# Stephen Fry calls on prostate cancer patients to join groundbreaking research initiative



**Stephen Fry Calls on Prostate Cancer Patients to Join Groundbreaking Research Initiative**

**London, UK** – Renowned actor and broadcaster Stephen Fry is actively encouraging prostate cancer patients to participate in a significant new research initiative, Prostate Progress, which aims to revolutionise patient care and treatment for this prevalent disease. The initiative is a collaboration between the NHS and Prostate Cancer Research to provide scientists with access to crucial health data.

This project is the first to be selected under NHS England's Data for Research and Development Programme. Through this initiative, prostate cancer patients who consent will provide clinical data along with self-uploaded information regarding their symptoms and the real-life effects of their cancer and treatments.

Researchers aim to merge these data sets to gain a better understanding of prostate cancer, develop advanced treatments and diagnostic tests, ensure the safety of treatments, and plan new NHS services. Such a comprehensive dataset is expected to yield valuable insights that could significantly improve patient outcomes.

Stephen Fry, aged 66, who himself underwent prostate cancer surgery, expressed his enthusiasm for the project: "Prostate Progress represents a beacon of hope in the fight against prostate cancer, a disease that impacts countless lives globally. By harnessing the power of our own health information, we empower researchers to unlock vital insights, leading to groundbreaking advancements."

Fry emphasised the importance of early detection and effective treatment, expressing his hopes for a future where prostate cancer is no longer a threat. He is urging those diagnosed with this condition to participate in Prostate Progress, underscoring the potential lifesaving impact of their involvement.

Current statistics reveal that prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men in the UK, with an estimated 52,000 cases diagnosed annually. While survival rates have dramatically improved over the past five decades, projections suggest that the number of diagnoses could double by 2040.

Dr Vin Diwakar, NHS England's National Director of Transformation, highlighted the unique value of the initiative: "This unique collaboration with Prostate Cancer Research will provide new insights into prostate cancer and improve care for patients. The NHS Research Secure Data Environment Network allows us to link data and enable research at a scale not previously possible, while maintaining the highest levels of security."

Oliver Kemp, Chief Executive of Prostate Cancer Research, added that Prostate Progress empowers patients to actively contribute to research by documenting their day-to-day experiences with prostate cancer. This patient-centric approach is anticipated to drive scientific discoveries and innovations that align with patient needs.

Both Fry and Dr Diwakar have highlighted the significant potential benefits of the initiative, not only for patients but for the healthcare system as a whole, by contributing rich and varied data to the research community. Men diagnosed with prostate cancer are encouraged to learn more and get involved by visiting www.ProstateProgress.org