Dr. Jaap Bonjer, MD, PhD & Dr. Mark A. Talamini, MD, MBA

Editors-in-Chief, *Surgical Endoscopy*

233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013

February 13, 2025

Dear Dr. Kibbe:

We are pleased to submit our manuscript, entitled “Optimizing Surgical Efficiency: Predicting Case Duration of Common General Surgery Procedures Using Machine Learning” for consideration of publication in *Surgical Endoscopy*.

Our study analyzes a range of predictive algorithms in a unique dataset of elective adult general surgery cases, ultimately showning that machine learning models—artificial neural networks, in particular—are able to predict case duration significantly more accurately compared to traditional provider-based estimates. As our abstract was accepted for presentation at the 2025 SAGES Annual Meeting, we believe our work aligns well with *Surgical Endoscopy*’s scope and will appeal to your readership’s interest in innovations in redesigning surgical practice.

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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