

7th College of Surgeons Lectureship

The Making of a Surgeon: From Good to Great **by Dr Saw Huat Seong**

This talk will take the audience through the 3 phases that a surgeon is likely to go through in his professional life.

The first phase results in the individual being gazetted as a surgeon. This is ordained by the College of Surgeons and/or the powers that be.

The second phase results in the gazetted surgeon being a good surgeon. Through experience and long hours at work, he concentrates on his personal competency. Should he just dwell on his title, he remains a mediocre surgeon. The choice is his and his alone.

The third phase comes from wisdom. Through his cognitive processes, he decides on what is wrong or right; when to operate or more importantly, when not to operate. He addresses ethical issues and protects his personal integrity. He concentrates on treating his patient holistically rather than playing a role of a competent technician and procedurist.

He begins to impart his knowledge and skills to whosoever cares to look upon him as a role model, and in the process leaves footprints in the sands of time.

Herein lies the great surgeon.