



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## ***News Release***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Medical student adds voice to NHS finances debate**

An Edinburgh undergraduate is to debate future funding of the NHS with renowned experts in a student-organised event.

Second year student Navina Senthilkumar is one of four speakers taking part in the Edinburgh Medical Debate 2017. The event will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 50 George Square.

Navina, a second year student, is joining medical and business experts to address the motion: "This house believes that the NHS should no longer be free at the point of access."

Backing the motion, Navina will join Dr Mark Hellowell, senior lecturer at the University's School of Social and Political Science and special adviser to the House of Commons Treasury Committee.

Arguing the case against will be Chair of NHS Lothian, Brian Houston, joined by Cam Donaldson, Professor of Social Business and Health at Glasgow Caledonian University. Each speaker will have seven minutes to present their argument, followed by a round of audience questions.

Edinburgh Professor Emeritus of Medical Ethics, Kenneth Boyd, is to chair the discussion. He will take questions from the audience and from Twitter, and the debate will close with an audience vote.

This will be the second Edinburgh Medical Debate, following its launch last year.

The event – hosted by Edinburgh Medical School's Student Council – comes amidst media coverage of financial pressures on the NHS and the impact on treatment availability and waiting times.

Debate organiser Gabrielle Clark, said: "The NHS crisis is high profile news at the moment and this is a great opportunity for staff and students from all parts of the University to come together with members of the public to have an exciting and stimulating debate."

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Edinburgh Medical Debates are free and open to the public, with tickets available at [edmeddebate.eventbrite.co.uk](http://edmeddebate.eventbrite.co.uk).

For further information, please contact:

Kate McAllister, Press & PR Office, tel 0131 650 6357, email [Kate.McAllister@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Kate.McAllister@ed.ac.uk)

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