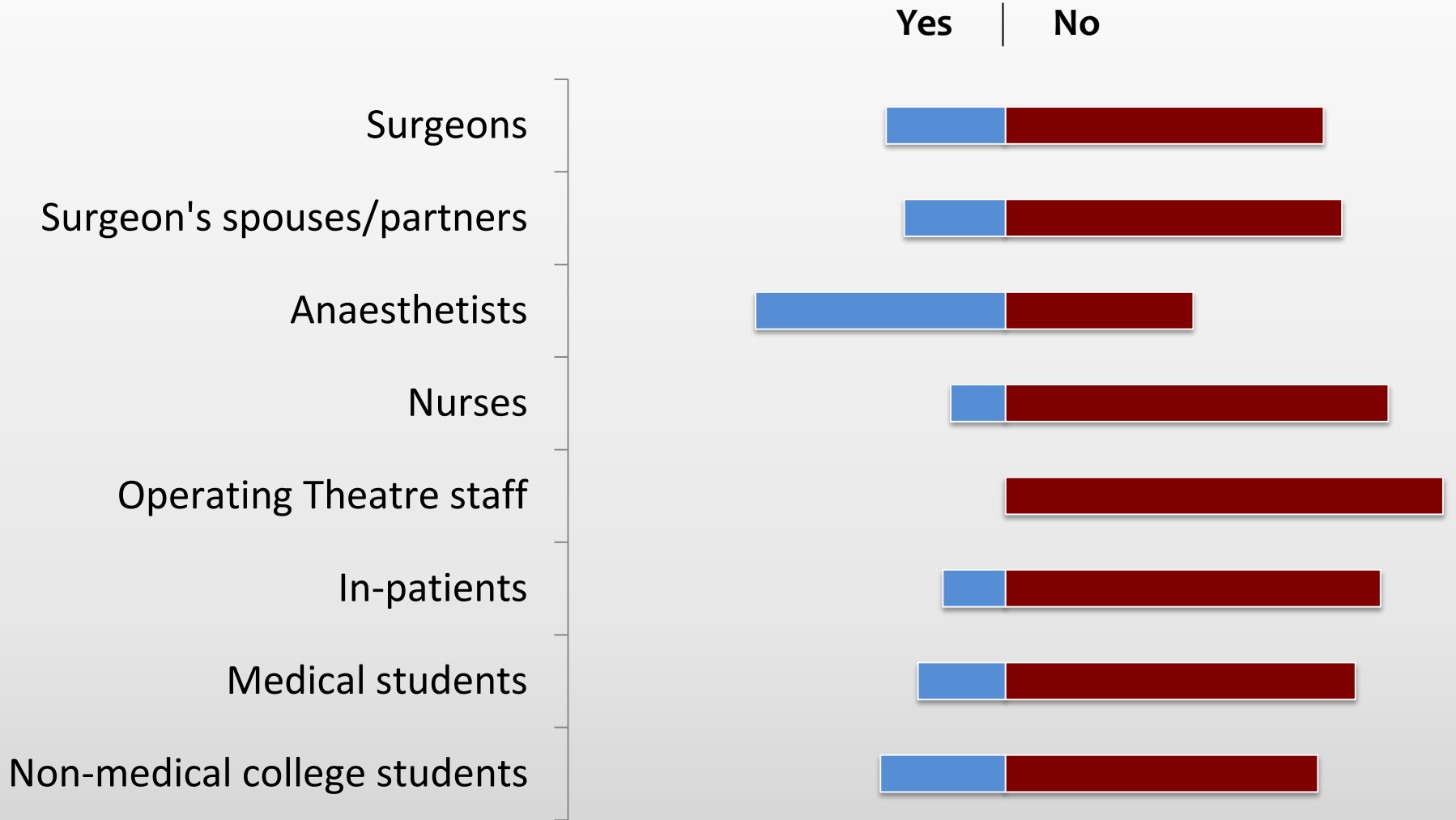


The Professor Harold Ellis Medical Student Prize for Surgery 2014

