

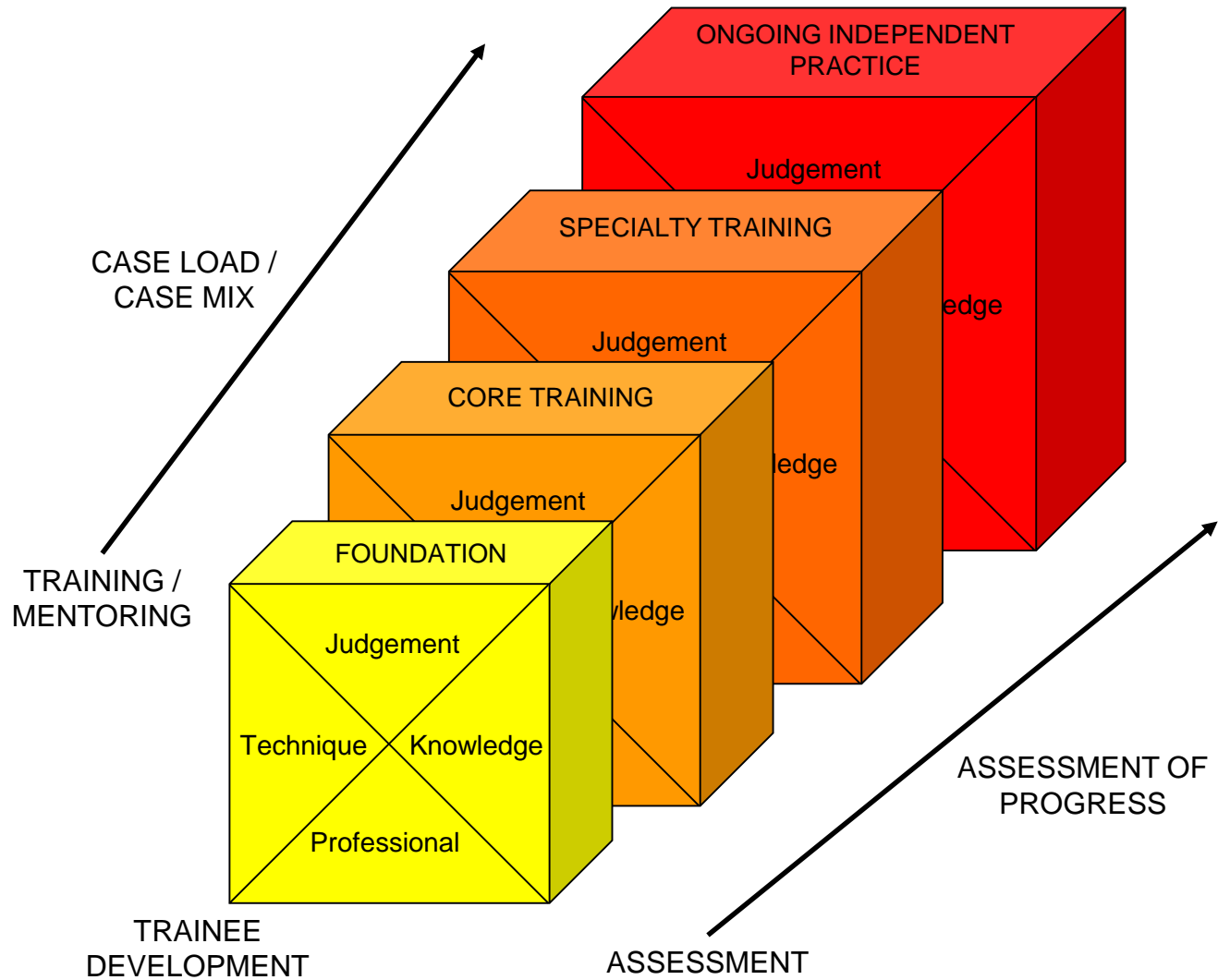


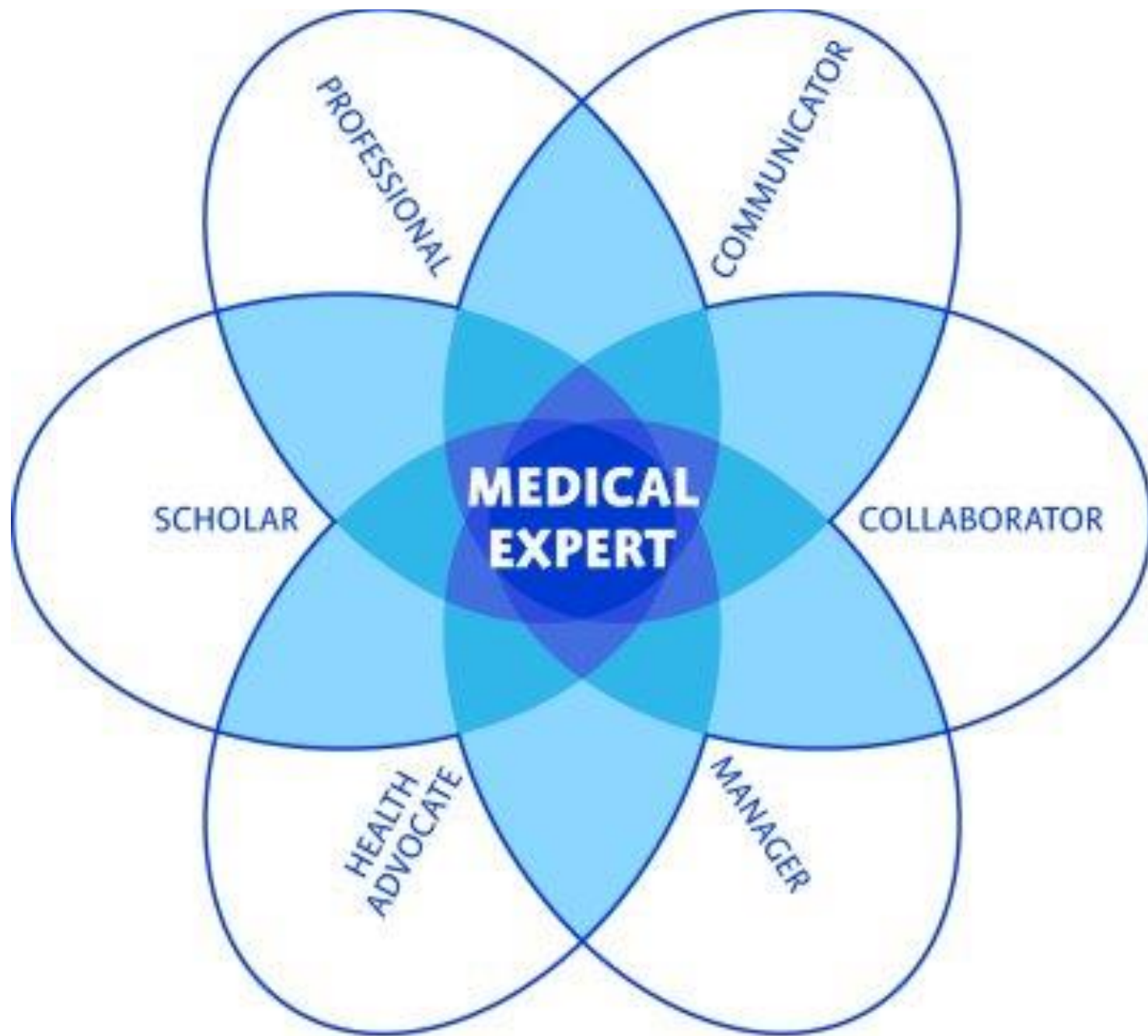
# Qualities of a surgical trainee

Miss Rhiannon L Harries MRCS MD MFSTEd

General Surgical ST7, Wales Deanery

ASiT Past- President 2015-16





## The Qualities of a Successful Surgeon

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### A WARM PERSONALITY

The surgeon should be interested in other people. Patients respond best to surgeons who treat them as human beings. The martinet who feels superior to everyone else invites trouble, both from patients and from colleagues.

