What have we learnt from our mistakes?

"Good judgement comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgement."

This quote from the great Sufi Mullah Nasruddin dates back nearly a thousand years but should still inspire our work today, as mistakes are a potential source of progress. Before we can learn from our mistakes, however, we first need the humility to recognize and accept them. This is what the authors of the monograph "Tips and traps in gastrointestinal imaging" seek to do. Focusing on the widespread and accepted practice of gastrointestinal imaging, and using their experience and so, their failures, they have tried to provide simple but effective solutions to some difficult issues.

All the major chapters on gastrointestinal imaging are revised here. One article covers the many traps linked to the presence (or absence) of fat in the liver. The difficult challenges involved in diagnosing small hepatocellular carcinoma and benign liver tumours are detailed. Assessment of bile duct obstruction, the very difficult diagnosis of cholangitis and the differential diagnosis between cancer and inflammation of the pancreas are richly described and illustrated. Finally, the imaging of emergency situations, in which the clinical radiologist is central to patient diagnosis and management, is explored through acute colitis, bowel obstruction and tricky forms of diverticulitis and acute appendicitis.

Readers will find much material here to broaden their knowledge and the encouragement to draw lessons from their own "experience".

M. Zins
Saint Joseph Hospital Group, 185, rue Raymond-Losserand, 75014 Paris, France
E-mail address: mzins@hpsj.fr