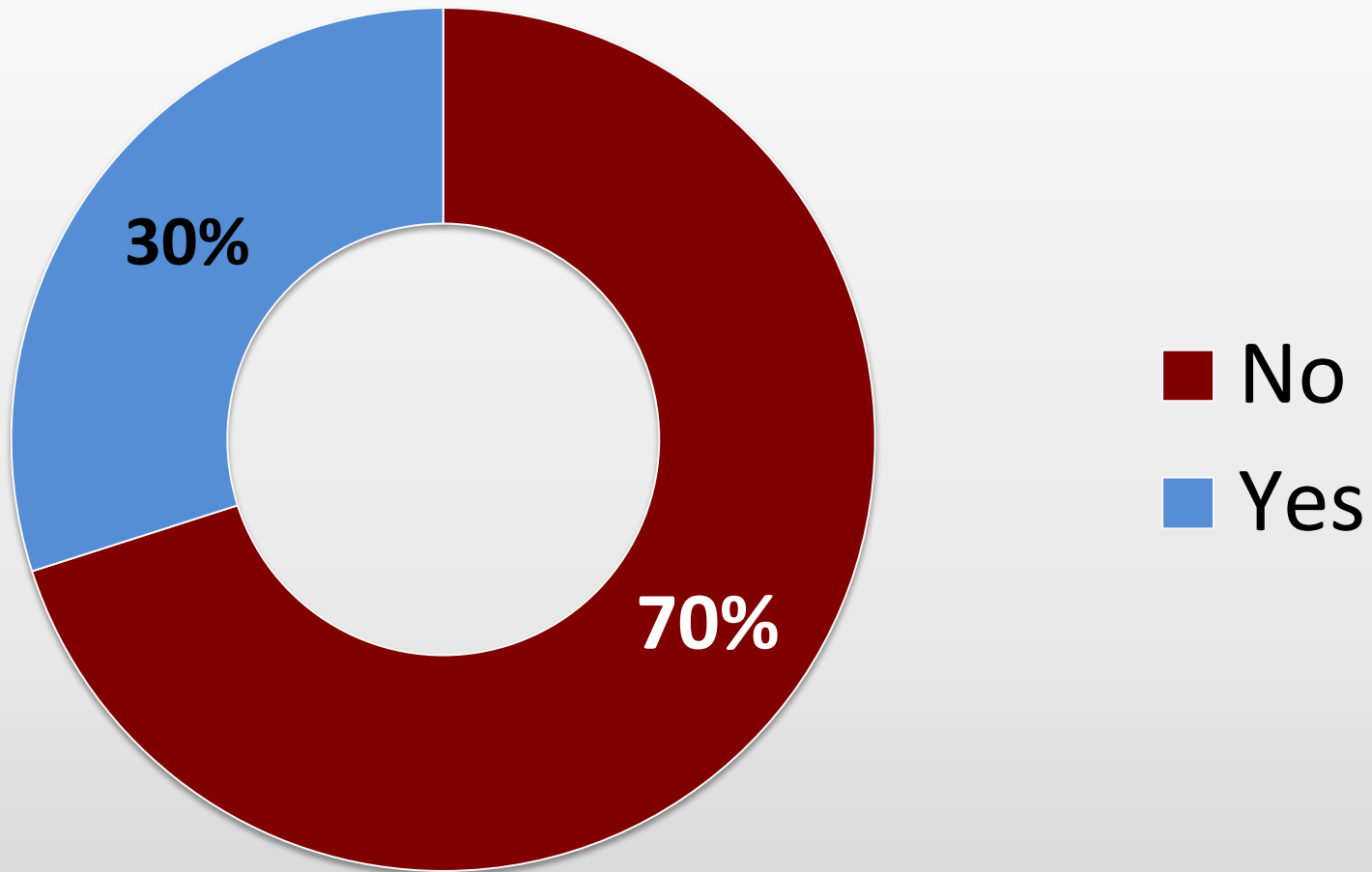
Do you have to be selfish to
be a surgeon?