### INTELLIGENCE

The surgeon must be well informed about the anatomy, physiology, pathology, and pharmacology of surgical disease. Understanding the scientific basis for an operation separates the surgeon from the skilled technician.

### AN ETHICAL APPROACH

The surgeon should understand that the patient's best interests take precedence. Serving the patient appropriately is more important than satisfying the insurance company, completing a research protocol, or assembling a large clinical series for publication.

### HUMILITY

The surgeon should realize that a major operation is not a 1-person affair. No matter how talented the surgeon may be, the active participation of associates and assistants is essential before, during, and after the operation. Better cooperation is received from individuals who feel that their worth is recognized and appreciated.

### REALISM

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### JUDGMENT

In deciding whether an operation is appropriate, the opinions of the primary care physician, consultant, and anesthesiologist are important. However, the ultimate decision to operate must be made by the surgeon.

### SELF-ANALYSIS

The surgeon must look objectively at a bad result and attempt to learn from mistakes. Careful analysis of errors in judgment or technique leads to better care for future patients. The tendency to blame problems on others rather than profiting from the experience is reprehensible.

### CURIOSITY

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### COURAGE

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Fulfilling these characteristics is not easy, but they represent appropriate goals for the successful surgeon.

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When looking for a patient with a benign tumor or critical illness, the surgeon should understand the biology of the disease process and the patient's ability to recover. It is more important for recovery than for any surgical procedure.

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Fulfilling these characteristics is not easy, but they represent a high standard for the successful surgeon.

John H. Morley, MD  
Rochester, NY

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John H. Moore  
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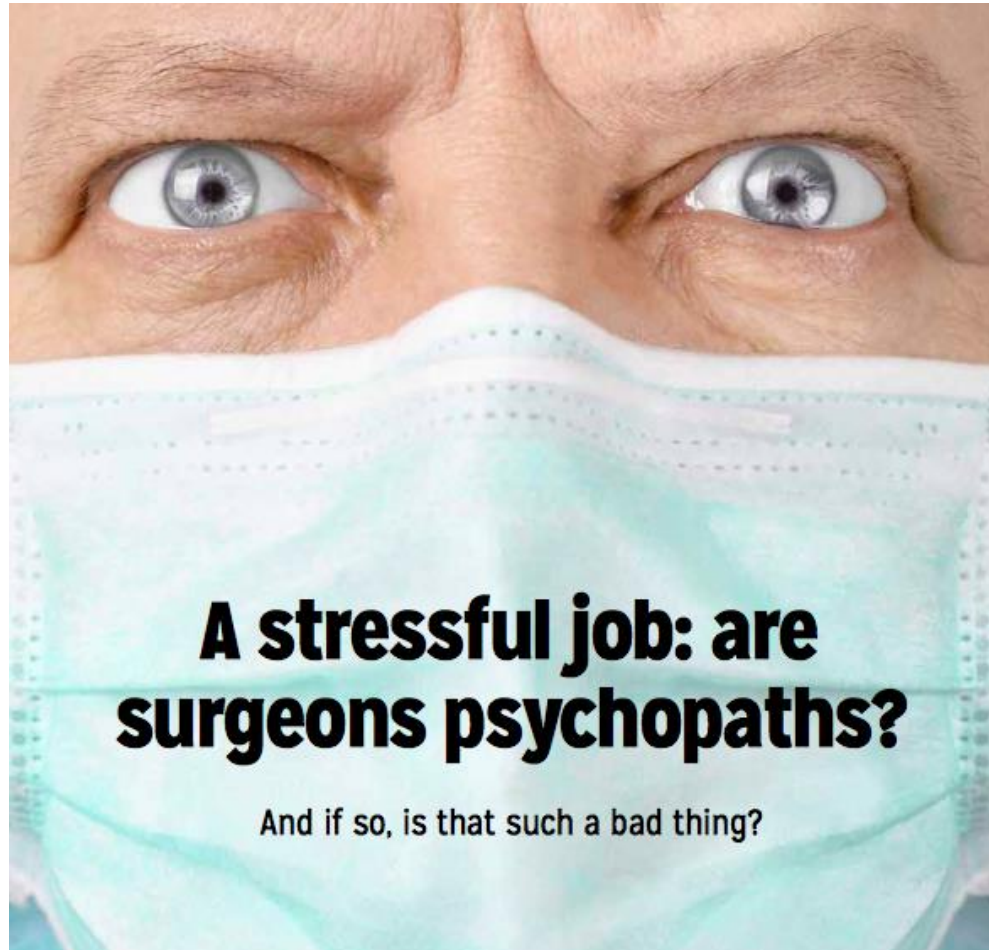
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# Do we have a personality type?



