Melina R. Kibbe, MD

Editor-in-Chief, *JAMA Surgery*

330 N Wabash Ave

Chicago, IL, 60611

February 09, 2025

Dear Dr. Kibbe:

Please find our manuscript, entitled “Optimizing Surgical Efficiency: Predicting Case Duration of Common General Surgery Procedures Using Machine Learning”, submitted for consideration of publication as an original investigation in *JAMA Surgery*.

In our analysis of a unique dataset of elective adult general surgery cases, we show that machine learning models—artificial neural networks, in particular—are able to predict case duration over 18 minutes more accurately compared to traditional subjective provider estimates. As efficient use of operating room resources becomes increasingly essential to the delivery of high quality surgical care, we believe that our findings will uniquely appeal to *JAMA Surgery*’s readership.

Each of the named authors has substantially contributed to this research and has no conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise, to declare. All named authors confirm that neither the manuscript nor any part of its content are under consideration by or published in another journal. All named authors have approved the contents of this paper and have agreed to *JAMA Surgery*’s submission policies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ahmad Elnahas, MD, FRCSC

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