Benjamin Cheang
3rd Year Medical student
University of Dundee

Poll



Poll



Do you have to be selfish to be a surgeon?

- ▶ All or most surgeons are selfish
- ▶ It helps to be selfish



“Selfish”

- ▶ 2 layers
- ▶ **Individualism**

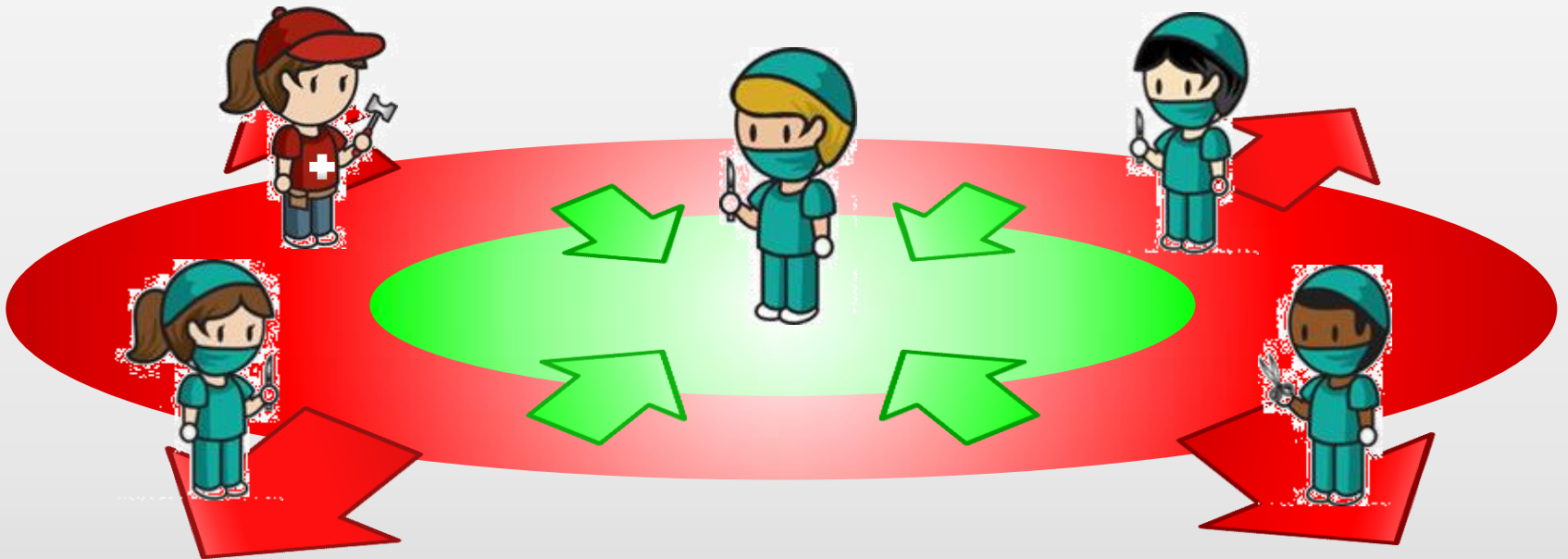


- ▶ 1. Concerned chiefly with one's own personal profit, pleasure
-



“Selfish”