**A stressful job: are  
surgeons psychopaths?**

And if so, is that such a bad thing?



## A stressful job: are surgeons psychopaths?

**Table 2** The mean Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Short Form scores (out of a maximum of 224) for each of the hospital subspecialties

Specialty	n	Mean score	p-value*
Medical specialties	71	128	0.243
Surgery	43	138	0.023
Anaesthetics/ intensive care	22	125	0.826
Psychiatry	16	130	0.143
Paediatrics	10	148	0.010
Radiology	10	125	0.375

If so, is that such a bad thing?

**Table 4** The leading personality traits by specialty

Specialty	Traits
Medical specialties	Stress immunity, carefree non-planfulness
Radiology	Cold-heartedness, social potency
Anaesthetics	Stress immunity, cold-heartedness
Psychiatry	Stress immunity, fearlessness and carefree non-planfulness
Paediatrics	Stress immunity, fearlessness and carefree non-planfulness
Surgery	Stress immunity, fearlessness



Royal College  
of Surgeons

ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE

## SURGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

*Ann R Coll Surg Engl* 2018; **100**: 72–77  
doi 10.1308/rcsann.2017.0200

# The surgical personality: does it exist?

**Matthew Whitaker**

Department of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics, Birkbeck University of London, London, UK

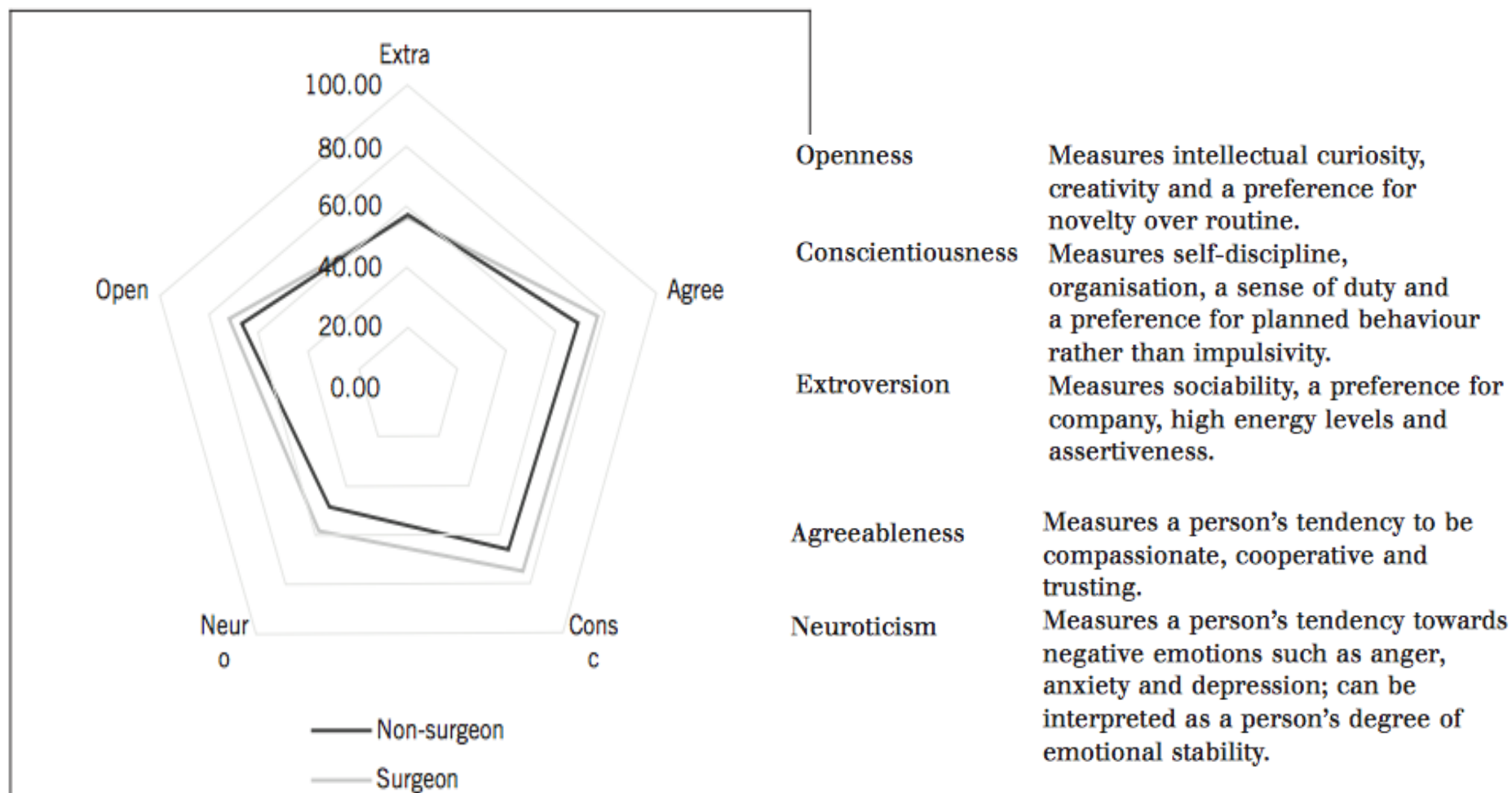
### ABSTRACT

**INTRODUCTION** This study aims to answer the question of whether surgeons have different personalities to non-surgeons.

**METHODS** Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England were sent an email survey containing 50 standard questions from the Five Factor personality assessment, which scores each respondent in five key personality traits (conscientiousness, agreeableness, neuroticism, openness, extroversion). Results were analysed and compared with a population-level data set from a survey conducted by the BBC.

