

## Society of British Neurological Surgeons



### Top Walton Centre Neurosurgeon praised with honorary degree

Consultant Neurosurgeon Paul May has been awarded an honorary degree by the University of Liverpool for his work in neurosurgery.

The University only awards a handful of degrees to noted figures each year and there are only two medical professionals recognised in this year's list.

At the degree ceremony on 17<sup>th</sup> May, Mr May, one of The Walton Centre's leading neurosurgeons, was honoured for his contributions to adult neurosurgical services in Liverpool and his work in bringing neurosurgery to children and

young people, putting the city on the healthcare map.

The Public Orator Phil Sykes said of Mr May during the presentation:

"One of his achievements for Merseyside was to lead and develop the craniofacial service to the point where it was awarded supraregional status in 1997 by the National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group. This is an exceptional accolade reflecting the possession of distinctive specialist expertise and with the award Liverpool joined an elite group whose only other members were Oxford, Birmingham and Great Ormond Street.

"Paul's colleagues all recognise his distinction as a surgeon and as a leader. But when they talk of him, what they are most likely to refer to is his warmth and humanity. To the rapport he established with the children under his care at Alder Hey and his infectious sense of fun, to the comfort he gave to parents, suddenly yanked from normality.

So, in awarding this degree, we celebrate Paul May's surgical skill and his visionary leadership. But we also pay tribute to the way he combines those attributes with being, by universal consent, a really nice guy."

Mr May, who is the first Neurosurgeon from Liverpool to be president of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons, the oldest neurosurgical society in the world addressed the event. He spoke about previous University of Liverpool graduates who preceded him at The Walton Centre such as Alan Sutcliffe Kerr and Eric Sidney Watkins, one a founding member of The Trust and the modern day father of Formula 1 safety respectively. Both were instrumental in the development of neuro services regionally and nationally.

He said:

"It's deeply humbling for me and incredibly motivating to see the graduates with their families celebrating great success.

"You can attain anything, whatever you want to do, you can attain it in any field of medicine or allied health services. Thank you very much for honouring me to be a member of your university."