- ▶ 2 layers
- ▶ **Malevolence**



- ▶ 2. Lacking in consideration for others
-



Perspectives

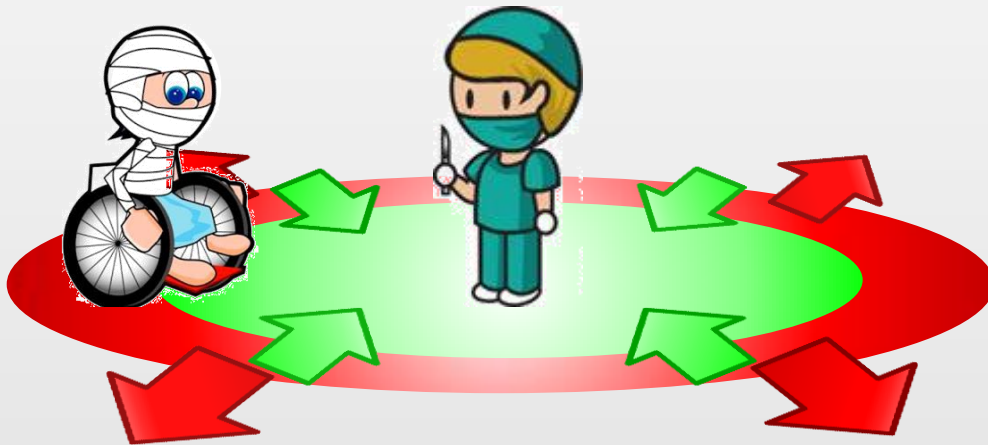
- ▶ ‘Selfish’ as an inaccurate, biased perspective?



Perspectives

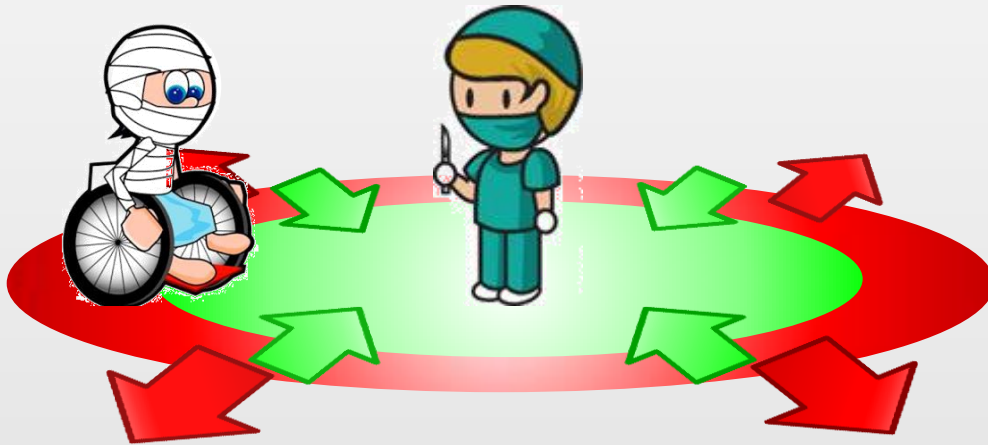
- ▶ Surgeon declines high risk procedure

- ▶ High difficulty
- ▶ Deprivation of treatment
- ▶ High risks
- ▶ Fear of failure
- ▶ Fear of litigation
- ▶ Other personal commitments



