We, the trainees of Mersey & North Wales, would like to nominate Prof. Simon Rogers for the prestigious Trainer of the Year Award 2015, for his overall approach to training and his ability to lead by example, inspire and encourage in a background of fairness, empowerment, advancement of academic, technical skills, clinical skills and pragmatism.

**Leadership**: In these roles Prof. Rogers demonstrates effective leadership and communication by running meetings in a constructive and effective manner. He as a leader understands that the attitude of the team is a reflection of his own and thus leads by example. He delegates jobs to match the strengths of the team, to improve throughput and efficacy. With his commitment and positive attitude he maintains a high team morale and is an inspiration. Currently holds a leadership and management role as a Clinical Business Lead for the ENT, OMFS, Ophthalmology, Dermatology and Breast services in the Trust

**Training and Development:** Prof. Rogers has been a trainer at University Hospital Aintree for 16 years and has contributed to the training of many successful Registrars. His principal field of practice is head and neck oncology as well as skin lesions, routine dento-alveolar, trauma, general OMFS clinics. Despite his heavy case-load, academic and administrative engagements his committedness to training and to the future of Maxillofacial surgery is evident in the amount of time and patience he devotes to us, the Trainees. He is an prolific author of over 250 peer reviewed papers. Its very unlikely for a trainee to work on his firm without getting motivated to get into research projects that have real clinical meaning and make a difference to patient care and our practice. Usually one would come out the other end of the block with a few abstracts or publications to their credit.

In the operating theatre he takes on the role of a nurturing guide by taking us through the procedure correcting, commenting, demonstrating and gently encouraging patiently whilst allowing the transfer of surgical skills at trainees own pace. He effectively regulates his involvement to the existing ability of the trainee to maximise the benefit to them and building strong foundations for future development. This makes operating with him a beneficial experience, excellent for the vital confidence building and generally very enjoyable. He promotes an active learning environment by regularly assessing knowledge and highlighting deficiencies to promote further learning. He encourages a positive engagement in his clinical decision making and welcomes other ideas for discussion which help in developing a well rounded clinician. Being an empathetic person himself, he emphasises on kindness, caring & compassion; the softer skills of being a good surgeon.

**Professionalism:** Prof. Rogers enjoys a great sense of camaraderie from all the staff he works with in various capacities and roles. This is down to him being very professional and calm at all times. He has a gift of managing awkward situations and difficult behaviour appropriately and fairly. As a mentor he can be approached for advice without concern of judgement and/or ridicule, and has words of encouragement when needed. His professionalism, unbiased opinion and expertise allows other professionals to freely seek a second opinion on difficult cases which promotes safe practice.

**Resourcefulness:** In his various administrative roles as described above, Prof. Rogers is able to harness all the available resources to process the task to completion in a calm and organised manner. His superb communication with fellow colleagues allow him to derive the best out of them. His humble manner of expression of gratitude for their help promotes togetherness in the team. His talent of identifying core competencies of his colleagues also allow him to approach the right person for the right job thus improving efficacy. Keeping patient interest at his core he manages to wrap our training around it to maximise on clinical encounters.

**Communication:** Prof. Rogers is a very effective communicator, with his patients he takes time explain things in very understandable terms and gives them time to put forth their concerns and satisfies their queries promptly and clearly. His compassion for the patients is unparalleled and is reflected in the amount of faith and trust the patients come to develop in their brief encounter with him. He is non-judgemental, supportive and has a good sense of humour which definitely makes him approachable which is complemented by his open door policy and being a good listener. Despite a busy schedule, Prof. Rogers always seems to have time to answer a question or to clarify a point and provides clear direction as necessary. As a mentor, he provides genuine support and is easily approachable to discuss training related issues in a confidential, open manner that builds trust.

As a group of registrars form Mersey & North Wales region, we feel that Prof. Rogers sets an excellent example for us and is an exceptional role model and an unsung hero. We think its worth emulating everything that he stands for & would be a worthy winner of the BAOMS OMFS Trainer of the Year. We also believe that as a trainer, Prof. Rogers ticks all the boxes that this prize is designed to recognise & hope that we were able to showcase these in the allocated few words to solicit the support from our colleagues around the UK for this nomination.