May 24, 2017
Editor in Chief

Dear Editor in Chief,

Please accept the enclosed manuscript “ROBOTIC SURGERY: THE DAVINCI UNCODED”. We would like for you to consider our research paper for current state of Robotic Surgery use, training and education in Gynecologic fellowship programs in the U.S.

Robotic surgery, with its technical advances, has become an accepted modality nationally and it promises to open a new window to minimally invasive surgery in gynecology. Currently, Robotic surgery training is a challenge. Ideally, fellowship training could provide this skill set. With the adoption of new technologies into our surgical armamentarium, systematic approach with a structured curriculum and formal assessment of competency will need to be defined for trainees at various levels of surgical skills.

In the enclosed study, all the gynecologic fellowship directors and fellows across the country were invited to respond to a 45 points questionnaire to assess the trend of Robotic surgery. With 102 responses to the questionnaires, we were able to demonstrate the trend of Robot use and training for a variety of surgeries performed in different Gynecologic subspecialty fellowship programs. We acknowledge all authors have contributed to this paper.

To our knowledge, our study is the first that describes Gynecologic fellowship training program paradigms for teaching robotic surgical skills to gynecologic fellows. Furthermore, this study documented trends in gynecologic robotic surgery, which was not previously reported. These data have not been published or presented elsewhere and the manuscript is not under review at any other journal. We declare no conflict of interest.

Sincerely,
Jo Smith, M.D.
Obstetrics & Gynecology
St. Mary’s Hospital
City, State Zip Code
Country