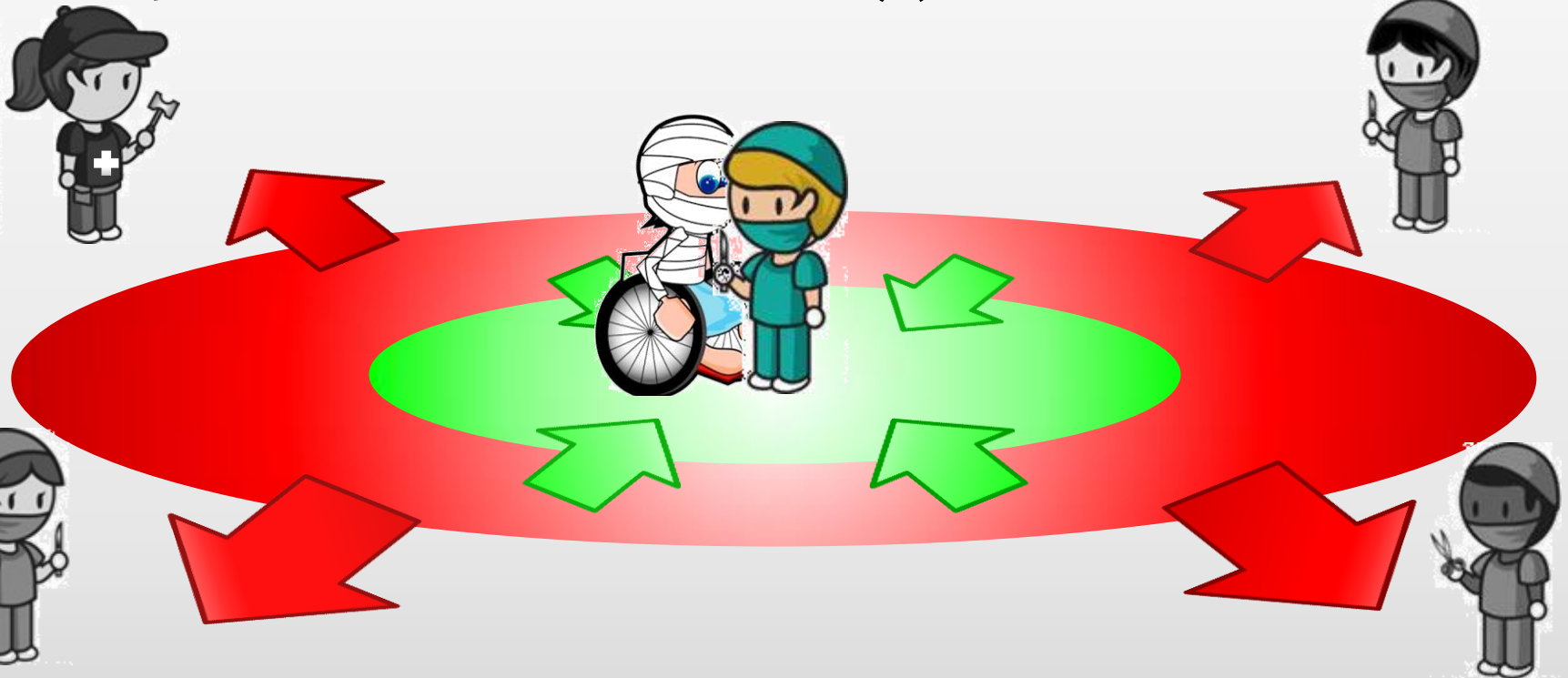
Perspectives

- ▶ Surgeon declines high risk procedure
- ▶ Acknowledging patient care and well-being



Motivation behind “Selfish”

