

Dr Brian Donnelly
Consultant Anaesthetist
MB.BCH.BaO (QUB 1996)
FRCA (2002)
GMC no. 4325624

To whom it may concern

I have worked with Aidan O'Brien as a consultant colleague from 2007 until his retirement in 2020 at Craigavon Area Hospital and also as a senior house officer (anaesthetics) in 2001 (for a six month period).

Over this time, we have cared for many patients together, both elective and urgent, both in hours and out of hours, straightforward and complex.

With regards to Aidan's clinical practice, I can honestly say that I have never met a clinician who is more dedicated to delivering quality care to his patients. As a surgeon in a busy district general hospital, his attendance at all hours to provide direct supervision of junior surgical staff or hands on care has always been second to none.

I have always found his clinical work in the operating theatre to be considered and open. He frequently discusses the nature of each case on the operating table. His patients, in my opinion, recover quickly from surgery and require moderate analgesia.

As I am not a urologist, I am unable to appraise his work in detail, but to the best of my knowledge his surgical complication rate is low and his patients rarely need to return to the operating theatre for remedial surgery.

His clinical notes are always of a high standard and legible. He is punctual, easy to approach and makes time for all members of the multidisciplinary team. He regularly trains junior surgical colleagues in theatre in a kindly fashion.

I have never witnessed, nor been aware of any negative interpersonal issues of significance within the operating theatre environment.

Over the years, he has participated in the hospital patient safety meetings regularly. His own case presentations have always been detailed and transparent. He has always invited other clinicians to comment on his clinical decision-making in an open and welcome fashion. Likewise, from my own experience, his clinical opinions have always been viewed by his medical colleagues as insightful and valuable.

On a personal level, I have always found him easy to work with, a doctor whose clinical opinion I would value highly and whose dedication to his patients I have always admired. In many ways, from my perspective, Aidan O'Brien is the embodiment of what it is to be a consultant surgeon.

Brian Donnelly

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DR GJ MCCLEANE MD FFARCSI DA DipIMC Dip Pain Mang

Consultant in Pain Management
GMC 2913401

Re: Mr Aiden O'Brien FRCS

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I am aware of the recent announcement by the Minister of Health regarding the establishment of a Public Enquiry relating to the practice of Mr Aiden O'Brien, recently retired Consultant Urologist.

I feel compelled to offer a view on his practice from three differing perspectives.

First, I had the privilege of anaesthetising for him between his appointment as a Consultant Urologist in Craigavon Area Hospital and my departure from the Trust in 2001. While I appreciate that this perspective is now historic, I do think that my experience at that time has some relevance to the current situation.

During those years where I had direct experience of his practice, at all times he acted with the utmost professionalism. My work with him was both with elective, daytime activity and out-of-hours emergency work. His dedication to his patients was unquestionable, his work ethic unmatched, his diagnostic skill and practical abilities beyond question. He provided a level of service that others aspired to.

Second, for the last 19 years I have operated a private Pain Clinic. In this role I seem many patients with chronic health issues and a number of these have urological disorders. Mr

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O'Brien has been responsible for the care of many of those patients. These patients often discuss their general health problems and medical care with me. I have *never* heard anything from these patients of a negative nature about his practice. Indeed, many talk in a very positive fashion about Mr O'Brien's care.

The third perspective is as a resident in the Southern Health Trust catchment area. While I have never needed to seek a Urological opinion for myself, a number of friends and family have done so. They talk in nothing but the most positive terms about their experiences with Mr O'Brien. Their gratitude for his kindness, understanding and care is universal.

While I understand that my comments are necessarily anecdotal, one gets to know when a medical practitioner is providing sub-standard care. Word soon gets about. I have been overwhelmed with the widespread comment on his current situation. That comment is, in my experience, universally positive and complimentary tinged with a distress that such a caring clinician has been subjected to such negative comment by those in authority.

Aiden O'Brien is among a decreasing and increasingly rare group of clinicians who provided not just treatment, but genuine care for their patients. Many of us aspire to his level of professionalism. He has positively altered the lives of so many patients. Increased the quality of life in many, saved the lives of others, but at all times done his very best.

It has been my professional honour to have worked with Mr O'Brien. I would be happy to testify to his ability and reputation in any fora. He is an exceptional clinician who has dedicated his life to the betterment of his patients.

