

# PROFESSOR GREEN LAUNCHES PLEA TO BOOST TRAUMA SURVIVAL RATES



MISSION Professor Brohi

**Trauma is the biggest killer of the under 40s**

BY **KARIM BROHI** Consultant Surgeon and Professor of Trauma Sciences at Barts & The Royal London Hospital

EVERYONE knows someone who has been affected by trauma.

It covers physical injury to the body and encompasses both its physical and mental consequences.

Trauma includes any incident in which a person has been injured such as car crashes, cycling injuries, people being stabbed and shot.

It also involves workplace injuries, people falling off buildings, fires, and people attempting to commit suicide.

The common theme is that the body has been injured – and in severe trauma there's the risk of death or life-changing injuries.

If you are under 40, it is the number one cause of death and a bigger killer than all other causes combined.

**AWARENESS**

So this appeal is being launched to raise awareness and funds for trauma research and innovation.

The aim is to save the lives of thousands of people who suffer trauma and to improve the quality of life of those who survive.

Our bodies are designed to cope with a certain level of injury. But the kind people are experiencing now, like being hit by a bus or being stabbed, is not something we were never evolved to deal with.

So the body systems tend to not work as they should do.

Understanding the normal response to trauma and what excessive trauma does to the bodies of those surviving who would previously not have lived is one aspect. Some people respond differently to others and being able to explore that more may also lead to new treatments.



**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY **ANTONIA PAGET**  
AND **GERALDINE MCKELVIE**

**PROFESSOR Green should not be here today.**

A broken bottle thrust into the haemophiliac rapper's neck in a night-club left his life hanging by a thread as blood poured from the wound.

But he survived because the hospital he was rushed to is renowned for having a groundbreaking trauma team.

A team so good it has been at the forefront of life-saving research into vital new ways of treating victims of accidents and violent attacks.

And their findings on everything from clotting blood to halting multiple organ failure will be used to guide clinical practice at medical units in the UK and around the world.

The brilliance of the Centre for Trauma Sciences, encompassing the famous St Bartholomew's – Barts – and Royal London hospitals, already saves and transforms hundreds of shattered lives every day.

They include those of 7/7 bombings victim Martine Wright and Alton Towers rollercoaster victim Vicky Balch.

The centre's growing understanding of the first few hours of injury are benefiting not only doctors in the theatre but also paramedics arriving at the scene. But all this is now under threat.

**KILLER**

The cash-strapped Barts Charity which raises research funds is desperate for £1 million to carry on trying to save the 50 people a day in the UK who die needlessly from trauma – a silent killer that receives only **ONE PER CENT** of government medical research funding.

Rapper Professor Green – real name Stephen Manderson – knows only too well how devastating trauma can be after surviving both a stabbing and a car accident.

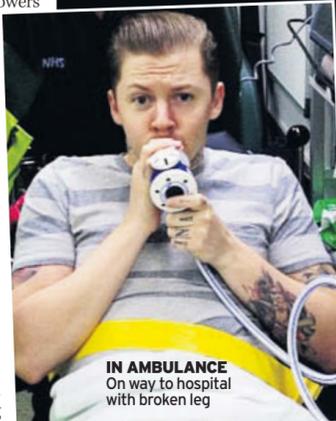
That's why he is joining the Sunday Mirror in backing the Transform Trauma campaign along with fellow ambassadors and survivors Grace Harvard, Ella Dove, Campbell Gibb-Stuart and Marcus Perrineau-Daley.

They know it could pull more than 17,000 lives a year from the brink of death. Stephen says: "From road accidents to terrorist attacks, trauma is the biggest cause of death and disability among young people in the UK.

"It's merciless. If you don't experience it, someone you know will encounter it at some point in their life."

Stephen, 33, was attacked in the Cargo club in Shoreditch, East London, in 2009.

# Help raise £1m and fight this silent killer



**IN AMBULANCE**  
On way to hospital with broken leg

» Rapper tells how trauma teams twice saved his life  
» He makes a passionate appeal for research cash

driver accidentally put his foot on the accelerator. Stephen was rushed to a hospital near his West London home with a compression fracture and snapped ligament.

The musician, who had previously battled mental health problems, was plunged into depression. "Quite often it's not just the physical scars, it's also the mental ones you are left with," he adds.

Backing Professor Green – who will headline a fundraising concert in September – is a Professor of the real

kind. Karim Brohi is Consultant Trauma Surgeon at the Royal London Hospital & Barts and Director of Centre of Trauma Sciences at Barts. He says: "The World Health Organisation classifies trauma as a disease – and when you put that against other diseases it's one of the world's biggest killers."

