

the ability for innovative surgical education. The first step in this process is **acceptance**. This will bring validation studies together to identify models such as those utilized by Backstein and colleagues. The second step is **incorporation** of the models into curricula. Next, there will be an **objective analysis of skills**. Perhaps a computer-based system that tracks metrics will be needed to define pro-

iciency. The final step is **evaluation of skill competency**. This will take place by experts who can identify progression of residents toward advanced levels of training.

In summary, numerous challenges lie ahead in the effective delivery of surgical skills education. The study by Backstein and colleagues addresses important aspects of assessing surgical skills by both expert reviewers and a

technology driven process. Both are essential, but much work is needed to develop and refine the assessments. We must all share the determination for our residents to learn and acquire the necessary surgical skills.

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THE MACLEAN–MUELLER PRIZE

Attention: Residents and surgical department chairs

Each year the *Canadian Journal of Surgery* offers a prize of \$1000 for the best manuscript written by a Canadian resident or fellow from a specialty program who has not completed training or assumed a faculty position. The prize-winning manuscript for the calendar year will be published in an early issue the following year, and other submissions deemed suitable for publication may appear in a subsequent issue of the Journal.

The resident should be the principal author of the manuscript, which should not have been submitted or published elsewhere. It should be submitted to the *Canadian Journal of Surgery* not later than Oct. 1.

Send submissions to: Dr. J.P. Waddell, Coeditor, *Canadian Journal of Surgery*, Division of Orthopædic Surgery, St. Michael's Hospital, 30 Bond St., Toronto ON M5B 1W8.

LE PRIX MACLEAN–MUELLER

À l'attention des résidents et des directeurs des départements de chirurgie

Le *Journal canadien de chirurgie* offre chaque année un prix de 1000 \$ pour le meilleur manuscrit rédigé par un résident ou un fellow canadien d'un programme de spécialité qui n'a pas terminé sa formation ou n'a pas accepté de poste d'enseignant. Le manuscrit primé au cours d'une année civile sera publié dans un des premiers numéros de l'année suivante et les autres manuscrits jugés publiables pourront paraître dans un numéro ultérieur du Journal.

Le résident devrait être le principal auteur du manuscrit, qui ne doit pas avoir été présenté ou publié ailleurs. Il faut le soumettre au *Journal canadien de chirurgie* au plus tard le 1^{er} octobre, à l'attention du Dr J.P. Waddell, corédacteur, *Journal canadien de chirurgie*, Division of Orthopædic Surgery, St. Michael's Hospital, 30 Bond St., Toronto (Ontario) MTB 1W8.