



Obituary for Ian Cliffe Martin
19th April 1957 – 24th May 2024

Ian Martin was born in Chorlton-cum-Hardy on 19th May 1957. He was initially educated at the local primary school, after failing the entrance exam for Manchester Grammar School he fell back on his musical talents and successfully auditioned for the Manchester Cathedral Choir where he gained entry to Chetham's School of Music. Originally planning a musical career, visits to the local dentist ignited a medical career and saw Ian successfully gain entry to King's College in London to study Dentistry for what was to be his first degree. Whilst at King's, he joined the University Air Squadron to be taught flying by the RAF and fully embraced the amateur dramatic society. As an undergraduate he was awarded the Wallis Prize and went on to present his work on halothane scavenging at the British Dental Association Centenary Meeting, and in turn

at the American Dental Association in New Orleans. Inspired by the opportunities, a career in Maxillofacial Surgery offered, he embarked on a second degree at Kings in Medicine. As Senior Scholar at medical school, Ian's career flourished culminating in an honour's degree in 1986. Upon qualifying he spent 6 months as a House Physician at Kings and as a House Surgeon in 1987 for a further 6 months. After a move to the South West he embarked on a two-year surgical rotation. Half way through Ian met Diane, who was then working as an associate in a dental practice, at a friend's wedding in Worthing. They married in 1989 and their daughter Katherine was born in 1990.

Completing his surgical rotation on the South Coast to become a fellow of the RCS England, a post as Locum Senior Registrar in Newcastle had opened his eyes to the beauty and charm of the North East of England. Securing a Registrar position in Merseyside brought Ian back to the specialty to complete higher surgical training, working under David Vaughan, who he had first met at Kings. David was one of the few Maxillofacial Surgeons at the time carrying out microvascular surgery. The skills acquired in Liverpool were the foundation for a Senior Registrar post in East Grinstead to complete his Maxillofacial Training. In 1993 he was appointed as a Consultant in Sunderland where he remained until his retirement in 2019.

Following his appointment as a Consultant, it is difficult to know how an individual could have made a greater impact on our specialty locally, nationally or internationally. The unit in Sunderland had already been the home to several luminaries of the specialty; however, it flourished with Ian's arrival and a firm belief in training. His clinical skills were focussed, evidence-based, practised with a rigour and complemented operative skills second to none; with Ian's ability to pass all these qualities on to his trainees, Sunderland was quickly established as a Mecca for training in a unit that would make you happy to entrust any member of your family to his care. His RAF training meant trainees would be subjected to regular flight checks whilst operating, not limited to the operating microscope, training under Ian's wing covered much more than surgery and included a musical education thanks

to Classic FM during major cases and culinary appreciation courtesy of Ian and Diane's frequent and generous hospitality at their home in Whickham.

Ian, with Jerry Ryan, expanded the unit in Sunderland from two consultants to six, reflecting the depth, breadth and success of the department. He was appointed as a Senior Lecturer in Newcastle in 1997 and studied for a Law Degree in Cardiff. Ian was initially lead clinician for head and neck cancer, then taking up the role of Clinical Director he took the Head and Neck directorate from strength to strength, completing his time in Sunderland as Medical Director.

On the national and international stage Ian made significant contributions to our specialty in his roles as chairman of the SAC and of BAOMS Council. He was elected President of EACMFS and BAOMS, culminating in very successful meetings in London in 2016 and Durham in 2018, respectively. With a legal background, his greatest attribute is arguably the singularly compelling manner in which he has represented the specialty so eloquently in the wider field of surgery; President of FSSA, President of BAHNO and lead Clinical Coordinator and ultimately Trustee of NCEPOD to name but a few. His career long endeavours to drive the specialty and standards forward were recognised in 2000 with the BAOMS Surgery Prize and 2010 with the Down Prize, the highest honour BAOMS can bestow on a fellow of the association. The culmination of this pursuit of excellence is manifest in the use of his presidential fund to initiate the BAOMS QOMS project. The vision of the centralised collection of high-quality data from every unit is well on the way to realisation. The value of this initiative was recognised by the association with a Life Honorary Fellowship of BAOMS awarded in 2024.

Despite this extensive list of professional roles and accolades, Ian had an enviable ability to enjoy a life outside work. Whilst on the South Coast he acquired a Day Skipper Certificate and the move to the North East allowed him to once again pursue his love of flying as a part-time flying instructor out of Newcastle Airport. Not content with simply instructing, he also became a CAA flight examiner as well as being an Honorary Air Commodore and Civilian Consultant to the RAF. All these activities were interlaced with a love of fine food, fine wine, and his lifelong passion for classical music.

A husband and father, surgeon, clinician, trainer, negotiator, manager, leader, and ambassador of the specialty, Ian has left an indelible mark on all those who knew him and the specialty he dedicated his life to. Ian passed away on the 24th May 2024 age 67. He leaves his wife Diane and daughter Katherine.

Mrs Diane Martin 01 06 2024