Gary McCleane



London Bridge Urology
6th Floor, The Shard
St Thomas' Street
London
SE1 9BS

11th November 2020

Re: Mr Aidan O'Brien, Consultant Urological Surgeon (Retired)
Craigavon Area Hospital, Craigavon, Northern Ireland

It is difficult to sum up a period which spans over our mutual careers of nearly 3 decades. I vividly remember the day Aidan O'Brien joined as the first consultant urologist in Craigavon Area Hospital (1991) while I was working in general surgery and aspiring to do urology.

In nineties, opportunities for overseas doctors were almost non-existent so much so that I was refused an honorary clinical attachment in the Belfast City Hospital, the only specialist unit at the time in Northern Ireland. Senior registrar in general surgery Mr Robin Brown, (later appointed as consultant surgeon in Newry Northern, Ireland) kindly helped me to get an attachment in the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh with late Professor Geoff Chisholm CBE, where I started my urological career. Having received exceptional encouragement and a firm commitment to train me in urology, I returned to the Craigavon Area Hospital in 1992 to join Aidan O'Brien as the first Registrar in Urology.

I soon realised after joining the unit that there was a lot common in our chemistry; hence we developed an excellent relationship in a mini urology team under Aidan O'Brien's captainship. This was based on mutual respect and shared values of the best care for patients. Aidan set the standards so high that at times these appeared to me bit unrealistic. This included emergency treatment of patients presenting with urinary stones (commonest urological emergency) to alleviate their suffering promptly as most of these were young but were unable to return to work with acute painful condition.

Most of our daily life was thus consumed in delivering exceptional service. I regard this exceptional, as since then I have not seen similar prompt definitive care (except in life threatening situations)

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delivered in any other NHS unit over last 25 years. The highlights of the service included safe execution of a broad range of almost all urological procedures including cancers (before introduction of Improving outcome guidelines (IOGs), twice daily ward rounds with utmost compassion and most importantly doing enough to make patients feel that the care they were receiving could not be any better.

Obviously, this philosophy of care eroded into the allocated administrative time and Aidan would spend many evenings and late nights to dictate letters being a single-handed urologist. The late-night finishes, affected young families but we were both extremely fortunate to have wives who made sacrifices to allow delivery of the best possible care to our patients!

After two years of working with Aidan, it was time for me to move on but I failed to secure a post in Urology in Dublin which was promised to me. Here I was with 4 children and no prospect of a job as my successor had already been appointed to replace me. Aidan kindly bailed me out of this crisis by establishing a research post which gave me a lifeline and enabled me to support the family and advance my career. At the end of that year in research I was fortunate to get a job in Dublin; again thanks to Aidan's extremely generous support and correct guidance. That job proved to be the turning point in my urological career, otherwise I could have never realised my dream of becoming a urologist.

The atmosphere of the unit with Aidan and sister Eileen O'Hagan as sister in charge was exceptionally friendly. It was like a small family bonded together with shared vision of doing best for the urology patients. The urology team headed by Aidan O'Brien organised a grand farewell dinner in the Craigavon Hotel and presented me a copy of the Campbell's Urology (regarded as bible of urology) as a parting gift which I still have in my study since 1995. This was a memorable send off for a trainee not because of anything exceptional about the trainee but a true reflection of the appreciation, kindness and generosity of Aidan, Eileen and all the staff in 2 South.

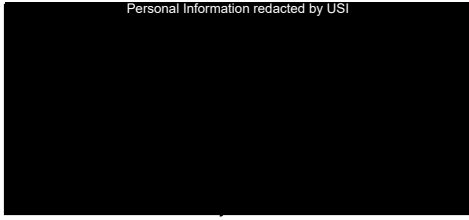
While Aidan O'Brien's role in shaping my career was certainly pivotal; I also know that he subsequently made major contribution in the development of careers of a generation of urologists over next two decades irrespective of their colour, race or religion. Aidan is widely adored for his professional attributes by most who worked with him.

Our relationship did not end with my job in Craigavon but it became even stronger because of the fond memories of the years I spent in Craigavon Urology. This is a really rare phenomenon in this day and age as trainees come and go and relationships end with the periods of training. Sadly most of the subsequent visits were prompted by Sister Eileen O'Hagan illness which took her life and death of Aidan's mum who was an extremely kind lady having many resemblances and mannerisms with my own mother. These cordial relations have continued till today as an acknowledgment of professional skills and values I learnt from Aidan O'Brien although most of the encounters are in professional events. I put Aidan's picture in my Professorial Lecture on the top of the list of people who helped me in my career. Aidan encouraged and supported me in every possible way, taught me the best possible principles as a doctor, trainer and a colleague which helped me in career progression and commanding reasonable (I assume) respect amongst colleagues, trainees and patients.

