**LAS432 Peer Evaluation of Presentations**

**Your Name: Anthony Meunier Date: 6/20/2015**

**Title of Presentation Being Reviewed: Remote and Robotic Surgery**

**Points You Would Award This Group 20 / 30**

***Directions*:**  This course asked you to think critically about the broader implications of technology. As such, you are now given the task of thinking and responding critically to the projects and presentations by your peers in this class. For each team, use the following items to note your observations and to offer an analysis and evaluation of how well the team succeeded in its study of the technology and its impact upon society.  **Please respond using full sentences unless otherwise indicated. (*Each numbered item is worth 6 points for a total of 30 points*.)**

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# Areas discussed in relationship to the technology (5 points)

## Place a check mark in each box that shows the areas that were discussed in the presentation.

* + - * 1. Technology description/science
        2. History/Context
        3. Economics
        4. Political/Legal issues
        5. Psychology
        6. Sociology
        7. Moral issues/Ethics
        8. Literature/Cinema/Art
        9. Environmental science
        10. Religion
        11. Anthropology
        12. Mathematical concepts and statistics
        13. Other  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Balance and integration (5 points)

Did the team achieve a good balance in their presentation of material? Were all sections well integrated as part of a cohesive presentation? Explain.

I believe that team touched on most of the important topics regarding the study/research of the technology, as you can see from the checkboxes above. Some technologies are hard to cover the scope of everything (such as mine, 3-D printing) because they are fairly new and not a large part of society yet. In this sense it makes it hard to write a concrete “research” paper and rather it becomes more of a speculative thing, which is fine by me for the context. What I think held the group back a bit was the specificity of their topic in it only applying to surgery, so it did feel like a lot of the ideas were retouched on. Not a huge knock, but I feel the presentation could have been a bit better had the topic points been a bit more dynamic.

# Effective research and exploration of the issues identified (5 points)

## Summarize briefly in one or two sentences the thesis of the presentation.

## Robotics can have a significant effect on the ability to perform surgery but currently has a couple key restrictive barriers that are currently making its use limited in practice. More needs to be set in place to advance the use of the technology to better the medical field.

## How much of the information was new to you? How much did you learn about the technology and its societal impact? Did you gain a clear idea of how this specific technology relates to a larger context? Explain fully.

## While I know about the concept of robotics, I have never actually studied it in these contexts. So most of the information was concrete and new to me. One of the primary themes of the presentation dealt with robotics and the medical field, such as surgery systems. I never took the time to logically think about how robotics systems are specifically used in the medical field, but one of the main points seems to be the implementation and effects of surgery systems. The technology has the power to offer so many benefits in the healthcare field, specifically in surgery, but right now is somewhat limited in practice due to some restrictions and limitations. I would have like to have seen more as it pertains to the medical field rather than only surgery.

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## How do you rate the quality of the research and the persuasiveness of the team’s argument(s)?

I think the team presented a fairly good balance between benefits and issues of the technology and rang true the message that while a technology can offer a lot, there are many steps involved with fully and safely implementing the widespread use of the technology.

## Are you convinced the technology poses significant issues? Explain briefly.

The high costs of the technology are first and foremost the most significant issue, as far as even getting it to be wide spread and fully realized. In addition to that, safety issues primarily due to lack of strict regulations create a significant barrier to accepting the technology. Since the context of the presentation was so specific (only applying to surgeries), safety and cost are the main issues. Right now there are a number of lawsuits dealing with supposed injuries sustained from robotic surgeries, which indicates it is a hot topic issue.

## What do you predict about this technology in its future use(s) and application(s)?

## It seems that the applications of “robotics surgery” are already fairly developed in its specific context. At this time the most prohibitive aspects are cost, so likely we may see some improvements in the mechanical parts/production that could enable lower costs and wider implementation of robotics surgery. Although they are already likely very precise, we may perhaps see more developed in the technology that allows for even further improvements.

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1. **Effectiveness of the team presentation (Add an explanation when warranted, 5 points)**

* \_\_\_Yes \_X\_No Did the presenters clearly identify their goals?
* \_\_\_Yes \_X\_No Were the presenters well organized?
* \_\_\_Yes N/A \_\_\_No Was the question-and-answer portion logical?
* \_X\_Yes \_\_\_No Were you able to understand each speaker?
* \_X\_Yes \_\_\_No Was the pace appropriate (not too fast, not too slow)?

1. **If you were in a position to make decisions with respect to this technology, how would you act upon this team’s message/apply their recommendations? Please explain. (5 points)**

Just to reemphasize, the message was that robotics is a fairly new technology that is being applied to the medical field, specifically to perform surgeries in an advanced manner that eliminates/reduces the human element and provides additional accuracy and precision. It was also emphasized that currently the use is not very widespread due to prohibitive barriers like safety concerns and cost. In order to overcome these barriers there needs to be significant reductions in cost which could come in the form of improvements in the technology and methods of production/construction of the robots. In addition there needs

1. **What did you like and dislike about the paper and presentation? Please be specific.(5 points)**

I liked the idea of robotics being applied to the medical field, but did not like that the entire presentation/concept was so specific in the sense of only being about surgery. In addition, the title of the presentation was “Remote and Robotic Surgery” but I didn’t hear much, if anything, about the integration of the remote aspect. I guess it’s just implied that surgeons don’t have to physically be there but rather can control a robot from a distance. The organization of the content was logical and moved from point to point, but a number of the speakers had a very hard time pronouncing words and this left an impression that they were not extremely prepared.