**Trainer of the Year Yorkshire and the Humber: Mr Martin Telfer**

**Lead Trainee: Mr Jiten Parmar**

The following document highlights the importance of Mr Telfer’s contribution both locally as a trainer in the region, and also nationally to help the speciality of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery prosper in all disciplines, but especially the management of skin malignancies and their reconstruction. Mr Telfer is an asset to the speciality, to the region, and also to other specialities who have learnt from his crossover training.

**Trainee Development**

Mr Telfer’s enthusiasm to teach is one of the first things you will notice about his manner and his professional conduct. He is always happy to give advice about the complex reconstructive methods in current practice in the head and neck. It doesn’t really matter whether you are a first year or final year trainee, you get the sense of being able to prosper and work to your maximal potential when Mr Telfer is around. His communication and elegant way of explaining procedures makes even the most daunting of tasks as a junior trainee seem like an achievable goal. Outside, of work, Mr Telfer has always ensured that trainees are well balanced, and have a balanced home/work balance. This is difficult to achieve, however, even at the end of my training, I am humbled by this consultants ability to have a balanced lifestyle with three young boys at university, a successful career, the ability to still have time to teach and continue to refine his techniques and continue to try new developments in head and neck surgery.

**Professionalism**

As a role model, there is no consultant that I know of who is more respected by is colleagues, patients and trainees. Observing Mr Telfer in clinic helps you develop your own communication skills. His devotion to his patients has led him to have a reputation amongst his hospital colleagues and general practitioner colleagues as being the first point of call for head and neck cutaneous malignancies, and he has developed strong relationships locally with his occuloplastic and dermatology colleagues. Regionally, he is recognised for his skin malignancy and reconstructive work, and has helped develop strong links with Moh’s surgeons in Leeds. His recent work with NICE in updating melanoma skin cancer guidelines will pave the way for safer care for patients with this morbid disease.

**Leadership**

Mr Telfer helped develop the service in York single handily early in his career, and even though he has had many managerial roles in his time, perhaps the most outstanding is his role as the Associate Medical Director at York Hospital. Through this pivotal role, he has helped deliver improved care to thousands and improved working relations for all staff.

**Communication**

I cannot think of anyone with more elegant use of the English language. Mr Telfer’s ability to charm even the most disgruntled patient/colleague/trainee and put them at ease is one of his biggest assets. As a trainee, there are a few role models that are worth following, and Mr Telfer is one of them. His patient centred focus, his excellent communication with all healthcare professionals and patients, his holistic approach to healthcare, his life experience and his excellent surgical skill make him the complete trainer and colleague.

**Resourcefulness**

Mr Telfer’s career has been one of self-realisation and continued surgical development. Even to this day, he has continues to refine his techniques, develop new ones and endeavours to pass these new skills onto his trainees.

**Summary**

In summary, Mr Telfer is a gifted surgeon, an inspiration to his speciality, a great mentor and a fantastic trainer. As role models go, there is nobody else that could be so well suited for the award of “Trainer of the Year”.