

South Wales region Trainer of the Year 2017:

Mr Dan Ashworth, Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil

Trainee Development

Dan takes pride in training his registrars and junior doctors, he clearly has the knack of delivering information in an understandable format. He is very proactive in teaching and encourages trainees to explore options and think for themselves. He sets realistic goals, encourages discussion and enjoys challenging questions. Dan offers every possible learning opportunity to his trainees and is exceptional at progressing surgical and theoretical knowledge in a stepwise manner that builds confidence and allows progression. In terms of operative experience, he quickly identifies the needs of the trainee and allows appropriate freedom to proceed with parts of the procedure they can do and carefully demonstrates and checks understanding of unfamiliar steps. He takes care to ensure that the learning environment is optimal for retaining new information and practicing new skills. We have all been really impressed by his honesty and genuine willingness to share both good and bad experiences as an aid to learning and avoiding pitfalls.

Professionalism

Dan is clearly a professional, takes pride in his work and delivers care and training in an efficient manner. He understands the importance of a good work / life balance in ensuring he is in the best frame of mind for empathising with and caring for his patients. He makes a point of being open about this with his trainees and never burdens trainees with an excessive workload. As a supervising consultant, our nominee is always approachable and acts in the best interests of his trainees and patients alike.

Leadership

Dan is as strong and enthusiastic leader and excellent figure head. He sets a good example to all and does not make onerous demands on trainees. He leads by example and in doing so inspires others to contribute and give their best as part of a team. Dan does not shy away from tasks that others in his position may believe are beneath them, for example writing operating notes and completing pathology forms. He allows appropriate responsibility and encourages independent thinking and decision making, whilst being a fully supportive and approachable leader. He is a role model for any aspiring maxillofacial trainee.

Communication

Dan is a very good communicator. His pleasant demeanour is well liked by both patients and colleagues. He never hesitates to spend as much time needed to ensure that patients are fully informed. He possesses a great ability to communicate effectively with patients of any age group or social background. Dan is never dismissive when approached by any of his colleagues, even in pressurised situations.

Resourcefulness

Dan utilises time well. He is happy to make the most of what he has at any given time and has realistic goals for his trainees. He is inspirational in his commitment to ensuring the best outcomes for patients and strives to maximise learning opportunities for trainees.