**RESULTS** Five hundred and ninety-nine surgeons completed the survey. Analysis showed that surgeons scored significantly higher for conscientiousness, agreeableness, openness and neuroticism than non-surgeons ( $P < 0.05$ ). Further analysis showed that female surgeons scored higher in openness and extroversion relative to the population average and that surgeons become more prone to neuroticism than non-surgeons as they age.

**CONCLUSIONS** The results support the notion of a surgical personality, as well as indicating that female surgeons have significantly different personality profiles from male surgeons, and that age affects surgeons' personalities in different ways to non-surgeons.



**Figure 3** Radar graph showing mean personality trait scores in the surgical and non-surgical samples



## What makes a “great resident”: the resident perspective

Venu M. Nemani • Caroline Park • Danyal H. Nawabi

*Even defining a “great” resident is a difficult endeavor. However, there are certain qualities that anecdotally are associated with high-performing residents, which include being **trustworthy, hard-working and efficient, self-directed learners, detail-oriented, and personable**. These qualities are difficult to teach and are likely learned by an individual during their early years of education and groomed during college and medical school. Individuals possessing these characteristics are more likely to bring a high-level of professionalism to their work as residents and to perform well on objective measures of success in residency such as high OITE scores, good faculty evaluations, and peer-reviewed publications*

# Communication is key

## Poor communication fuels rise in NHS complaints

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**"Careless", "insincere" and "unclear" communication has fuelled a surge in complaints against the NHS in England, the health service ombudsman has said.**

Her report says the NHS needs to improve the way it deals with patients unhappy with the care they have had.

It also highlights an increase in complaints about independent providers offering care to NHS patients.



