**Northern Deanery’s Nomination for Trainer of the Year: Mr Andy Burns**

**Trainee Development**

Mr Burns has been a consultant for over ten years and he has acted as educational and clinical supervisor for numerous trainees rotating through his unit. Initially subspecialising in oncology, he is renowned for his extraordinary patience in theatre where he would act as an enormously reassuring and supportive presence as trainees took their first steps in the daunting field of oncology surgery. He has recently moved his focus to skin cancer where his head and neck expertise means trainees have unrivalled exposure to skin procedures from the smallest excision biopsy to the most extensive resections and reconstructions. In addition to clinical supervision, Mr Burns is renowned for the pastoral support he provides for trainees, from frazzled new SHOs to senior registrars on the cusp of CCT. His door is always open and he always has a plentiful supply of tea, biscuits and advice to diffuse the most stressful of situations.

**Professionalism**

Mr Burns’ professionalism is apparent in his warm and friendly manner. He is universally liked and respected by theatre, ward and out-patient staff. His demeanour makes him highly approachable meaning trainees do not hesitate to contact him for advice, no matter the time of day or night. His patient-centric approach to care results in frequent expressions of gratitude from patients and relatives, many of whom cannot praise him highly enough. He maintains a level head during even the most stressful of situations, from dealing with a difficult airway to the inadvertent loss of two hours’ worth of input into a Learning Agreement on ISCP.

**Leadership**

Mr Burns’ ten years of oncology work has had a fundamental role in his unit’s reputation as a leading head and neck oncology unit, where OMFS perform all aspects of both ablative and reconstructive cancer procedures. He has trained numerous now-consultants in the finer aspects of microvascular surgery. He has a real ability to see the bigger picture and can rapidly determine a clear solution in complex situations, as frequently demonstrated on head and neck and skin MDTs and on ward rounds. His role as chair of the region’s STC has helped establish and maintain a high quality training programme, for which the trainees are hugely appreciative.

**Communication**

Mr Burns has a wonderful manner with patients and puts them at ease during even the most difficult consultations. He is always accessible and willing to offer advice to any member of staff, from junior ward nurses through to fellow consultants. He is able to guide trainees through complex procedures using simple explanation, and is patient and uncomplaining throughout whatever eclectic music playlist the trainee has selected for the day.

R**esourcefulness**

Mr Burns will never shy away from getting his hands dirty, and has on more than one occasion held the on-call SHO pager, much to the confusion of the registrar looking for a junior to pass jobs onto.

**Summary**

Our region’s trainees take great pleasure in nominating Mr Burns for Trainer of the Year. His patience, approachability and outstanding standards of clinical care have helped build and maintain his unit’s reputation as an outstanding place to train.