Undergraduate medical education and the future of surgery

Advances in fields such as genomics, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics are increasingly shaping a transformational future for the practice of surgery.¹ It provides current medical students with an interest in surgery the potential to be a part of an exciting change in surgical practice. However, in comparison to the widely cited opportunities for surgical transformation in coming times, there are relatively few articles discussing the ways in which medical education will keep pace with these changes. The Royal College of Surgeons recently published a guide concerning the future of surgery.² It provides current medical students with information on intercalated degrees in subjects such as data science, bioengineering and healthcare management, currently available at only a handful of UK institutions.

In summary, when considering the evolution of the surgical workforce in preparation for advances in healthcare we must also consider undergraduate medical education. This essential if growing demands in surgery are to be met with an equipped and forward-thinking workforce, ready to take on the challenges and opportunities of modern-day surgical practice.

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