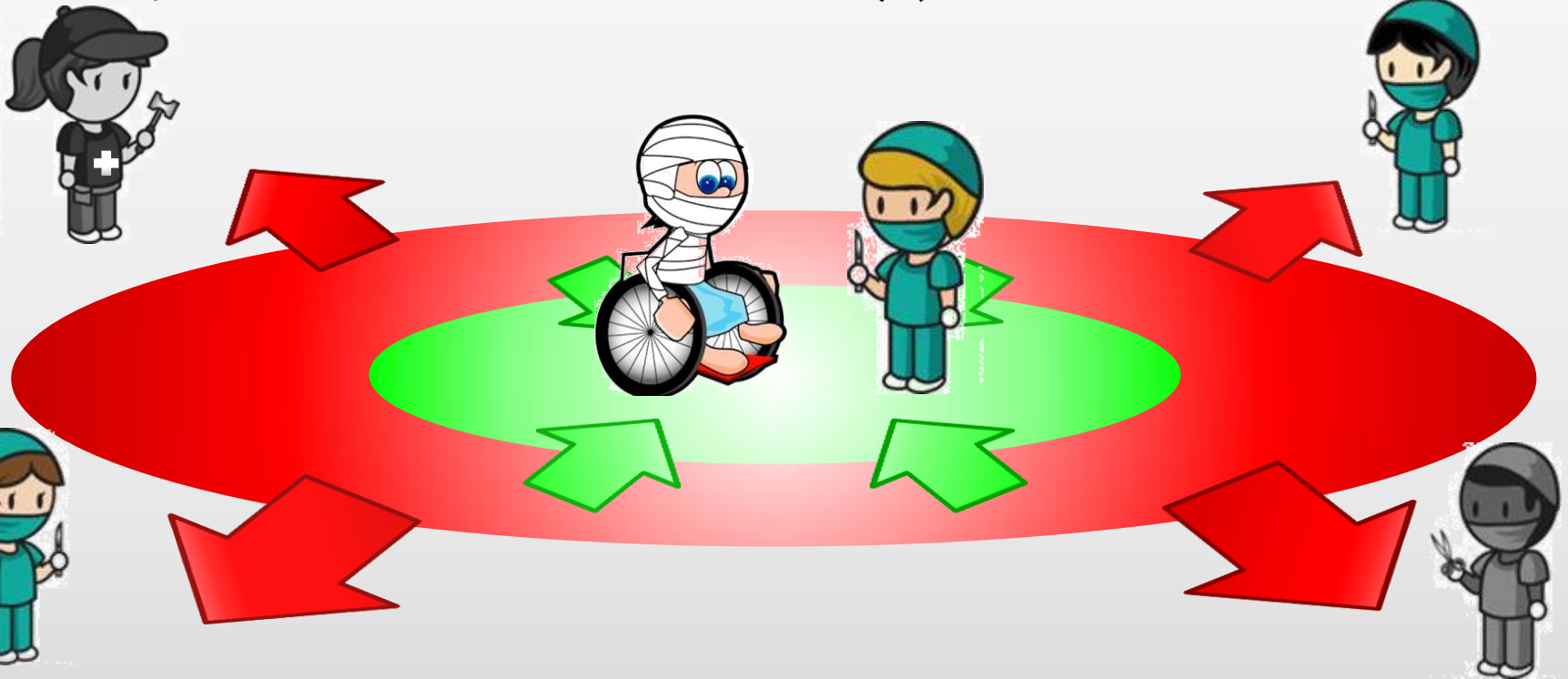
- ▶ Who am I being selfish for?
- ▶ May include other individual(s)



▶ **Patient**

Motivation behind “Selfish”

- ▶ Who am I being selfish for?
- ▶ May include other individual(s)



- ▶ **Surgical team**

Motivation behind “Selfish”

- ▶ Who am I being selfish for?
- ▶ May include other individual(s)