Another exceptional attribute I greatly admire (sadly unable to emulate) is that I have never heard Aidan talking ill behind any one's back. Without any exaggeration, Aidan is one of kindest and benign individual, I ever met in my life. We all go through thick and thin and Aidan is no exception but he maintains his cool even in the hardest times. I have learnt a lot from him be it clinical or

technical and non-technical skills but most importantly as to what qualities one may have to be so human.

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Muhammad Shamim Khan OBE TI (Civil) MBBS MCPS FRCS FRCS (Urol) FEBU
Professor of Urology & Surgical Education
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Guy's & St Thomas' Hospitals & King's College London
Lead Joint Surgical Colleges Surgical Fellowship (JSCFE) in Urology
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10/12/2020**Testimonial statement regarding Mr Aidan O'Brien**

My name is Dr Timothy Russell Bennett (GMC reference number 6071878, Royal College of Anaesthetists reference 670478) – I am a consultant anaesthetist in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT). All of this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and based on my own experience and observation. My professional qualifications are:

- MBChB (Hons) – University of Edinburgh, 2003.
- MRCP UK – Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, 2006.
- FRCA – Royal College of Anaesthetists, London, 2009.
- Post Graduate Diploma in Medical Education – Queen's University, Belfast, 2017.

I have known Mr O'Brien since 2014, when I started working as a consultant in the SHSCT – I have known him as a consultant colleague and have been involved in providing perioperative care to his elective and emergency patients requiring urological surgery and diagnostic procedures – prior to 2017, this would be on an ad hoc basis. Since 2017, I have been the regular anaesthetist on Mr O'Brien's elective surgical list on alternate Wednesdays as part of my consultant job plan.

I have no concerns regarding Mr O'Brien's clinical ability – over the past 6 years I have found him to provide excellent care to all of his patients. He is a vastly experienced, capable and highly skilled surgeon. I have provided anaesthetic care for a range of procedures from simple diagnostic operations to major complex surgery and have no concerns whatsoever. As an anaesthetist and not a surgeon, however, I feel better qualified to comment on the broader scope of Mr O'Brien's clinical practice:

- **Direct clinical care** – I consider Mr O'Brien to set the standard, in terms of commitment to clinical care, to which subsequent generations of consultants must aspire. He is meticulous in all aspects of care, in particular thorough history taking and knowledge of his patients. I find this to be invaluable in my preoperative assessment of high-risk patients, when I know clinic letters from Mr O'Brien will have a comprehensive summary of each patient's complete medical and social history. I am aware that a number of long-term patients value highly the open channels of communication he provides throughout their care. I have observed personally the tremendously high esteem in which Mr O'Brien is held by his patients. This is replicated by the theatre and ward nursing teams – I consider Mr O'Brien's lists a fulfilling and enjoyable part of my job.

Mr O'Brien also distinguishes himself in terms of providing emergency care. He will attend the emergency theatre at any hour to provide consultant-delivered care to all patients – this may involve long periods of waiting to use the theatre, but Mr O'Brien is steadfast in his commitment to ensuring timely treatment. He has always valued my opinion in terms of determining the most appropriate anaesthetic care for his patients, and dialogue is always courteous.

If I or a family member were to need a urological opinion, Mr O'Brien would be the first urologist I would contact.

- **Professionalism** – Mr O'Brien upholds the highest standards of professional behaviour in all aspects of his work. I particularly value his opinion and input at bi-monthly Morbidity and

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Mortality meetings held between surgeons and anaesthetists. He can be relied on to bring a wealth of experience and sound judgement to a range of issues. I appreciate his honesty and commitment to good care over any other consideration.

On those rare occasions when patients are particularly challenging, or when outcomes are not as planned, I have found Mr O'Brien to be a reflective and thoughtful practitioner. He is empathetic and compassionate and will always look to learn from difficult cases. I appreciate his advice and respect his honesty and humility in such circumstances.

