

**BAOMS Trainer of the Year 2018**  
**West Midlands Nomination: Mr. Ahmed Messahel**

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**Trainee Development**

Mr Messahel takes an active role in identifying training deficiencies and seeking opportunities within the department and across the region. Trainees are made to feel that their development as surgeons is the sole focus of any given interaction. Lists are not infrequently booked to reduced capacity to maximize learning. Whenever there is a teaching opportunity, time is made to explore it with the trainee. The teaching is also tailored to the learning style and personality of the trainee. As one trainee remarked: "At no point in my training has any one individual taken such consideration towards my development whilst catering for my specific needs. I felt valued and encouraged at all times, be it in successful or challenging times, without agenda or judgment, but with the aim to allow me to grow into my role."

**Professionalism**

Mr Messahel treats his staff, his trainees and his patients with equal and unfaltering respect and sensitivity. Irrespective of the level of training one has attained, he will introduce his trainee to his patients as a colleague. He would let it be clear that your contribution is valued, which in turn has been reciprocated by an unwavering reverence for his opinion by all those fortunate to work for him. Mr Messahel is the trainer to confide in in times of difficulty, for he is discreet and consistently so.

**Leadership**

Mr Messahel is Clinical Lead for the specialty at his Trust. His leadership style is most palpable in the operating theatres, engendering a convivial atmosphere reciprocated by the theatre team. His good relations with other departments mean that his trainees are equally welcome in the Maxillofacial theatre and when visiting sister specialties, including Dermatology, Oculoplastics and ENT. The sense of duty that theatre staff expressed towards those of us at the steepest upstroke of the learning curve was in no small part because we were Mr Messahel's trainees.

**Communication**

Those fortunate enough to have been trained by him shall always remember Mr Messahel as the voice of clarity, of calm and empathy. He contributes to instructional study days, regional workshops and has contributed to a valuable publication aimed at preparing trainees for the Fellowship examination. Beyond this, he has raised the profile of the specialty more widely, featuring in a BBC Radio 4 interview with one of his patients, recounting her path from disfiguring trauma to pioneering reconstruction.

**Resourcefulness**

In his constant strive for creating learning opportunities for his trainees Mr Messahel has insisted in a service contract with a surgical supplier that they fund a training seat once every year for his trainees. I do not know of many surgeons who actively integrate fiscal, service and training requirements to such a level.

**Summary**

Mr Messahel has been nominated for this award by every trainee that worked for him year on year without exception, accruing to this point where the vote in our region weighed heavily in his favour. We nominate him for exemplary professionalism, training initiatives, unwavering benevolence and a principled commitment to the specialty that deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated. In the words of the man himself: "Training should be enjoyable, because that's when you learn the most."