**Nomination for Trainer of the Year – Mr Michael Gilhooly**

On behalf of all North London OMFS trainees, I take great pleasure in nominating Mr Michael Gilhooly for BAOMS Trainer of the Year, 2016.

**Trainee Development**

Throughout his long career, trainees have recognised MG’s incredible skills as a trainer and as a surgeon. His warmth, good humour and approachable manner, and strong dedication to teaching, have made trainee development a cornerstone of his surgical practice. He is quick to establish good relationships with new trainees, readily identifies strengths and weaknesses, so improving surgical opportunities in the most supportive manner. His patience, skill and generosity win the confidence of new and more experienced trainees alike. Long an advocate for OMFS trainees, he was London TPD for many years, putting trainee need first, streamlining rotations and organising teaching. As an educational supervisor, and beyond, he has supported many research projects, encouraging juniors to present and publish often. Given these qualities, and constant service for the benefit of OMFS trainees, it is of no surprise that they hold him in such high regard.

**Professionalism**

As a dedicated and caring head and neck cancer surgeon, working across three sites, professional integrity is at the core of MG’s interaction with both patient and colleague. The team he has developed around him reflects these values. We see this demonstrated routinely in the clinic, where patients appreciate his reassuring, honest and friendly manner. Regional audits, such as those looking at his fibula free flaps or pioneering nasal reconstructions following resection, acknowledge consistently high patient outcomes, at or above ‘gold standards’ of care. This professionalism extends to his colleagues, allied specialties, and all members of the multidisciplinary team, serving to enhance and improve the training environment and learning opportunities available.

**Leadership**

The remarkable expansion, and excellent reputation, of his Regional OMFS Unit is a testament to MG’s leadership. From a small base with 4 consultants, he has helped to oversee the development of a Unit that now covers 8 hospitals and has 10 consultants. This would not have been possible without his foresight and knack for team building. He has actively led clinically and academically, as Clinical Lead, Head and Neck MDT lead, Trust Lead for Cancer, Educational Supervisor and Training Programme Director to the benefit of patient and trainee alike. With his enthusiasm and inclusive leadership, it is easy to see how he inspires a future generation of OMFS leaders.

**Communication**

MG’s great ability to listen to his patients, trainees and fellow consultants makes him one of the strongest communicators I know. Never difficult to contact nor unavailable to discuss cases or training matters, the passion he has for OMFS, and the patients he serves, comes across readily. He can explain the implications of the cancer diagnosis with care and clarity, always allowing time for questions, a fantastic example for surgeons from all backgrounds and levels. Coupled with his easy, warm sense of humour, the regard that his patients and colleagues hold him in is not difficult to understand.

**Resourcefulness**

The NHS, and OMFS training, has seen many changes over the 15 years that MG has been in NW London. His resourcefulness is evident in the Regional Unit that he has helped to develop, successfully matching OMFS services over the years to increasing local demand despite difficulties that all specialties have faced in the NHS. As TPD, he used educational reorganisation as an opportunity to increase training opportunities for trainees throughout London.

**Summary**

It is difficult to define a ‘successful career’ in surgery but if maintaining excellent clinical standards over many decades, enthusiastically teaching and training juniors, and having and holding the respect and esteem of your patients and colleagues counts, then MG has undoubtedly succeeded. Approaching retirement, he will be missed but his legacy will not only be a large, successful Regional Unit but dozens of enthused and inspired trainees who have had the privilege to work with him, not to speak of the hundreds of patients whose life he has impacted upon for the better. A role model, I cannot recommend him more strongly for recipient of the BAOMS Trainer of the Year Award.