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Re Aidan O' Brien

Dear Mr Anthony

My name is Charles McAllister. I qualified in Dublin in 1982, became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland in 1987 and a Fellow of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (Now the College of Anaesthetists in Ireland) in 1990. I was appointed as a Consultant Anaesthetist and Intensivist in Craigavon Area Hospital [CAH] (subsequently to become part of the Southern Health and Social care Trust) in 1994, where I remained until my retirement on reaching 60 in 2018. During the majority of those 24 years I was responsible for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in that Hospital/Trust.

Mr O'Brien had been appointed as the first Urologist in CAH a short time before my appointment but had already established a urology service single handedly from scratch. I occasionally did lists in Theatre for Mr O'Brien but came into contact with him far more often through patients that he had in ICU. I was struck at the time at the range and depth of urological surgery being undertaken. I was also struck by the commitment and dedication that Mr O'Brien demonstrated to his patients. He would see his patients in ICU twice a day during the week and at least daily at the weekend whether he was rostered on duty or not. He would always make time to meet with and discuss patients' conditions with relatives. He was also readily available for telephone advice/discussion regarding the best plan for his patients and for any patients in the unit who presented with or developed urological issues.

In 24 years there was never a cross word between Mr O'Brien and myself. I never witnessed him being other than courteous, honest, caring, dedicated or kind to any patient, relative or member of staff. The ICU Consultants do a 9 pm supervised ICU handover. Mr O'Brien was one of the very few Consultants I would see in the hospital at this time other than the Emergency Department Consultants.

I would have been happy for Mr O'Brien to look after me or any member of my family. He will be missed.

If I can furnish any further information that would be of assistance please get back to me.

Very best regards

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Charles McAllister MB, MRCPI, FCAI
3009291

11th December 2020

Subject: Testimonial in respect of Mr Aidan O'Brien, Consultant Urologist.

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Jerome Thomas Marley, and I am a Lecturer in the School of Nursing at Ulster University. The testimonial provided below is offered in a personal capacity only and is not provided as representative of the view of Ulster University nor do I infer that I represent the University or any other organisation in what follows.

My professional details are:

Qualifications: BSc [Hons] Nursing; Post Graduate Diploma in Advanced Nursing; Post Graduate Diploma in Nurse Education; MSc Nursing; Fellow of the Higher Education Academy

NMC Registration: 86J0142N

Positions held: Past-President of the British Association of Urological Nurses
Past Co-Chair of the European Association of Urology Nurses
Associate Editor of the International Journal of Urological Nursing

I have known Mr Aidan O'Brien since he was first employed as a Consultant Urologist at Craigavon Area Hospital in the early 1990s. At that time I was a Staff Nurse on Ward 2 South which is where Mr O'Brien was based and where his in-patients were cared for. Between the time of his appointment until early 1998, I continued to work with Mr O'Brien as a Staff Nurse. In March 1998 I was appointed as a Lecturer-Practitioner in Urological Nursing, a joint appointment between Craigavon Area Hospital and the then University of Ulster. Mr O'Brien was involved in establishing this post with the Head of the School of Nursing at the university. From 1998 until approximately 2014, as a Lecturer-Practitioner, I worked in a more advanced role in the Urology Department, mainly providing a lithotripsy service, working in the Thorndale Urology Outpatients Department alongside a GP with Special Interest, delivering a clinic providing care in the area of Men's Health, and undertaking some practice development work at the hospital. During these years I continued to work with Mr O'Brien, discussing specific patients on an as-and-when-required basis.

As both a Staff Nurse and a Lecturer-Practitioner, in all and every dealing I had with Mr O'Brien regarding the clinical care of a patient, I have never experienced him as being anything other

than professional and focussed on providing the best care possible for the patients we jointly were discussing or involved in caring for. Mr O'Brien always made himself available to discuss any issues I had with care decisions and I personally never had occasion to question advice given or decisions made. On the contrary, in his respectful and considered dealing with patients, my experience of Mr O'Brien leads me to consider his approach to be exemplary. In my years working with Mr O'Brien, I learned a great deal, both in terms of urological knowledge and also concerning what I believe to be the proper attitude to patient care and one-one patient communication, something in which I believes he excels.

