**BAOMS Trainer of the Year 2018**

Trainee Development

In the theatre environment Mr Cobb is a brilliantly ‘hands off’ trainer and despite the complexity of some of the cleft work he undertakes, is willing to allow trainees time with the knife, and guide with huge patience and encouragement. Mr Cobb is always a loudly empathetic voice for the trainee’s perspective at every ARCP and is a palpable presence of welcome warm support through every process. Mr Cobb’s open and approachable nature make him a firm favourite for any advice both surgical and in life, and he inevitably has sage wisdom to share that helps trainees to feel their way through their training without being swamped with worry. This human touch is a huge asset to training within the region and to our specialty as a whole.

Professionalism

Mr Cobb is highly professional and always generous with his time day or night. As a cleft consultant Mr Cobb can often have a foot in both the OMFS and Plastics ‘camps’, and indeed, due to his popularity as a trainer has trainees from both specialties within theatre most of the time. It is a credit to both his professionalism and leadership that he ensures the smooth relationship between trainees of different specialties to ensure educational aims are achieved for everyone involved.

Leadership

Mr Cobb has completely redesigned and relaunched the registrar regional teaching programme within the region and his enthusiasm for teaching and trainee development is always clear. He goes out of his way to ensure trainees learning aims are met, even taking the time to provide an entire day of lectures when other lecturers were unable to attend. He is the surgical lead for the Cleft service regionally, a national trainer for Cleft and is at the head of national teaching for our specialty in his capacity at the Royal Society of Medicine.

Communication

Mr Cobb has impeccable communication and certainly embraces a non-hierarchical approach which allows all team members, both within the operative environment and the Cleft MDT, to be valued and supported. This is especially noticeable and welcomed by trainees new to the team, who perhaps enter with initially limited knowledge as to the usual running of the MDT. It allows trainees to feel comfortable enough to contribute and learn in a non-pressurised environment.

Resourcefulness

Mr Cobb has a huge flare for helping trainees make the most of their time in training and is very resourceful and encouraging with access to surgical opportunities outside of the usual training programme. He is always willing to introduce you to one of the many interesting and hugely diverse contacts he has made throughout his career to allow the advancement of your training or specialty interest.

Summary

As a trainer Mr Cobb is caring, generous and enthusiastic. He makes the workplace a hugely enjoyable place to be and all the trainees in the region wholeheartedly support his nomination for Trainer of the Year.