

East Midlands Major Trauma Annual Conference

Wednesday 5 November 2025

Speaker Profiles

Dr Martin Wiese

Martin has been an Emergency physician in Leicester since 2006. University Hospitals of Leicester Clinical Lead for Major Trauma 2015 – 2025 and has been the EMMTN Clinical Lead since 2025.



Sharon Sanderson

With 34 years of nursing experience, Sharon is an accomplished trauma nurse leader and educator. As Lead Nurse for the East Midlands Major Trauma Network and Major Trauma Case Manager at NUH, she supports patients and families throughout the trauma pathway. A former ED Sister, Nurse Educator, and Network Quality Service Improvement Lead, Sharon is passionate about advancing emergency and trauma care. She has also contributed to shaping the national framework for major trauma nursing by serving as the Chair of the ED Sub-group for the National Major Trauma Nursing Group.

Dedicated to improving patient outcomes and advancing trauma nursing practice, Sharon combines clinical expertise, education, and leadership to make a lasting impact on trauma care across the region and nationally.

Grace Strong, Director of the Violence Reduction Network, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

Grace is a qualified Probation Officer and has spent her career working as a practitioner, manager, and senior leader in a variety of Criminal Justice settings across the Midlands region of England. She has led the design and implementation of a range of cross-sector, multi-agency projects and programmes including Integrated Offender Management schemes, a specialist young adult service, and a community resettlement project providing housing and holistic support. She also held the thematic leads for public protection, accredited programmes, trauma-informed practice, young adults, and service user involvement.

In September 2019, Grace left the probation service to lead the establishment of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's Violence Reduction Network (VRN). She continues to lead the Network and its central team and has overseen the co-design and delivery of multiple projects across community, education, early help, health, and criminal justice settings all aimed at preventing violence affecting children and young people.

Since October 2023, she has also been working for Leicestershire Police to design and implement their new Prevention Directorate. She continues to hold responsibility for the Directorate and its four departments: Prevention and Problem Solving; Crime Prevention and Community Safety; Diversion and Youth Justice and Offender Management

Akai Douglas



Akai Douglas is a motivational speaker, lived experience consultant and advocate dedicated to empowering others through the power of resilience and recovery. In 2018, Akai survived a near-fatal knife attack — an experience that profoundly shaped his understanding of trauma, survival, and purpose. Drawing on both his personal journey and years of advocacy work, Akai now collaborates with healthcare professionals, trauma networks, and community organisations to bridge the gap between patient experience, those impacted by trauma experience, and professional practice. He has spoken at City Hall London, the Houses of Parliament, and numerous national events, using his platform to inspire compassion, awareness, and change.

Today, Akai continues to champion trauma-informed practice and the importance of humanity in healing.

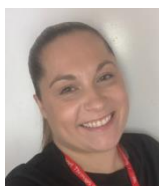
 akaijdouglas@gmail.com

 LinkedIn: Akai J Douglas

Jake Thomas

My name is Jake Thomas and after experiencing a major trauma injury in 2015, I became passionate about entering emergency care. I am currently the Fleet Manager for MediEvent UK, a private ambulance company. Clinically, I am a newly qualified EMT having completed my training with EMAS. Within pre-hospital care, I have a keen interest in the trauma and injury side to the job and am constantly improving my treatment of such patients. I have also worked with EMAS in the Emergency Operations Centre and I am a British Army reservist, following my award of an Army Officer Scholarship in 2021. Major trauma is a subject close to my heart and I adore working to improve knowledge, care and support in such events for everyone, through clinical and charity work.

Kirsty Chidwick



Kirsty Chidwick is the East Midlands Regional Manager at Support Through Sport, a youth work organisation that empowers 8–18-year-olds by combining sport and youth work to create brighter futures. The charity focuses on building trusting relationships and promoting positive social behaviours to steer young people away from negative influences. Kirsty brings 18 years of professional experience in the charity sector, alongside valuable lived experience. She previously led a youth violence intervention programme across major trauma centres and A&Es in Nottingham, Birmingham, and South London, and spent eight years at Juno Women's Aid in Nottingham supporting women and families. Her work has been recognised nationally, including awards for Outstanding Contribution to Major Trauma, Social Prescribing Partnership of the Year, and Young People's Mental Health Champion at the Power in Partnership Awards. She was also personally commended for her work with children and young people by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne. Her work is rooted in community engagement, safeguarding, and trauma-informed practice.

Dr Sophie Riley, Critical Care Fellow

Sophie is a resident doctor, currently working as a Critical Care fellow at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham.



She has previously completed 12-months as a Major Trauma fellow. During medical school, she completed an intercalated BSc in Pre-Hospital Medicine, a degree which is run in partnership between the London's Air Ambulance, the Institute of Pre-Hospital Care and Barts and the London medical school.

Sophie has completed research projects with the London's Air Ambulance, North West Air Ambulance and Devon Air Ambulance. She is the current Chair of the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care (FPHC) Student and Trainee Group. From 2022-2024, she was the Junior Examinations Officer for the FPHC.

