



## The Worshipful Company of Cutlers

# SURGICAL PRIZE



**For advances in surgical treatment utilising modern technologies, techniques and surgical innovations**

### **THE ANCIENT GUILDS OF THE CITY OF LONDON**

The ancient guilds of the City of London, more commonly referred to as livery companies, continue to flourish after a history of more than a thousand years. They were first established to regulate the various crafts and trades and at the same time created a common fellowship. Each member subscribed to a common fund; hence is derived the word *gild* or *guild* from *guildan* ('to pay').

### **THE CUTLERS' COMPANY**

The first mention of the Cutlers' Company seems to be the reference in 1285 to the 'House of the Cutlers', which stood near the site of the present Mercers' Hall in Ironmonger Lane in the City of London. It is apparent that early in the 13th century the Cutlers were an organised craft and ruled under Articles granted by the Mayor and Aldermen. The business activities conducted from the House were many and defined as the making of swords, daggers, rapiers, hangers, wood knives, penknives, razors, surgeons instruments, skeynes, hilts, pommels, battle-axes, halberds, etc. Many crafts were involved, each with its own organisation and ordinances. The word 'cutler' is derived from the Latin *coutellarius* and the French *coutelier* and signifies a maker or seller of knives or other cutting instruments. The art has existed from the earliest times, when weapons for domestic use and warfare were fashioned from stone, flint, wood and bone; later, stone was replaced by bronze, and later still, by iron and steel.

### **SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Company has a long connection with the manufacture of surgical instruments and for the last hundred years has maintained its interest by fostering apprenticeships in the surgical instrument-making industry.

### **THE CUTLERS' SURGICAL PRIZE**

The Cutlers' Surgical Prize was instituted in 1981 and has become established as one of the most prestigious annual prizes for original innovation in the design or application of surgical instruments, equipment or practice to improve the health and recovery of surgical patients. The prize consists of an elegant mounted Victorian silver-gilt medal, together with an award of £5,000 to the winner or winning team. The presentation is made at a special dinner held at Cutlers' Hall, which will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Each year, The Royal College of Surgeons will recommend a surgeon (or a team including a surgeon who has performed outstanding work in the field of instrumentation, innovation or technical development in any branch of patient investigation or treatment, which will improve patient care. The person(s) selected will be recommended for the Worshipful Company of Cutlers for approval and the award of the Cutlers' Surgical Prize.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applications are now invited for the 2022 award. Each application should be submitted on the form provided and should be in regard to one specific instrument, innovation or technique. A major modification of an existing instrument or technique will also be considered.

Applications (6 copies) should be in the form of a scientific paper with a maximum of 3,000 words, supported by illustrations and/or photographs. A video is not part of an application but could be used as supplementary support, following short-listing.

The applications must include the following by the closing date:

1. Evidence of originality, innovation, date of development, clinical usage and an explanation of benefits in patient care.
2. Written evidence from one or more independent referees as to the surgical application is essential and must be attached.

Please send one hard copy to Linda Slater, and one PDF copy of the application to the email address below.

**Linda Slater**  
**Research Coordinator, Lectureships and Awards**  
**Royal College of Surgeons**  
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Details and application form are available from the Royal College of Surgeons website at [www.rcseng.ac.uk/standards-and-research/research/fellowships-awards-grants/awards-and-grants/cutlers-surgical-prize/](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/standards-and-research/research/fellowships-awards-grants/awards-and-grants/cutlers-surgical-prize/) and the Worshipful Company of Cutlers website at [www.cutlerslondon.co.uk/charity-and-education/surgical-award-fund/](http://www.cutlerslondon.co.uk/charity-and-education/surgical-award-fund/)

The closing date for receipt of applications is **10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.

The Award Panel consists of:

The President of The Royal College of Surgeons of England  
A senior representative of the Worshipful Company of Cutlers  
A specialist advisor to the Royal College of Surgeons  
A senior executive of the Royal College of Surgeons  
Senior clinical specialists in the relevant disciplines

Applicants meeting the criteria may be invited to provide a sample of the instrument and/or a video (where appropriate) after the closing date before the Award Panel meets.

The person or team recommended to receive the Prize will be invited to attend the Company's Surgical Awards Dinner on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022.