



Message from the Editors in Chief

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Surgery is facing, nowadays, a dramatic lack of calling. Participation in public competitions is negligible and neither are higher salaries able to reverse the trend. In Italy, in the last national general residency context, only eighty candidates out of over 6000 participants indicated surgery as their first choice.

To understand why and to promote a debate on what to do, we asked outstanding colleagues to tell us which is the real situation in their country and what we may try to do to overcome this huge problem: Italy, France, and United States in an ideal confrontation that hopefully will help institutions and surgical societies to find their way and mend this worrying wound in the western world health systems.

In the paper by Boudjema [1], France has been bold enough to offer, by law, an alternative to the long-lasting and so far effective educational training after the medical degree. And surprisingly, the new modalities of the proposed French reform strongly resemble the scenario suggested by Patti and Kibbe, USA [2]. We wish that the unfruitful debate going on in Italy as described by Montorsi [3] might finally end up with a new discipline able to enroll strong motivations to undertake the wonderful job of being a surgeon, and, also, to promote an interesting debate among our readers.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Research involving human participants and/or animals This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by the authors.

Informed consent For this type of study formal consent is not required.

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