

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Orthopedics*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 30769

Manuscript Type: Editorial

Orthopaedic education in the era of surgical simulation: Still at the crawling stage

Reviewer No 1.

This is a nicely written narrative review on simulation for orthopedic surgery. Current elements of simulation are presented and future challenges are outlined for the improvement of surgical training and implementation of simulation. **PMID: 27604368 could be integrated for the part on sensor technology for assessment of skill.**

Author Response No 1.

Thank you. We appreciate your time reviewing our editorial manuscript. **PMID: 27604368 has been cited (reference number 17) as supporting and recent evidence for validity of motion tracking systems.**

Reviewer No 2.

Dear Authors: I send you my commentaries. More or less are the same commentaries that I have made to the editor. In my opinion this article is **only suitable to publish in the case of being an editorial**. Methodologically the text needs more references about institutions probably well known in the USA but completely unknown for most potential readers outside USA. This is the case of the page 5 when you make reference of the **cost of the simulator**, page 6 when you cite the **PBP**, page 7 when you cite the **measurement methods** (I know that are detailed later, but it is necessary to detail here) or in page 8 **when you talk about the ABOS**. Third paragraph in page 4 in confuse to the reader. I would re-write again. **Any relevant investigation is omitted, any concrete review is not made**. The topic is very interesting and it is a very important question for the orthopedic forums and national societies not only in USA but all over the world. This text seems a letter to the editor or an opinion of the authors, not a research article. In conclusion, my opinion is to accept the paper for publishing, with this minor suggestions.

Author Response No 2.

Reviewer's time and suggestions are appreciated. Our work was invited as an editorial article by the World Journal of Orthopaedics, and it was prepared as such. As an editorial article, our aim was not putting forward a detailed literature review focusing mainly on published evidence in the field, but more leaning toward what is lacking in this developing field and also related literature. That is the reason why we kindly mention that there is no difference in opinion between the reviewer, the Journal's editorial board, and the authors.

There is no publication to date discussing the cost of a high-fidelity arthroscopy simulator. However, one of the authors' institution purchased the simulator that has been approved by the AAOS very recently and the cost indicated in the manuscript is accurate. We did not want to mention the simulator's manufacturing company as this was not relevant.

Proficiency-based-progression (PBP) training is a very recent approach in simulation-based skills training. An editorial article would be a very suitable place to talk about developing ideas and advances in the field that might impact orthopaedic education. In addition, a supporting reference is cited and also detailed.

Measurement is the most critical part of simulation-based education. As we also indicated in this section, this is one of the main deficiencies in this developing field. This section of the paper is vital and should not be changed. The authors realize that not every institution in any part of the world is familiar with the topics discussed in this paper, however, aren't the invited editorials from leaders in the field published to disseminate such new advances..?

ABOS has been mentioned for very simple reasons. It is the first and perhaps the only orthopaedic board that recognized simulation-based training as a mandatory requirement during orthopaedic education. Although the lead author is from Canada, even the Canadian Board of Orthopaedic Surgery has not taken such step yet. We do understand that the Journal and publication material will need to be inclusive to all countries around the world, yet we also think that it is important to update the reader regarding the process of curriculum changes that is happening in orthopaedic education as it relates to simulators. The authors, have performed few editions (by mentioning USA as the geographical location to some of the examples given) to make the article become more relevant for readers from different parts of the world.