**GPs removing patients from their lists "remains a problem", the ombudsman says**

## Willingness to learn & develop

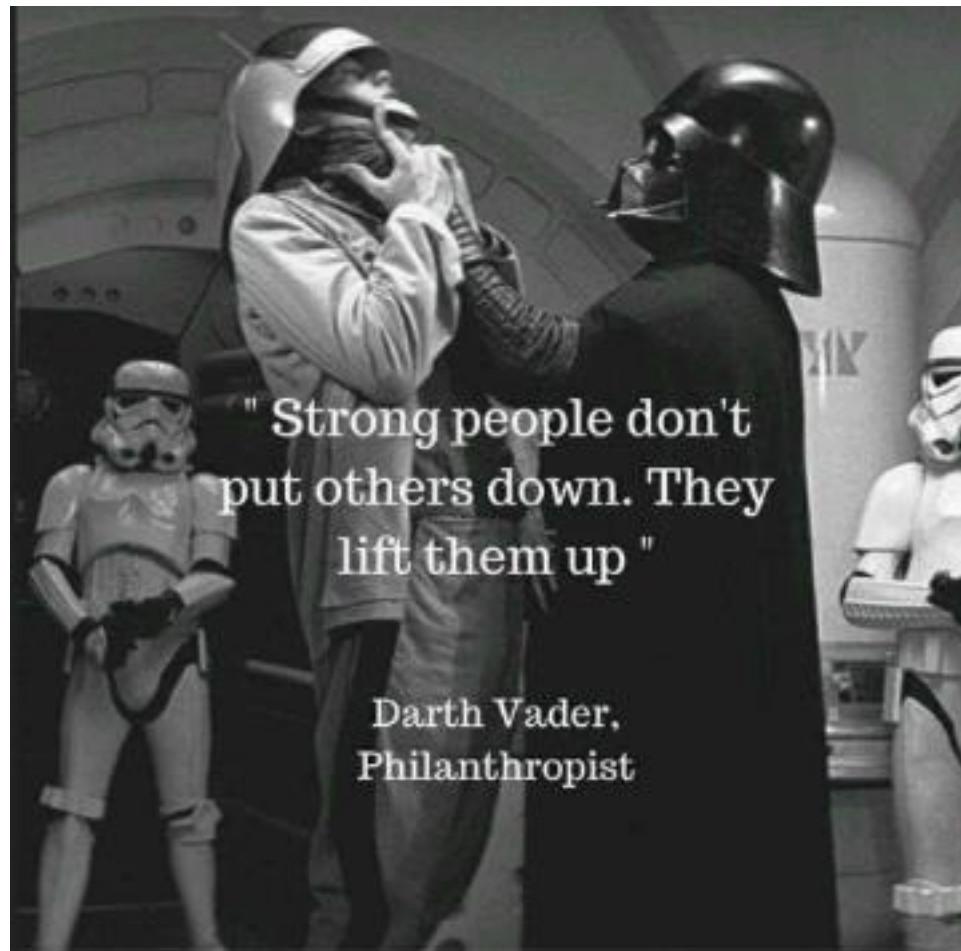
- Go to work each day prepared to learn something new
- Evidence based medicine 'Publish or perish'
- Take advice from seniors
- 'Be in it together'
- If you say 'yes'- be a finisher!

