

Editorial

Ian McDermott

This edition of *Orthopaedics and Trauma* focuses on soft tissue surgery of the knee: often referred to by some as 'sports surgery'. We are lucky to have articles from both some of the most established and 'famous' names in the world of knees in the UK, as well as some of the brightest and most up and coming.

Steve Bollen has provided his personal take on the topic of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction, based on years of experience and huge numbers, giving him invaluable perspective and insight into a field that continues to be a hot topic after years of debate. Sam Yassen then gives us two excellent articles: the first on the use of allografts for ACL surgery and the second on the subject of posterior cruciate ligament tears and their management. Increasingly, it is now appreciated that the medial collateral ligament (MCL) is not just an 'easy' ligament that can be left alone and ignored, and Joel Melton provides an excellent review of MCL injury and its management. The final article on the topic of ligaments is from Chinmay Gupte, of Imperial College London, with a clear and logical approach to the complexities of the posterolateral corner.

No edition on soft tissue of the knee would be complete without a review of meniscal tears, repair and replacement, and no discussions about the meniscus would be complete without input from Pete Thompson and Tim Spalding, from Coventry. Their article gives a cutting-edge account of the latest thinking on this important subject.

Patellofemoral instability is another complex area with multiple potential aetiologies, all of which need to be considered

carefully before any potential treatments can be planned, and this subject is covered thoroughly yet succinctly by Rahul Patel, of University College Hospital, London.

Finally, but by no means least, we have a review of the contemporary situation in the UK regarding the treatment of articular cartilage defects, with a focus on biological repair and reconstruction by two giants of UK knee surgery, Leela Biant and Michael McNicholas. This is followed by an update on the highly specialized and rapidly evolving field of focal resurfacing implants, by Dinesh Nathwani.

It has been a pleasure editing this edition, and I really do believe that this edition offers trainees and practising surgeons alike an invaluable update on contemporary opinions on soft tissue knee surgery. Finally, I would like to dedicate this edition to a personal hero of mine: Mr Ashley Brown. Ashley Brown was a general surgeon in Southend, and will be well known to many. It was he who inspired me to pursue a career in surgery, and I was hooked from the very first morning of day one of my first clinical attachment as a medical student, when I joined him for a day surgery list. For me, it was an awakening, like taking the red pill in *The Matrix*, from which there was no going back. This gentleman is and always will be an absolute giant to me.



Ian McDermott