

ACPGBI & Dukes' Club 2022 Trainer of the Year Awarded to Aneel Bhangu

Mr Aneel Bhangu nominated by Elizabeth Li, James Glasbey, Dimitri Nepogoddiev and Joana Simoes ie they all signed the same application.

Which environments does your nominee train in?

Aneel Bhangu is a clinical scientist, academic, colorectal surgeon and lead in the NIHR Global Surgery Unit. He trains across multiple settings, including academia, and incorporates mentorship into every aspect of his work. He supervises undergraduates, PhD fellows, and academic clinical lecturers, of which numerous graduated with 1st class honours and distinctions. He has successfully upskilled a team of young researchers in delivering COVIDSurg - an ongoing portfolio of studies which includes over 500,000 patients.

How does your nominee 'train' you do to a particular operation?

Aneel is a purposeful operator with exceptional social awareness. Recognising team dynamics, priming expectations with a grounded understanding of the trainees' needs has enabled him to progress multiple trainees of contrasting ambitions, personalities and seniority with great success. He is able to walk the fine line between strong leadership and delivering a sense of safety but also facilitating independence and didactic learning. Furthermore, he recognises his own limitations and actively works towards self-development.

How does your nominee support personal and professional development?

Aneel cultivates an inquisitive academic mind-set, and when paired with an understanding of a trainee's current skill base and career trajectory, has enabled his trainees to greatly accelerate their professional development and growth as independent researchers. He is approachable and considerate and he does not instruct but provides gentle guidance on professional and personal matters. Above all, he is available and reliable, and strongly advocates for his trainees. All underpinned by experience and patience.

How does your nominee train and support the wider surgical team?

He leads the Global Surgery Unit, composed of statisticians, non-medical researchers and trialists. He takes an active interest in career progression of the entire team, has established PhDs for the statisticians, facilitated lead author roles for trial managers and overseen numerous team members rise to senior positions. He encourages inclusivity and collaboration and has created a team with high morale and ambitious goals that lead a global network of 15,000 surgeons across 140 countries.

What training initiatives has your nominee developed/ participated in? (Please give date and indicate whether local, regional or international)

Aneel provided key senior oversight to STARSurg, the first student-led collaborative network. Since 2013, STARSurg has delivered 7 national and international studies which has included >30,000 patients and upskilled >4000 students in research.

Since 2020 he has led <https://www.thinksurgery.org/>, a globally accessible, free online learning environment delivering cutting-edge education based on the latest surgical research, which has sign ups from >700 surgeons from across the world and delivered >1500 CPD/CME points.