He told us the appeal could help to save thousands of sufferers and also improve the quality of their lives.

The Centre needs funds to look at ways to reduce the number of people bleeding to death.

It needs to examine how to avoid multiple organ failure and research how the immune system could help defend the body. It also wants to trial treatments for



“World without trauma may not be possible, but one where people survive it is

PROFESSOR GREEN BACKING £1M CAMPAIGN

**BOTTLED**  
Star thought he would die



traumatic brain injury – and develop 'prediction tools' to help better decisions on whether to amputate limbs, or what blood stocks to assemble in the event of major incidents.

Prof Brohi says: "We are making new discoveries here at the Centre for Trauma Sciences on a monthly basis. We have just launched the trial of a blood product, Cryo, which contains a clotting compound, Fibrinogen.

"The study we did between here, The Oxford Radcliffe Hospital and Camp Bastion in Afghanistan showed that it may increase survival. We have just got funding for a trial of 1,600 patients across

all major trauma centres in England and internationally. We have completed a national study on why critically injured survivors often

start to get multiple organ failure. We are trying to move towards a much tighter understanding of the individual in the first few minutes and hours of injury.

**SURVIVAL**

"We want to really personalise care to that patient and then bring them new drugs, devices and innovations that will save their lives."

Trauma research carried out so far has helped **DOUBLE** accident and attack survival rates in London alone – but chronic underfunding means many more vital projects cannot be started. Dr

Elaine Cole – Director of Research and Innovation, Pan London Major Trauma System – says limited funds "are curbing what we can achieve".

She adds: "My vision is that trauma is seen in the same way as cancer – as a severe burden on society which can cause devastating, life threatening or life limiting changes for anyone. Then people would understand how important it is that we carry out more research."

In the Royal London Hospital alone, every day a severely injured person who would have died 10 years ago survives.

But there is still so much more that could be done. As Professor Green told us: "A world without trauma might not be possible, but a world where more people survive it is."

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I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the fantastic care I had

MARTINE Wright's life changed forever when her morning commute turned to horror in the 7/7 London suicide bombings. She lost both her legs in the 2005 blast on a London Underground Circle Line train. She was the most badly injured victim to survive the attack, which killed 52 people, but she later went on to compete for Team GB at the London 2012 Paralympics.

Martine, 44, said: "I now truly believe I was always meant to make that journey. It was an opportunity." She is now seizing another opportunity – backing the Transform Trauma campaign.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the trauma care I had," she said. "This is a chance to say thank you to all those people who put me back together again.

"You didn't just do a fantastic medical job, you supported me emotionally and psychologically.



**THANKFUL** Bomb victim Martine  
One day you're one person and the next day you wake up and you're someone else. When my family were thrown into this world of shock and disbelief, you were there for them as well."

**Our inspirational ambassadors**



TRAUMA has changed the lives of all our ambassadors. Now they want to help others.

They will be sharing their inspirational stories over the next few weeks to show how, by supporting the campaign, you

can help others transform their lives after trauma.

From the left, they are: Grace Harvard, Campbell Gibb-Stuart, Vicky Balch, Professor Green, Marcus Perrineau-Daley and Ella Dove.

## When you suffer major trauma your life changes in an instant

BRAVE Alton Towers survivor Vicky Balch has revealed she has become close friends with the first doctor on the scene of the horror crash.

Medic Ben Clarke, 42, risked his own life to save Vicky, 21, and fellow survivors Leah Washington and Joe Pugh, now 21, after the Smiler rollercoaster smashed into a stationary car at the Staffordshire theme park in June 2015.

She had to have her leg amputated a month after the accident. But without Ben, Vicky might not have survived the horror crash.

Vicky, an ambassador for our Transform Trauma appeal, said: "When you suffer major trauma, your life

changes in an instant. You never think this is going to happen to you, or to anyone you know.

"It's just not something you think about when you're young." She is encouraging others to support our appeal. She said: "It's appalling so little money goes into trauma research.

"It's vital people get behind this appeal so we can continue to support Ben and amazing medical staff like him.

"I trusted Ben with my life. I had to.

"He got up on to the rollercoaster without a harness and put his own life at risk to save mine.

"He was such a massive support. I know we'll be friends for life."

**SUPPORT** Amputee Vicky

Pictures: ADAM GERRARD