Prostate Cancer Research

pcr.org.uk

27 October 2026

Prostate Progress

APPG on Prostate Cancer × APPG on Black Health

Dr Jayne Spink
Chief Scientific Officer

Rupert Aikman
Health Equity Manager



The challenge

Unlocking the power of data

The unmet need

In the UK, a man dies from prostate cancer every

45 minutes

Despite real advances in treatment, too many men are still diagnosed late or do not benefit from the best outcomes.

The data paradox

Huge volumes of data already exist, but they are scattered across systems and rarely linked.



This stops researchers seeing the full patient journey, and slows progress in research, trials and innovation.

Connecting men’s experiences with NHS data

A research programme from Prostate Cancer Research



Men tell us about life with prostate cancer
Side effects, wellbeing and their experiences of care.

Linked with their NHS records
With each man’s permission, alongside his diagnosis and treatment.

A fuller picture for researchers
Showing where care needs to improve, and for whom.

prostate progress

Taking part is simple

Who can take part?
Anyone in the UK aged 18+ who has ever been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

How?
Online, on any device, from home. Someone else can help them.

1

Consent
Give consent, including to link answers with NHS records

2

About you
A survey about yourself and your prostate cancer

3

Your health
A three-part survey about your health

4

Keep in touch
Come back a few times a year to update

Scan to join
Prostate Progress

National recruitment campaign so far

Position as of 12 October 2026

31,039

sign-ups to Prostate Progress

293,030

letters sent via NHS DigiTrials, with around 136,000 more to follow

9.3%

response rate, ahead of 8% target

66%

of campaign sign-ups have completed all four surveys

1.4%

of participants are from Black communities.

More diverse areas are still to be reached, but letters alone will not close this gap.

Two studies we are supporting

BALANCE

Life with prostate cancer

A global study by the European Association of Urology (EAU) aiming to understand quality of life and care experiences among Black men of African and Caribbean ancestry and men of mixed Black ancestry.

FRAME-PCa

Inequalities in prostate cancer care

A community-driven study by a team at King's College London addressing ethnic and socioeconomic inequalities in care.

Prostate Progress is supporting recruitment to both studies. More Black men in Prostate Progress can broaden participation and help even more research like this take place.

Why it matters

Black men’s experiences matter

1 in 4

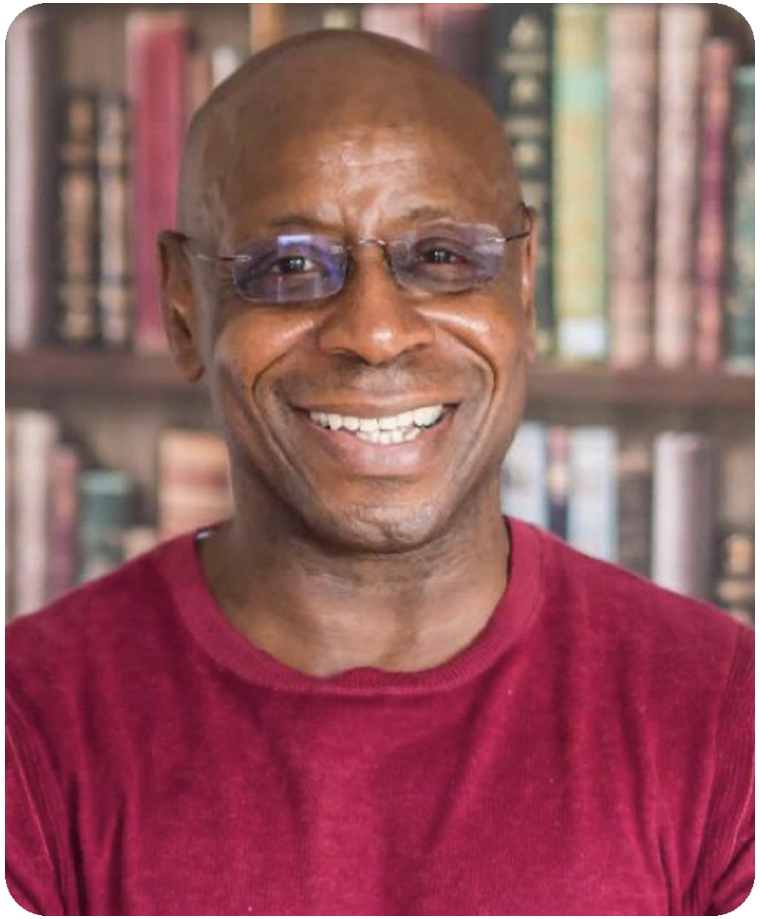
Black men

1 in 8

White men

are diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime in the UK.

Black men have historically been underrepresented in prostate cancer research. **Their experiences must help shape the evidence for better care.**



What communities told us about trust

Phase 1 research: a poll of 1,050 Black British adults, workshops with 53 people in London, Manchester and Birmingham, and expert interviews

> **Trust is when they understand you as a whole – your condition, your culture, your job. You always know if they care, or if it's just a job.**
>
> **Workshop participant**

90% were confident in healthcare professionals, but trust in institutions and research was more conditional

82% believe the legacies of slavery, colonialism and Windrush influence trust in the UK health system

84% would feel comfortable taking part in a clinical trial, but 27% want more information first

Empowering Communities Phase 1 research was sponsored by AstraZeneca.

Empowering Communities in practice



Piloting now. Expanding in 2027 to the North West, London and the West Midlands.

Trust-building conversations

Regular, informal sessions in trusted venues such as restaurants, mosques, barbershops and community centres, offering help navigating the NHS, Q&A and themed talks. No recruitment happens at the gatherings.

Ambassador programme

Community ambassadors who connect us with local groups, help shape how we communicate, and make sure findings are shared back with communities.

Empowering Communities



Get involved

Help us take this further

1

Make an introduction

Connect us with trusted Black-led organisations and community leaders in your constituency.

2

Partner with us

Explore a community partnership or ambassador connection through Empowering Communities.

3

Spread the word

Share Prostate Progress through your newsletters, surgeries and social channels.

Scan to join
Prostate Progress

Dr Jayne Spink
Chief Scientific Officer
jspink@pcr.org.uk

Rupert Aikman
Health Equity Manager
raikman@pcr.org.uk