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Invited Commentary

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With their work, Wojcik and colleagues demonstrated a method for developing surgical resident operative autonomy while providing safe patient care. The authors and the institution are to be congratulated for this development and the resultant publication. This can serve as a model for other institutions that seek opportunities to improve the quality of the graduates of their surgical residency programs. It is clear from the article that a lot of thought went into the development of the Structured Operative Autonomy Service.

I encourage readers to consider adopting this model at their institutions, while recognizing that some modification may be necessary for a given institution's culture. I also encourage readers to consider developing and sharing other opportunities for safely enhancing resident autonomy so that one day in the future, we may achieve our collective goal: that every graduate of every surgical residency program is well prepared for the practice of surgery. Dr Wojcik and the surgical educators at the Massachusetts General Hospital are to be congratulated for their commitment to producing high quality surgeons at their institution. This commitment appears to be reflected in their institution's pass rates on the American Board of Surgery examinations, as they are 1 of only 4 institutions in the northeastern United States that have more than 90% of their graduates pass both the qualifying and certifying examinations on the first attempt. It is not surprising to me that this is the case at an institution that takes significant deliberate steps to enhance resident autonomy.

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