

GOOD SURGEON, BAD SURGEON, OUTSTANDING SURGEON

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Surgery is a science and art which creates wound to cure another wound. It is the art of hand which is well backed by experience and good theoretical background. Surgery is definitely not a simple career and not every doctor fits to be a surgeon. It is vital for the young doctor to choose the right specialty which fits his serious interest, his physical capabilities and how his five fingers can perform the art of hand.

Moreover, the subspecialty in surgery is another concern which needs probably more serious consideration, because every subspecialty needs special specification to be performed in a net and perfect way.

The above sentences describe the idealism in surgical career which is sadly not exist in so many countries all over the globe. Surgeons are of different levels and interests, and what is worse than this, is the foreigners in surgical practice. They are far away from this respected specialty. They do harm rather than benefit for the patient and the surgical career, and by doing so, they spoil the name of this respected art.

Even the advanced European countries and in the United States, there are many surgeons who are beyond the standard, but still occupying chairs in surgical practice. I think the surgeons can be classified into good surgeons, bad surgeons and outstanding surgeons.

Bad surgeons are those who squeeze themselves in this career, though they are not fit to be surgeons, from all points of view, they are far away from surgical anatomy. They are bad dissectors, not respecting tissue planes, going beyond their specialty and capability, insisting on repetition, avoiding innovation, and having dogmatic brains which do not accept consultation and discussion. They avoid analyzing their complications, and are totally away from recent advances. Poor surgeons are not able to show sympathy and empathy, so ending up with poor doctor-patient relationship. They are not willing to perform follow up of their patients in a scientific way. They are driven by companies so they lead to commercialization of the career. They have strong interest in the patient's money rather than in his health status. Poor surgeons are reluctant and hesitant to take a precise decision in the right time. Those surgeons should be advised first by the local medical association but if they insist on staying so, they should be out of the career as soon as possible. It is the job of the supervisor to identify those who are unfit and

beyond repair so that they may be shifted to another specialty which probably suits them more or fits more to their levels and their capabilities.

The good surgeons are those with reasonable status that can be expected in an average surgeon. They perform surgery within the scope of their specialty, experience and their physical and mental status. They have a reasonable anatomical background capable of clean dissection with respect to tissue planes. Good surgeons are interested in recent advances, motivated for follow up, eager to improve their capabilities, willing to consult when they are in difficulties. They never hesitate to admit failure, and moreover to avoid falling in the same trap repeatedly. They are always fully aware of their bad outcome, and are good in dissection and decision making in the right time. They are serious and honest, with some interest in publishing their experience. They give priority to the health status rather than the financial benefit, and are interested in helping poor patients for no personal gain. They are enthusiastic and seriously willing to improve their standards. So, the Medical Association and Ministry of Health should support and upgrade them by attending conferences or having sabbatical for training. They should be given free access for the recent advances in surgery.

The third type is the outstanding surgeons, who are as if they are born to be surgeons. They have chosen the right specialty which suits them; because they know very well that they are fit for this job. They are not very many all over the globe. They are very serious, enthusiastic and very much motivated to improve their career and their personal experiences. Good surgeons believe in the fact that patient's benefit should come on the top of everything. They are given a wide brain, fine fingers, strong hearts and eagle's eyes. They keep sharing in scientific activities and always updated on recent advances. They never hesitate to exchange opinions or ask for a second opinion even from lower level colleagues. They do have elastic and never a dogmatic brain, so they change the approaches according to the outcome of their treatment. Moreover, they are fond of reading and writing, so they keep writing their personal views depending on personal experiences.

Because they are very few and outstanding, they should be given a serious consideration even for their personal needs. The trainers should be able to recognize them in the initial stages of their training and look after them very well and support them. What is required from those trainers is to help and guide their colleagues and never stop transferring their golden experience to the junior staff.

So far, we are living in a modern media offering free access for those willing to update their experience. A word of gratitude is addressed to lord and lady Swinfen, because they support education even for poor countries through Telemedicine which is a 24-hour open line to solve medical problems without any personal benefit. So we are really grateful to them, for this unlimited help and support to improve our dear specialty all over the world.