Upon my appointment as a Lecturer-Practitioner, I was explicitly encouraged by Mr O'Brien to become more involved in urology education and development within my own nursing career. He convinced me of the need to consider the benefits of attending urology conferences and meetings in Ireland, the UK and in Europe, and reminded me of the importance that this activity would bring to my understanding of the evidence needed to provide urological care. Mr O'Brien was instrumental, with others, in establishing Craigavon Urology Research and Education [CURE] an organisation which raised funds in support of research and educational activities, principally from within Craigavon Area Hospital. Mr O'Brien played a very influential role in encouraging research for junior urology medical colleagues, which was something that was integral to the progression of junior urology medics on their pathway to becoming a Consultant Urologist. Additionally, he was always very encouraging of nurses to undertake educational courses at university or to attend conferences, all in support of nurses increasing their knowledge, and in using CURE funds to assist in these tasks.

On a number of occasions during my career, I approached Mr O'Brien for guidance and advice on issues related to the development of urology nursing and also in relation to my own career development, such was and is my respect for his opinion. These occasions stand out in my memory principally because Mr O'Brien's guidance was to my view always reasoned and guided by what I would characterise as the concept of 'doing the right thing'. In that regard I remain indebted to Mr O'Brien for his guidance and support as I sought to play my part in helping shape and develop urological nursing. I have complete confidence in saying that had it not been for the support and guidance offered at key periods by Mr O'Brien, I would not have achieved what I have in my professional urological nursing career, nor would I have been able to play the significant roles I did within my profession. Regarding my own urological health, I have also personally sought his help when experiencing a urology health problem and choose to consult him explicitly because I trusted his professional judgement. I would do so again today without hesitation.

It has been a pleasure to have worked with Mr O'Brien and, as outlined above, I remain convinced not only of his clinical professionalism when I was a urology nurse at Craigavon Area Hospital, but also of his wider wisdom, guidance and support in terms of the development of urological nursing and urology care in general.

Sincerely,

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Jerome Marley

DESMOND ALAN ORR

I wish to provide a Testimonial for Mr Aidan O'Brien, retired Consultant Urologist, SHSST, N.I.

I am Desmond Alan Orr, retired Consultant Anaesthetist.

GMC Registration No. 2488417

Qualifications: MB BS 1979, FFARCSI 1983, FRCA 1984

I was a Consultant Anaesthetist in Craigavon Area Hospital from 01.08.1990 until my retirement on 31.01.2017 when I was 60 years.

I first met and worked with Mr O'Brien when he was employed as a locum Consultant Urologist in the early 90's. Following a one year Paediatric Urology Fellowship in Bristol he returned as a substantive Urology Consultant. He was the first full-time urologist in the hospital and in essence set up the service.

Early in his consultant career he was allocated a weekly, all day operating session every Wednesday in Theatre 2. I provided anaesthetic cover for these lists on alternate weeks for approximately 25 years. At any time I could have arranged a change in my job plan to swap out of this list and work with some one else, however, I never considered this as I found this list both rewarding and challenging.

The lists comprised a mix of major, intermediate and minor surgeries. Initially we did a lot of major urological cancer surgery, such as bladder excision with bladder reconstruction, radical prostatectomy, radical nephroureterectomy. procedures now being performed by 'superspecialists' in regional centres or being replaced by laparoscopic techniques.

A recurring theme, especially in the early years was the excessive length of the lists, which frequently overran and resulted in cancellations when nursing and anaesthetic staff declined to carry on. Mr O'Brien, however, was content to work on in theatre until all cases were finished.

It was obvious that Mr O'Brien knew his patients very well, they were well investigated preoperatively and that there was good communication with other theatre staff.

In theatre Mr O'Brien was a meticulous surgeon, he didn't rush, get flustered, or lose his temper. He often went to the ward to help porter the next patient to theatre (if there was a delay), he even mopped the floor between cases to expedite the running of the list. He always was available to do the heavy lifting involved in positioning anaesthetised patients before surgery. He knew all staff by name and treated all staff and patients respectfully. After surgery

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he was in no hurry to leave the hospital until he was assured that the patients were stable. On a couple of occasions I needed him to return to theatre urgently, which he did willingly with good outcomes for the patients.

If I had concerns regarding a patient's condition, I felt that these were listened to and actioned.

In more recent years the nature of patients on the Wednesday list changed, less major surgery in an older patient cohort. This leads to down time between patients, (to allow for recovery from anaesthesia, theatre cleaning and induction of anaesthesia). During this time Mr O'Brien was usually found in the adjacent theatre office with a huge pile of patient notes, X Rays on the computer screen and dictaphone in hand, catching up with paper work.

