

Mr Mahesh Kumar (North London: Northwick Park Hospital)

Trainee development

MK always takes the time to understand the level of training that each trainee is at, and then identifies what opportunities are appropriate for on the theatre list. This extends to clinic, where MK always takes the time to invite us to join consultations that would be relevant to our training. In this way, they always appropriately prioritise our training opportunities over service provision. MK is always keen that we partake in the activities required to make more fully rounded surgeons, such as presentations and publications, and has always been constructive and supportive in this regard.

Professionalism

MK is always calm and professional despite any degree of stress in the situation. I recall a time when I made an error. The trainer remained calm and resolved things rapidly and, subsequently, took the time to debrief, identifying the steps leading to the error, discussing what had happened, and then raised learning needs and action to be taken. I felt supported and was able to overcome the emotions relating to having made the error. In theatre, MK assists with guidance during the procedure without putting anyone under pressure. We have confidence in the skill and knowledge of this trainer and therefore we have such respect for them as a trainer, clinician and teacher.

Leadership

MK always seeks feedback from all members of the team. This is evidenced at his involvement in MDT meetings where everyone is included and represented fairly. They organise local teaching events, engaging us by asking what topics are needed by trainees and ensuring their provision. MK also organizes pre-ARCP meetings with all department consultants present to help identify concerns and learning needs of each trainee, something that is invaluable before the ARCP.

Communication

MK's calm manner enhances his ability to provide the best care for his patients, and for his team. For trainees, he will ensure enough time to meet, discuss feedback collected, raise concerns and highlight areas for further development. He is always available whether by email or phone, quick to respond even when he is not at work or in the country!

Resourcefulness

We can always approach my trainer with a learning need and the trainer will suggest ways that they can be met- either through clinical activities, activities outside work or relevant literature.

Summary

Above and beyond all the points above, this trainer is someone who creates an open and safe learning environment. We are always confident that I can approach my trainer with any problem or concern, both professional and personal. The trainer will take the time to listen patiently and develop solutions in a collaborative manner. Their calm and reliable manner means that trainee interaction is always positive and rewarding. MK sees the positive in people, gives everyone a fair opportunity and looks for ways to develop our learning needs. We fully support his nomination for Trainer of the Year.