

THE PROSTATE GAP

A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

EXPLORING

UNDER-REPRESENTED PEOPLE

WITH

PROSTATE CANCER



PHOTOGRAPHER
IAN SMITH

“PROSTATE CANCER

SURVIVAL

HAS TRIPLED

IN THE PAST

40 YEARS”

www.cancerresearch.org

Contents

- Foreword
- The Medical Perspective by
Professor Romesh Gupta
- Subjects
- Ian Smith Bio / Collaborators

FOREWORD

THE PROSTATE GAP BY IAN SMITH uses photography to explore and challenge the public's understanding of prostate cancer within under-represented groups in our society.

The exhibition spotlights a selection of prostate cancer patients from the black and trans and gay communities who have generously and courageously shared their gender and race narratives about barriers and cultural obstacles experienced on their prostate cancer journeys.

During the course of his research Smith uncovered many gaps. Gaps in information. Gaps in knowledge. Gaps in experience.

Smith met with a wide range of people running support groups for trans women, gay people and ethnic minorities, African Caribbean men and healthcare professionals in and around Manchester.

He hopes this exhibition will provide an impetus for change.

He said, "I made this work in the hope it will help to change public attitudes towards under-represented people in our society and through the subjects' stories offer hope and inspiration to all people with prostate cancer."

The Prostate Gap follows on from Smith's earlier photographic work, "Prostate Cancer: Every Picture Tells a Story" (2018).

The Medical Perspective by Professor Romesh Gupta



PROSTATE CANCER IS THE COMMONEST FORM OF CANCER in men in the U.K. It is important to be checked early and be diagnosed as early as possible to achieve better therapeutic outcomes. However, some groups are hard to reach.

Trans women and non-binary people who were assigned male at birth are susceptible to prostate cancer, even if they have had gender reassignment treatment, though they may not realise it or they may be reluctant to come forward for diagnostic testing. African Caribbean men are more likely to suffer from this condition and Asian men are less likely to discuss post-operative effects on their married life.

The catalogue prepared by photographer Ian Smith highlights these important issues and, in my opinion, is a very significant piece of much needed research in this area. This should help to improve the understanding of this common disease by patients, their relatives and the healthcare practitioners.

Professor Romesh Gupta OBE

Chairman of the National Forum for Health and Wellbeing

Stephanie Holmes

I AM VERY PROUD TO BE PART OF THE PROSTATE GAP, and fully support Ian Smith's exhibition to raise awareness of prostate cancer in under-represented communities.

I identify as a trans woman and have set up a number of support groups such as Chrysalis for trans people in the North West. I spend a great deal of my time trying to fill the gaps that this exhibition is exposing. To this end I get regular PSA tests. This action is twofold. One is for my own peace of mind and the other is to demonstrate to my members the importance of getting checked out for prostate cancer.



Winston Carrington

I'M HAPPY TO HELP WITH ANYTHING THAT ASSISTS MEN - especially African Caribbean men - get to grips with the worries of prostate cancer. I even appeared in ITV's 'Full Monty' programme to help raise awareness of prostate cancer. African Caribbean men are four times more likely to develop prostate cancer but 85% are not aware of this fact.

One obstacle that gets flagged up is interference with sexual activity. Believe me, it's not totally true. I was treated in 2017 and now things are pretty well back to normal. Any marital embarrassments need to be replaced by openness and honesty. Just keep talking folks.



Anthea Makepeace

MY PROSTATE CANCER JOURNEY AS A TRANS WOMAN could be described as a less than happy one. I feel this is mainly due to healthcare professionals not fully understanding the needs of trans women with this illness. It was a real gap in my care.

I feel this lack of insight still persists. To reduce repeats of earlier treatments, my habit is to thoroughly research newly allocated healthcare professionals to ensure a well-founded relationship. I spend much time being a trans-activist and supporting friends within our community.



Martin Wells

IDENTIFYING AS A GAY MAN MAY BRING SOCIAL PRESSURES. Having a partner from a different culture and ethnicity can multiply these tensions and stresses when contrasted to a heterosexual relationship.

All this has to be managed whilst dealing with the life-changing illness of prostate cancer. Ian Smith's creation of the 'empty space' reflects, for me, some of the loneliness that I've experienced.

I finished my chemotherapy treatment for advanced prostate cancer in March 2019 but now I continue with lifelong chemical castration treatment as part of my ongoing therapy.

I started 'Out With Prostate Cancer' a network of support groups primarily but not exclusively for the gay community in the North West and other parts of the UK.



Mark Griffiths

IN 2016 I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH PROSTATE CANCER AT THE AGE OF 45. My prostate was removed. Solid support from my family and husband ensured a recovery that enabled me to resume my old job.

Frankness and open communications are important, my husband and I are now living a 'new norm'. Subsequent to my illness, my son's doctors are encouraging them to be screened early.

For some reason that I am not sure about, I did not reveal to my consultant that I was gay, nor at any point was my sexual identity ever requested.



Lynn Oddy

THERE'S A BIT OF MIS-GENDERING BY MEDICAL STAFF who may not be used to the idea of a woman having a prostate. I don't see it as malicious, so I just ignore it. It isn't worth risking your life over a bit of mis-speaking.

My frequent and repeated nighttime toilet visits led me to my GP. Subsequent tests revealed an ageing prostate and a low risk of cancer. The message I'd give to others is that getting checked isn't a big deal. This is the message I pass on to other trans women in the support group Butterflies I run in Manchester.



Gilbert Morgan

I WAS 49 YEARS OLD WHEN I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH PROSTATE CANCER. My father also had the same illness. Culturally we approached it in different ways. I took a positive direct approach and dealt with it in a radical fashion in 2014. Whereas my father was in denial of the problem.

My early presentation helped to reduce my stress and anxiety. I support any activity that brings awareness of this illness to people where African heritage increases the risk.





Ian Smith

Freelance Photographer

iangsmithphoto@gmail.com

IAN SMITH WAS BORN IN 1948 IN MANCHESTER, the same year as the NHS was founded, an organisation close to his heart and prostate. An activist with his camera, Smith campaigns for people to have greater awareness of prostate cancer. He is on mission to help reduce the misinformation, anxiety and fear surrounding the illness. In 2018, Smith graduated with a 1st in Photography (BA) from the University of Bolton. The cornerstone of his success centred on his photographic project, 'Prostate Cancer: Every Picture Tells A Story.' This exhibition has been on continuous display in England's hospitals ever since. It is currently on show in North Manchester General Hospital, Crumpsall, from January 2020.

Ian Smith would like to thank all the subjects, volunteers and his family for their ongoing support.

COLLABORATORS

Editing and Proofing
www.nikkwordsmith.com



The staff in
NHS
Lancashire Teaching
Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



OUT WITH
PROSTATE
CANCER



The staff in
The Pennine Acute Hospitals
NHS Trust

Ian Savage
Press agent

