The Symington Memorial Prize was originally established in 1920 by the Queen’s University Belfast in commemoration of Professor Johnson Symington. Johnson Symington was President of the Society from 1903-1906.

The Symington Memorial Prize is awarded by the Academic Council of Queen’s University Belfast on the recommendation of the Council of the Anatomical Society.

The Society is delighted to award the 2020 Symington Memorial Prize to Dr Cecilia Brassett.

Dr Brassett is the University of Cambridge Clinical Anatomist and holds responsibility for organising the anatomy teaching programme.

Dr Brassett’s affiliation with Cambridge began early in her career reading Medicine at Downing College and as an Anatomy demonstrator in what was then the Department of Anatomy. Following her initial qualification as a general surgeon, Dr Brassett moved into the field of linguistics to work amongst an ethnic minority group in China before returning to the UK. Dr Brassett was awarded her mastership in surgery from the University of Cambridge for her investigations into familial colorectal cancer with particular reference to microsatellite instability which produced her thesis “Molecular Genetic Investigations of Colorectal Cancer”.

Dr Brassett is a longstanding member of the Anatomical Society and has a long list of accolades to her name. Dr Brassett is currently a Councillor of both the Anatomical Society and the British Association of Clinical Anatomists. She is a Fellow of Magdalene College, where she is also Joint Director of Medical Studies. Dr Brassett is a Fellow of the RCSE and also a member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Dr Brassett has attended many Society meetings where she has supported her students and colleagues in the presentation of their work. Often the work demonstrates the diverse range and broad application that anatomy and anatomical research has to surgical and clinical practice.

Dr Brassett recently published the text “The Secret Language of Anatomy” which is a strikingly illustrated guide to understanding the terminology of the human body and where many of the names derive from. This guide also shows the speciality bridging applicability of Anatomy with this text drawing on anatomy, art and history to pull together an engrossing and accessible book. This follows on from earlier contributions to the “Complete Anatomy Colouring Book”.

Dr Brassett is also held in high regard for her endeavours in outreach and engagement work within and beyond her institution and Society profiles. She is involved in a variety of Departmental, College and Institutional networks and committees and has been in the focus of WomenInSTEM.

Alongside her Dr Brassett’s Anatomical and Medical expertise she is also a competent and skilled linguist translating from Chinese to English and vice-versa.

In summary, the Society is delighted to see Dr Brassett recognised with the award of the Symington Memorial Prize for her continued excellence in all the pillars of academic endeavour.

Congratulations Dr Cecilia Brassett.