

Dear MCMS Nomination Committee,

I am able to recommend Dr. Marc Matthews without hesitation for MCMS distinguished individual of the year. Dr. Matthews exhibits the qualities of excellence with respect to clinical care, education, and research. He is the benchmark by which others should be measured.

Dr. Matthews provides compassionate care to all of his patients. I had the unique opportunity as his trainee in general surgery, his understudy in plastic surgery, and as his colleague in burn surgery to observe his sympathetic nature with patients. I also observed his application of comprehensive knowledge of burn, trauma, and wound care applied to victims of life changing burns. Dr. Matthews's benevolent nature was seen in his administration of care regardless of patient background or status. Marc is a caring person who will place the interest of the patient's above financial or personal consideration. He has a sense of obligation to give back to the community that has given so much to him as noted in her community service, military service, and through caring for those who are less fortunate. His most admirable quality however is the sense of pleasure that he receives from helping others through difficult situations and in times of desperation, in addition to providing outstanding and excellent patient care. It goes without saying Dr. Matthews embodies the essence of what it means to be a physician and of selflessness. Dr. Matthews deserves the award on this basis alone.

Perhaps the most noted characteristic that becomes apparent, even in brief discussion and interaction, is his endless dedication to the pursuit of knowledge. It is his motivation and drive that allowed him to pursue multiple fellowships and complete extensive training. What makes this even more impressive is his willingness and dedication to share this knowledge and training with future generations of surgeons in the residency program and the critical care fellowship through weekly talks and conferences even to outside institutions and with military personnel. Despite the increased requirements and time commitment needed for ACGME post-surgical education, he manages to serve as the director of the burn fellowship, even with a busy clinical and research schedule. Furthermore, his dedication to surgical education is manifested through the numerous presentations and talks to fellow colleagues. It is his passion for surgical education, coupled with a sense of approachability that makes him ideally suited for this award.

Dr. Mercer's most impressive feature is his dedication to clinical research. The list of peer reviewed publications that litter his CV would rival that of most Ivy League and top tier surgery programs. His additional pursuit of academic clinical appointments further demonstrates his commitment to research. Additionally, he has served as a moderator and at multiple burn surgery meetings. He embodies the sense of what it means to be a scholar.

Scott Swanson M.D.

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