

Editorial

At the annual congress of the Panamerican Trauma Society (PTS), held in Panama in 2014, young students, residents and juniors participated in a very competitive research competition. The presenters were asked to submit their abstract as an extended manuscript for publication, as a prerequisite for oral presentation. Commencing with the current issue, and continuing in the forthcoming ones, the journal will present these mini-papers.

Of note, an additional aspect of these publications is the commentary that accompanies them in the journal, solicited from a senior member of the society. These commentaries add a different perspective and a constructive criticism of the paper and will, undoubtedly, enhance its value to the readers and the authors. This is an initial step in the society's mission of improving research and publication from its members, and will provide a stimulus to utilize the enormous clinical material and experience at their disposal. The PTS education committee will unveil the next steps in this initiative in the upcoming Congress in Bolivia in 2015.

This new milestone should be a source of great pride and accomplishment for all concerned: the presenters, their co-authors, their mentors, the editors and the societies. All feedback on these papers and the commentaries, in any form—brief communication or letter-to-editor, is welcome.

Finally, I gratefully acknowledge the generous efforts of Lina V Mata (MD, International Fellow and Coordinator, International Trauma Systems Development Program, Division of Trauma/Critical Care, Department of Surgery, Virginia Commonwealth University) for her help in translation between English and Spanish.

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