



YCCSA Seminar Series Spring 2016

An interdisciplinary seminar series hosted by the York Centre for Complex System Analysis aimed at researchers from all disciplines

Why we cut – a surgeons view of the “wicked”

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Ron Cooke Hub, RCH/204 at 13:30

Those who make their living by cutting open other human beings in order to help them are, of necessity, possessed of a self-confidence which can border on arrogance. The counterbalance to this is usually sought internally - *“every surgeon carries within himself a small cemetery, where from time to time he goes to pray – a place of bitterness and regret, where he must look for an explanation for his failures”*¹. Sometimes this message is reinforced; my former operating theatre had *“primum non nocere”*² inscribed on the entrance, but this further internalises a “wicked” problem. This seminar aims to explore a clinically everyday “wicked” problem; the triad of patient, pathology and therapeutic ability and how they interrelate. Each subject is both complex and complicated in their own ways, in varying degrees on an individual basis. How then can a surgeon whose focus is heavily technique biased interact meaningfully with patients? If consistent, progressive and meaningful interaction is to be possible (the UK “ideal” of a doctor-patient partnership) then the very differing groups have to find a common language. One way of addressing this is continually evolving education travelling both to and from the interactive patient. One such method will be the basis of an YCCSA project this Summer. The development of an intuitive, interactive and evolving system providing two-way education using multiple layers for symptoms, diagnostic process, alternative treatments, chronological changes post treatment and resuming post treatment life is planned. Maxillofacial surgeons and patients in conjunction with a multitude of cross disciplinary partners will begin to build a new means of conversation.

1 Rene Leriche, *La philosophie de la chirurgie*, 1951

2 Hippocrates of Kos, circa 460 BC

The seminar includes a refreshment break to fuel interdisciplinary discussion

Ron Cooke Hub is on Heslington East Campus – accessible by free bus services

Nos. 66 and 44 running at frequent intervals from Heslington West.

The YCCSA Seminar room is on the second floor