**BAOMS Trainer of the Year**

**Yorkshire and the Humber Nomination**

**Stephen Crank**

We wish to nominate Mr Stephen Crank, Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon with an interest in Head and Neck Oncology and Reconstruction at Hull Royal Infirmary.

**Trainee Development**

Mr Crank is a technically excellent surgeon, having both a logical approach to intraoperative decision-making and the operative steps as well as a good “pair of hands”. He aims to maximize the time trainees spend actually operating themselves, has an encouraging manner and is always patient. He “takes the knife” off the trainee only to demonstrate briefly how they could improve their approach before handing control back over. He has a good awareness of his registrars’ needs with respect to developing their logbook and will always seek to populate lists with good teaching cases. Alternatively he will release his trainee to operate with other surgeons if he feels their training will be better served by doing this.

Out of the operating theatre Mr Crank provides good teaching on ward rounds, supporting his registrars’ decision making and stepping in without being overbearing if they feel uncertain about how to manage a patient. He also takes time on clinic wherever possible to select cases that he feels will provide the most educational benefit to the trainee and review these with them.

**Professionalism**

Mr Crank holds himself to professional standards that as surgeons we should all aspire to. He is always available to staff and trainees alike, is punctual and polite. He always reviews patients personally preoperatively and post operatively. He has an intimidating encyclopaedic knowledge of all of his past and current patients’ history, down to their interests and family ties, and this enables him to tailor their care appropriately as well as maintain an excellent rapport with them.

**Leadership**

Mr Crank leads by example (and is indeed the Lead Clinician for the department in Hull). He values others’ opinions and works well with other members of the multidisciplinary team, particularly as it pertains to his head and neck cancer patients. He is approachable and handles problems with patient care and staff conduct carefully yet firmly when required. He is frequently the first and last clinician “in the building”, often out of a desire to make sure that both trainees and colleagues who live further afield can get home to their families.

**Communication**

From a trainee’s perspective, it’s hard to say how Mr Crank could make himself any more accessible! If he is in the hospital, he will always do his best to make time for his trainees and if he’s not immediately available he will seek you out as soon as he is. When not in the hospital, he is happy to take calls about any of his patients whether he is on call or not!

Mr Crank is always honest and open with his patients, imparting information about their diagnosis, care and prognosis in a manner that is easy to understand and that always shows empathy and sensitivity.

**Resourcefulness**

Mr Crank is a “thinking” surgeon, and relishes the opportunity to tackle difficult cases using possibly radical (but always logical and safe) surgical approaches or novel equipment if the need arises. He can adapt his approach to aberrant anatomy easily as well as utilize unusual equipment for surgery should the need arise.

**Summary**

Mr Crank is in our opinion a trainer who would be difficult to better. He is polite, friendly, an excellent clinician and is always available even when he probably shouldn’t be! He has been nominated within his trust for a “Golden Heart” and it is easy to understand why as he never stops caring for his patients; in fact it can be hard to get him to go home!