# Ability to juggle



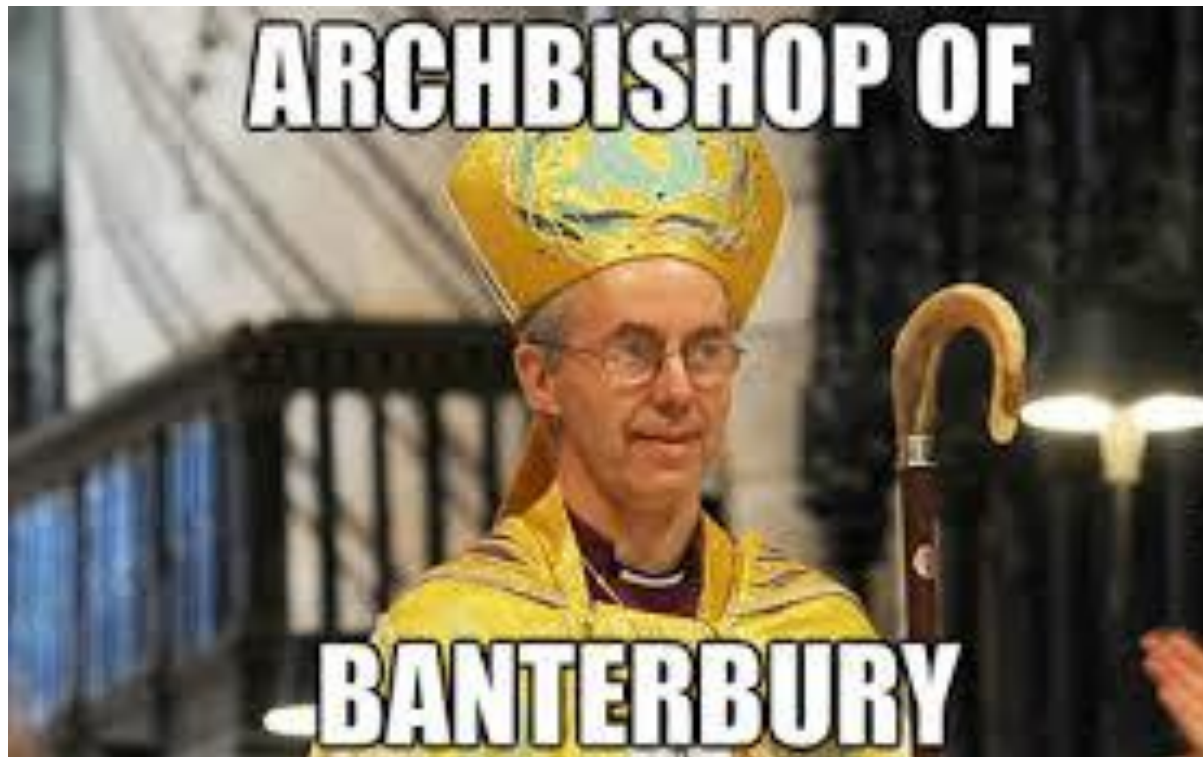
- Ability to adapt
- Manage time
- Plan in advance
- Manage money well
- Have a life outside of work!

Be the role model you had (*or wished you had...*)





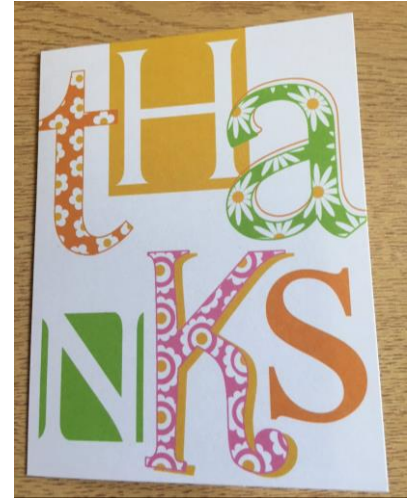
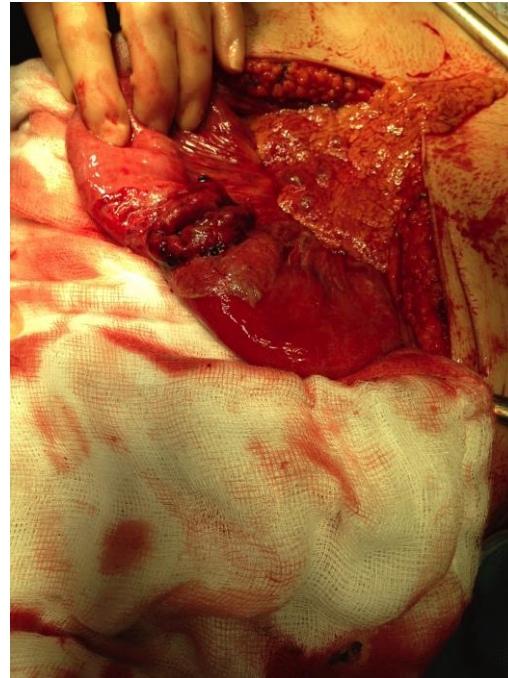
Have fun along the way!



# Hard work but it's the best job in the world!



beating  
bowel  
cancer  
now



Just a little "thank-you"...