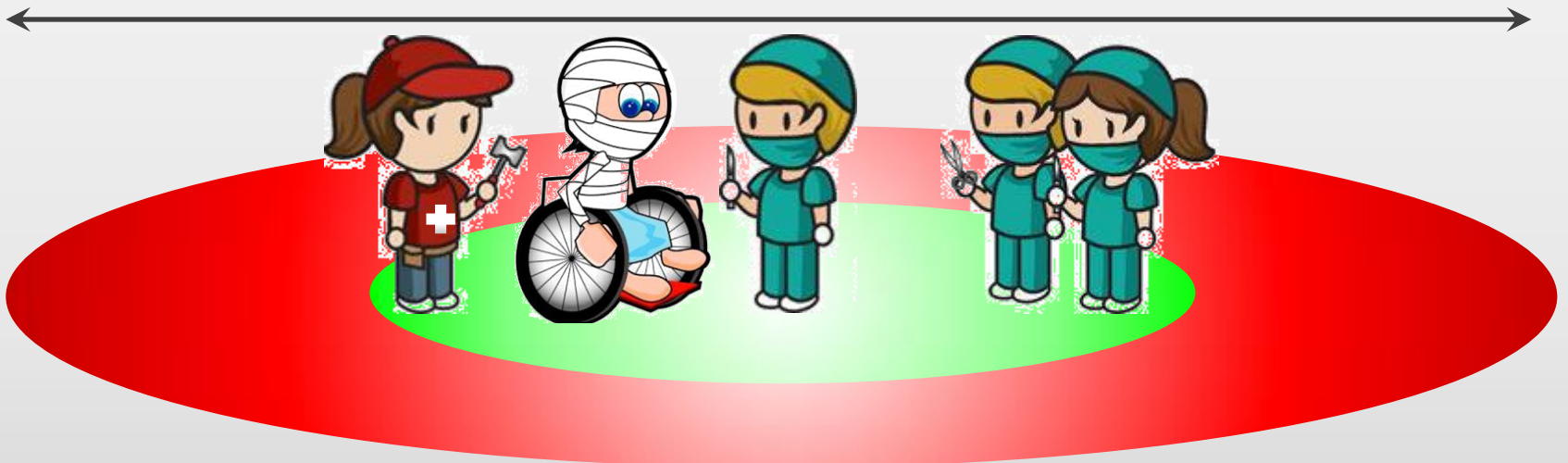
▶ **Institution**



Definition of “Selfish”

▶ Subjective

▶ Malevolence



▶ Patient-centered care



Definition of “Selfish”

