical orthopedics and thereby catalyze the adoption of technology in musculoskeletal care." This conference, founded in 2017 and chaired by *Arthroplasty Today* Associate Editor Stefano A. Bini, MD, is an example of a pioneering idea brought to fruition by a leader in the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS). The "call for manuscripts" was publicized by *Arthroplasty Today* and by the AAHKS Digital Health and Social Media Committee, lead by chair Dr. Bini and Vice-chair Jonathan M. Vigdorchik, MD. Selected committee members acted as peer reviewers for some of the manuscripts.

I am excited to highlight seven articles focused on digital health tools in this issue. The Office Tip article is an outstanding and original review of the practical, legal, and ethical aspects of modern clinical photography by John F. Nettrour, M. Benjamin Burch, and B. Sonny Bal, titled "Patients, pictures, and privacy: managing clinical photographs in the smartphone era" [1]. Smartphone technology has become a commonplace method by which providers share clinical photographs and radiographic images with colleagues. This article addresses the medicolegal implications of this practice as it relates to privacy regulations and provides practical guidelines for providers to help manage their risk in obtaining, storing, and transmitting clinical and radiographic images via smartphones. The Brief Communication by AAHKS Resident Member Ilya Bendich and coauthors highlights the potential of using wearable sensor–derived patient-generated health data to track and monitor patient recovery after surgery [2]. Another Brief Communication contribution deals with nanosensor-balanced total knee arthroplasty, a technology gaining usage in our field. Jacob R. Riis and coinvestigators describe a pilot study that suggests that quantitative balance and rotational congruence are aided by nanosensors [3]. In addition to the nanosensor technology, computer navigation and robotic assistance are gaining popularity in knee arthroplasty surgery. Joseph K. Antonios, MD, and coauthors describe trends for these technologies in the United States [4]. The last 3 articles highlighting digital orthopedics deal with interactive software programs improving patient satisfaction and outcomes [5]; web-based portal access in the adult reconstruction patient population [6]; and the shortcomings of YouTube as an information source of patient information for knee arthroplasty and knee osteoarthritis [7].

I hope that you enjoy this theme issue. As digital health tools, and therefore research, become increasingly a part of our clinical practice, I hope you consider publication of your manuscripts through *Arthroplasty Today's* open-access format in the future.

Brian J. McGrory, MD, MS,
Editor-in-Chief

Available online 15 March 2019

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One or more of the authors of this paper have disclosed potential or pertinent conflicts of interest, which may include receipt of payment, either direct or indirect, institutional support, or association with an entity in the biomedical field which may be perceived to have potential conflict of interest with this work. For full disclosure statements refer to https://doi.org/10.1016/j.artd.2019.02.006.

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