**The Professor Harold Ellis Medical Student Prize for Surgery 2014**

Written by:

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Among 50 hopeful entrants to the invitation to submit a 500-word abstract on the topic “When should surgeons trust their instinct and when should they ignore it?”, 13 were selected to compete in the final round of the Professor Harold Ellis Medical Student Prize for Surgery 2014. Each finalist was invited to give a 5-minute presentation on another topic, “Do you have to be selfish to be a surgeon?”

Medical students from different walks of life, different years of study and from all over the UK trickled into the Eleanor Davies-Colley Lecture Theatre of the Royal College of Surgeons, London on the 24 November 2014.

The candidates and their guests were given a warm welcome from Head Judge and Consultant urologist, paediatric surgeon and President of the British Association of Paediatric Urologists, Mr. Nicholas Madden. The panel of distinguished judges for the day included Professor Harold Ellis, Miss Lizzie Elsey, Mr. Pankaj Chandak, Mr. Andrew Beamish and Dr Georgina Chadwick.

Each candidate elucidated different perspectives and ideas towards selfishness and the surgeon. The term “selfish” was scrutinized; the expectations and responsibilities of a surgeon analyzed and personal angles were discussed. The candidates’ final opinion on the matter were split down the middle, with all of the first 7 candidates before the short break answering “no”, and the remaining 6 who presented after the break answering “yes”.

After each presentation, each candidate would be subjected to the firing squad that was the judging panel – challenging each candidate with a plethora of exacting, searching and even provocative questions.

The first prize was awarded to Elizabeth Poppy Redman of University College London, and joint-second prizes to Wei Benjamin Cheang of the University of Dundee and James Baggott of Kings College London. £500 was awarded to the winner and £100 to the surgical societies of the three prize winners.

The competition was concluded with a drinks reception at the Council Room, where judges, candidates, guests and other members of the Council had the opportunity to mingle and discuss the day’s events.

The presentations from the prize winners will be published on the Opportunities in Surgery page of the Royal College of Surgeons website: http://surgicalcareers.rcseng.ac.uk/students/medical-students/prizes