On occasions when I was in the hospital attending to emergency work at weekends or evenings, it was not uncommon to see Mr O'Brien also in the hospital, seeing patients or doing patient administrative work.

In Summary, after 25 years of working with Aidan O'Brien, I consider that I know him better than any surgeon with whom I have worked during my entire career, it has come as total surprise to me that his clinical competence has been called into question, I certainly never saw any evidence of this in my multiple dealings with him. I have always held him in the highest regard and consider him the most caring doctor who I have worked with.

11/12/2020

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11/12/20



Birmingham City Hospital

Dudley Road

Birmingham B18 7QH

Dated 12th December 2020.

Testimonial for Mr Aidan O'Brien

I am Tariq Ahmed Sami. I qualified as a Doctor in 1987. I am registered with the GMC with registration number 4362454. I am working in the NHS since 1994. After completion of my training I was appointed in February 2004 as Consultant Urologist in Birmingham City Hospital, Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and commenced my post on 6th June 2004.

I feel honoured to write these lines for Mr Aidan O'Brien, the most trustworthy, caring, dependable, compassionate, knowledgeable and skilful surgeon I have ever come across in my life and in my medical career.

My close association with Aidan started in 1994 when he took me under his wings as a trainee in urology. He continued to be my mentor and supervisor through most of my training years in Northern Ireland until 2002. Even after leaving Northern Ireland and taking up the position of consultant surgeon in Birmingham, I continued to call him for advice and guidance in difficult cases.

At the time of starting my urological career in 1994, I had a few years of experience in surgery and had worked with various surgeons. What struck me about Aidan was his dedication towards his patients, a trait which I had not witnessed before. At that stage he was the single handed urologist providing urological services to a wide population and heading the only urological centre outside of Belfast. This was an enormous task as it meant being on call for urology all the time. With his hard working attitude, Aidan took on this mammoth task and provided high quality service to the community at the expense of his own family time and health. Aidan's dedication and commitment paid off and his tireless approach inspired individuals from allied medical disciplines to help him build a dedicated team. Needless to say I was a proud member of this dedicated group.

Aidan introduced me to a culture of meticulousness and detail, learning and teaching which I had not seen before in spite of working in university hospitals and academic departments. He would carry out detailed ward rounds, write notes, check results and communicate with his patients in an understanding way. He was never in any hurry and would spend time and energy to educate and explain to his patients about their disease, prognosis and treatment options. He never shied away from acknowledging his mistakes and deficiencies either and was always open and transparent to his patients and people around him.

Aidan spent an enormous amount of time in sifting through the huge piles of results as he was the only consultant to take action upon them. He continuously and constantly worked at a level which was far beyond the call for duty. I often asked him to leave and go home to his lovely young family, a suggestion he would just turn down with a smile on his face and sometimes by lighting a cigar. I have seen him working late in the night after all other staff had left, and the cold, dark winter nights would make the roads treacherous for his journey home. Even repeated calls from his long suffering wife  to come home would not deter him from his single minded determined ethic of doing the best for his patients.

Aidan has an inquisitive mind and even in the early nineties, his medical decisions were evidence based. He was an avid reader of medical and urological journals and promoted a culture of teaching, training and thought provoking research. He impressed upon his trainees the importance of questioning and had an insatiable thirst for knowledge. He often used to quote A. J. Cronin's words from his book *The Citadel*, "*hallmark of a doctor is to assume nothing no matter how long it has been assumed or how high or eminent those who have done the assuming*". He liked working with hard validated facts. It was this quality of Aidan that made me do my research on molecular genetics under his supervision and for which I was awarded an MD degree by the Queen's University of Belfast. It elevated the departmental and hospital profile and subsequently started a stream of motivated trainees taking on ground breaking research in the department and successfully completing higher degrees.

Aidan is a careful, enthusiastic and well respected surgeon. His attention to detail and tissue handling was exemplary and I not only use the techniques he taught me to this day but impart this knowledge to my trainees, quoting Aidan O'Brien. He was well trained himself and as a result, had a wide variety of operative experience and skills. He was the only surgeon at that time in Northern Ireland who was offering radical surgery for prostate cancer to his patients. My recollection of audits presented at that time about his ablative and reconstructive surgical procedures is that his outcomes were at par with the then standards of care. He believed in safety for his patients and made sure that emergency procedures were done correctly, properly and timely.

