

Special Issue

Gastrointestinal Surgery at the Cutting Edge

Message from the Guest Editors

Gastro-intestinal surgery encompasses a broad field of technology, social, and business innovations. In the past 20 years, surgical innovation has significantly improved patient outcomes, rates of complications and length of stay. When asked for main surgical innovations, most refer to precision surgery with minimal invasive surgical techniques, robotic systems, imaging navigated operations, and 3D/AR operative planning. However, social (surgical care) innovations such as (shared) decision support solutions based on AI predictive analytics, pre- and rehabilitation programs, and improved surgical training programs with VR and AR also matter with regard to improved patient outcomes and experiences. In this Special Issue, we shall review a variety of innovations in gastro-intestinal surgery addressing the daily challenges of surgeons. We divide the innovations according to a Surgical Patient Journey in pre-operative, operative, and postoperative but will attempt to demonstrate the integration of innovations across the three phases contributing to better surgical patient outcome.

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