

Anatomical Society Report – Neurosurgery Undergraduate Symposium, Southampton General Hospital, 25/2/17.

The Neurosurgery Undergraduate Symposium was held on the 25th February 2017 at Southampton General Hospital. We were fortunate enough to hear talks from Mr. Ryan Waters, Mr. Aminul Ahmed, Mr. Samuel Hall and Dr. Christopher Wilcox. Students appeared engaged throughout and wanted to learn more about what neurosurgery has to offer. Mr. Waters discussed the role of a consultant in neurosurgery, sub-specialties and the process behind ST1 applications. Mr. Ahmed discussed a career in academic neurosurgery, including the various opportunities and possible routes to get involved in the cutting-edge research side of neurosurgery. Mr. Hall discussed his journey in applying to neurosurgery, challenges and triumphs along the way, and his life as a junior trainee. Finally, Dr. Wilcox discussed the Academic Foundation Programme, what it involves and its benefits. Gifts for speakers were kindly sponsored by Anatomical Society – without which the event couldn't have taken place.

After a short lunch break, attendees were given the opportunity to practice their basic neurosurgical skills. Medtronic very kindly came to demonstrate their new neurosurgical drills. Attendees had the opportunity to drill burr holes and perform craniotomies on sheep scapulae. At the end of the session, students participated in a competition to remove the shell from an egg, without piercing the superficial membrane using a ball burr. The first round was won by Naomi Douglas, the second by Elshie Solomon, and the third by Sarah Choi. In the final round, Elshie Solomon took the win and was awarded a free ticket to the 2017 National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition – Congratulations Elshie! I'd like to thank Chris Flank from Medtronic for giving up his time and expertise to bring us such a unique experience.

Feedback from the day was positive throughout. Students thoroughly enjoyed Medtronic as core surgical skills never fail to capture peoples' attention! On behalf of the organising committee, I would like to thank the speakers for their valuable time and insight, and all attendees for their passion and sustained enthusiasm throughout the day.



Medtronic Workshop: Students practicing their basic neurosurgical techniques on sheep scapulae. Skills included drilling burr holes, carefully removing implanted elastic bands, and removing the shell from an egg with a drill.



Academic Neurosurgery Talk: A fascinating talk by Mr. Aminul Ahmed on how to pursue a career in academic neurosurgery.