- ▶ Subjective and situational



- ▶ Standard

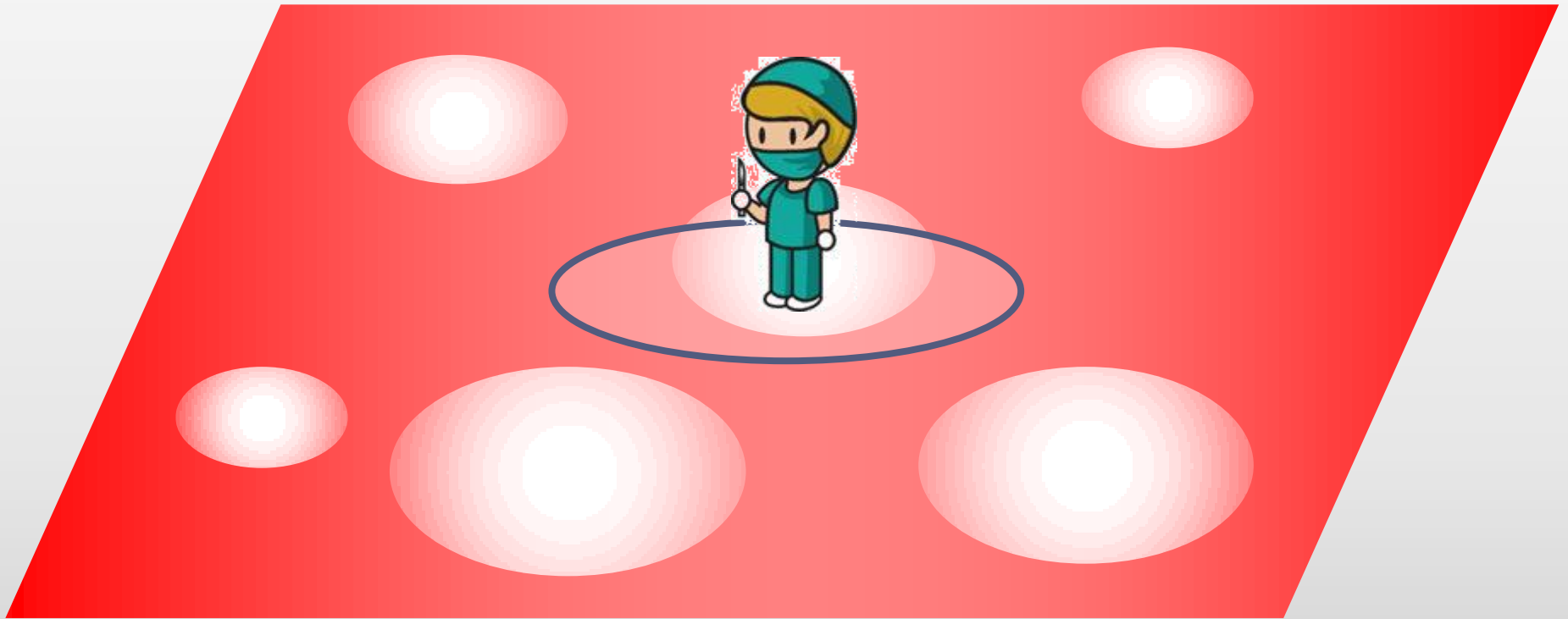
- ▶ Observers

- ▶ Individual



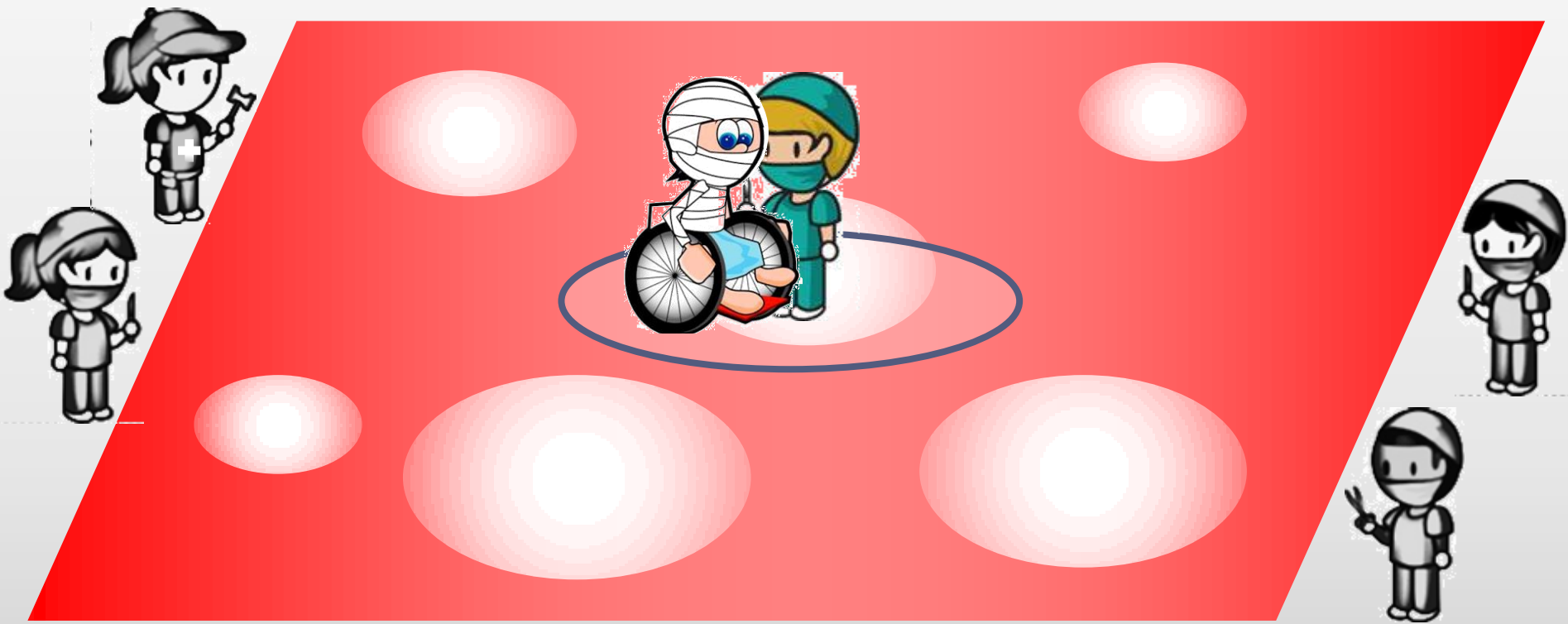
Definition and degree of “Selfish”

- ▶ Possible decisions in a situation



Do you have to be selfish to be a surgeon?

- ▶ Should have the **courage** to do what is best for the patient
- ▶ Even if it means appearing selfish



Questions?