I saw that Aidan's hard work was recognised by the hospital managers. Whilst I was there a second consultant was appointed and we also saw the birth of the British Association of Urological Nurses, a true reflection of Aidan's vision of multidisciplinary approach to the profession. Aidan also started a charity called Craigavon Urological Research and Education (CURE) to help and support new and novel ideas.

As a person too I found Aidan astute, approachable, humble, honest, honourable, confident and determined. Even after difficult and challenging administrative meetings or stressful situations, he never lost his temper or ever made any derogatory remarks or comments towards anyone. He based his arguments on facts rather than subjectivity. He believes in equality and his professional and private life reflects and exceeds the principles and guidelines of GMC Good Medical Practice document. I only have superlatives to describe him. He gives me hope in man and humanity.

Aidan has dedicated his life to his profession, his patients and to his department and hospital. He has been instrumental in forging a career for a number of surgeons, nurses and allied professionals. He is an exemplary doctor, trustworthy mentor, skilful surgeon and above all a humble inspiring God fearing human being. I count myself extremely lucky to meet him and to get to know him in this life.

Mr Tariq Sami, M.B, B.S., FRCSI, FRCS (Urol.), MD, FEBU, DLS.

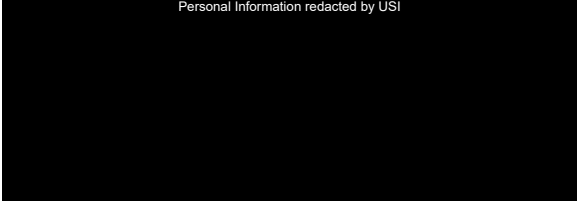
Consultant Urologist and Speciality Lead,

Department of Urology

Birmingham City Hospital

Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

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Worcestershire Royal Hospital
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Worcester
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Testimonial for Mr Aidan O'Brien

I am Vincent Seng-Weng Koo. I qualified as a doctor in 7th July 2000 and have been employed by the NHS since 1st August 2000, and by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust since 19th May 2014. I commenced my role as Consultant Surgeon in the Urology Department on 19th May 2014. I confirm that I am duly registered with GMC (4735850).

I have known and worked under supervision of Aidan O'Brien from 2004 to 2009, as a Urology Registrar in Craigavon Area Hospital.

He is my Urology Mentor, a wise teacher and friend to everyone regardless of any background, race, or status. He has the greatest respect for people and always interested in their lives. I was most impressed by his honesty and integrity, especially when it involves injustice and prejudices. He was fearless to speak up for and a champion for those who were discriminated. I know of many doctors whom he has trained, stood for and whose life has been transformed as a result.

He embodies all the qualities of the Good Medical practice of GMC. He is a talented and skilful surgeon. He always treats his patients with their best interest at heart, and has very often gone over and beyond, to help his patients. Needless to say, there are countless patients whom would forever be indebted for the treatment and care that they have received. One example that stands out for myself was a young mother with terminal Metastatic kidney cancer, whom he successful and skilfully performed the cancer debulking surgery, that no surgeon would dare undertake. He further pursued and successfully obtained funding for a novel treatment then (TKI), which is now the standard of care. No doubt, the surgery and new treatment had prolonged the mother's life to allow additional time with her family.

He is a great leader and visionary, who had successfully established The Urology Department in Craigavon. As great a teacher, he is also a keen learner and constantly keeps up-to-date with urology developments and knowledge. He has been actively contributing in regional and international educational meetings. He is an inspirational teacher, always keen to impart his knowledge to his trainees, many of which I still hold on and pass onwards, in my own practice as an NHS consultant. His role in developing the Craigavon Urological Research and Education (CURE) and raising the standards of urological nursing is highly commended.

Reflecting back the years in Craigavon, now as a NHS Consultant and Governance lead, I cannot recall any concerns in his practice or care. I have witnessed him meticulously triaging referrals, going through investigational results and put appropriate action on them. He is an exemplar of clinical governance and accountability. He has always done the right thing for his patients and would voice any concerns to the appropriate authorities. In this respect and in the context of my personal encounters with him and his practice, his conduct and character is beyond reproach.

Personal Information redacted by USI

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Vincent Seng-Weng Koo.

Signed:

Print: Vincent Seng-Weng Koo

Date: 13th December 2020