Calum Edge, Network Manager and Quality Improvement Lead, Cheshire and Mersey Major Trauma Network

Calum Edge is the Network Manager and Quality Improvement Lead for the Cheshire and Mersey Major Trauma Network. With over 18 years of nursing experience, including eight as a Major Trauma Nurse Practitioner at Aintree Major Trauma Centre, he brings extensive expertise in coordinating trauma care and driving service improvement.



A passionate advocate for education and innovation, Calum has supported initiatives such as the KnifeSavers programme, promoting lifesaving skills and injury prevention. He now leads regional efforts to enhance collaboration, share best practice, and deliver the highest standards of trauma care across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Bimal Mehta

Bimal is a paediatrician specialising in emergency medicine. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine. He works as a consultant in one of the busiest children's ED in the UK, which is a major trauma centre and the front door of a specialist paediatric hospital.



Bimal has been a clinical lead for the a paediatric trauma network since its inception in 2012. He has been a member of NHSE Clinical Reference Group for Major Trauma. While Bimal does not deliver pre-hospital care, he has provided paediatric input into the development of the European Pre-hospital Trauma Care Course and most recently the NHS Major Incident

Triage Tool.

Bimal is particularly interested in improving the provision of emergency and urgent care for children wherever they might first present; and has contributed in various roles to shaping services for ill and injured children across the UK.

Right now, he is doing that by being:

Clinical Director for Urgent Care at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Co-Clinical Lead for the North-West Children's Major Trauma Network, a RCPCH member of the Intercollegiate Committee for Standards for Children and Young People, paediatric representative for NHS Pathways Clinical Assurance Group and Chair of the Advanced Paediatric Life Support Working Group.

Lorna Pearson

Lorna is a Senior Clinical Manager - Specialist and Advanced Practice for East Midlands Ambulance Service. Lorna has recently co- led the development of the Critical Care Desk at EMAS alongside the introduction of the new Advanced Paramedic role. Her interest focuses on compassionate clinical leadership through supporting and developing both the Advanced and Specialist roles at EMAS. Lorna has completed her Advanced Practice Msc and most recently, an Msc in Health and Social Care Leadership.

Dr Grace Thorne

I am a Clinical Psychologist working at Nottingham University Hospitals Trust. Throughout my career I have worked in many settings including forensic services, medical psychology, neuropsychology and eating disorders. More recently I have chosen to work within Emergency and Acute Medicine – first in Major Trauma, and now in the Emergency Department. I predominantly use a Compassion Focused Therapy (CFT) approach to working with patients, families and staff teams and am hoping to extend compassion into leadership within the NHS in my current role. I am also passionate about somatic therapy – exploring how the body holds and expresses painful experiences and using mind-body approaches to aid recovery from trauma. For this reason, I am training to become a yoga teacher and hope to integrate yogic practices and principles into my work with those who have experienced physical or psychological trauma.

Professor Charlie Whiffin



I am Professor of Nursing with a specialist interest in the impact of traumatic brain injury on the family. I am currently the chief investigator for an NIHR Research for Patient Benefit study examining a novel storytelling technique to improve family well-being and adjustment. I am also a visiting researcher at the University of Cambridge investigating the role of non-medical providers in the provision of safe effective neurosurgical care in low-and middle-income countries with the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Acquired Brain and Spine Injuries. I am an expert in qualitative research and lead author of [Neuro Qual](#) a free online resource for qualitative research in neurosurgery.

Mary Kennedy



Mary has been a qualified RGN for 34 years and worked in Trauma and Orthopaedics on qualification before moving into Burn Care, where she is currently the Lead Nurse Burns at the Nottingham Burns Unit, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust

Mary has held a variety of jobs in burns including, clinical/managerial roles and worked in Midland Burn Operational Delivery Network and Commissioning Services and her qualifications include: Trauma Nursing certificate, Burns and Plastics Course. BSc (Hons) in Advanced Professional Practice/MSc in Health and Social Care

She has also undertaken Aid Agency work in Ethiopia and Haiti.

Dr Rajesh Dwivedi

Dr Rajesh Dwivedi is a Consultant Geriatrician at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust with a specialist interest in osteoporosis, falls and the care of older adults, often with frailty and comorbidities, in acute settings. His clinical practice focuses on improving outcomes for older patients following trauma, with particular emphasis on early recognition of frailty, comprehensive assessment and multidisciplinary rehabilitation. He has led and contributed to pathway development to strengthen trauma care for older adults and is actively involved in promoting secondary fracture prevention and evidence-based bone health management. Dr Dwivedi is a strong advocate for integrated working between geriatric medicine, orthopaedics and trauma teams, and community services to deliver safer and more efficient trauma care for an ageing population. Alongside his clinical work, he is actively engaged in medical education. He remains committed to advancing collaborative trauma care across the East Midlands.