



Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures

www.stars.org.uk

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Working together with individuals, families and medical professionals to offer support and information on Syncope and Reflex Anoxic Seizures

Charity Celebrates Coming of Age – Patron, Sir Roger Moore Sends Congratulations

08 March 2011, Stratford Upon Avon: 007, Sir Roger Moore, has sent his congratulations to Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS), The Blackouts Trust, for turning eighteen in 2011. Sir Roger is patron of the charity and a keen supporter of its work.

STARS was established in 1993 on the kitchen table of Trudie Lobban, after she was unable to find any information on a little-known disorder with which her daughter, Francesca, had been diagnosed. The condition, Reflex Anoxic Seizures (also known as Reflex Syncope), caused Francesca regularly to suffer unexplained seizure-like blackouts and Trudie was desperate to find a diagnosis.

After over three years of searching, Francesca was finally diagnosed with Reflex Anoxic Seizures (RAS) on 23rd March 1993 by Professor John Stephenson, the then Consultant Paediatric Neurologist at Yorkhill Children's Hospital in Glasgow after witnessing her heart stop for 28 seconds. Following Francesca's diagnosis, Professor Stephenson asked Trudie to set up a small support group to help other individuals and families diagnosed with this condition.

www.stars.org.uk info@stars.org.uk www.education.stars.org.uk

Patrons: Prof John Stephenson, Prof Christopher Mathais, Prof Rose Anne Kenny, Dr William Whitehouse,
Dr Adam Fitzpatrick, Dr Wouter Wieling
Sir Elton John CBE, Twiggy Lawson, Sir Roger Moore KBE, John Burton Race.
Trustees: Mrs Susan Broatch, Mr Andrew Fear, Prof Rose Anne Kenny, Mrs Cathrine Reid, Dr William Whitehouse.
Founder & Chief Executive: Mrs Trudie Lobban MBE

Registered Charity Number – 1084898



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Since that day in March 1993 STARS has undergone rapid expansion and the support and information group that was originally established is today the leading charitable organisation for support and information to both patients and professionals on syncope. By establishing the first ever multi-disciplinary medical advisory committee in 2000, Trudie brought together the expertise of international medical professionals to advise and support STARS.

This was followed by the launch of the first Rapid Access Transient Loss of Consciousness Clinic in Manchester during 2007, the brainchild of Dr Adam Fitzpatrick, Patron of STARS and Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee, to assist the rapid and accurate diagnosis of patients with unexplained periods of unconsciousness.

In June 2009 Trudie was awarded an MBE in recognition of her work for STARS and services to healthcare. Last year was an eminent year for STARS with the launch of the first ever NICE Transient Loss of Consciousness (TLoC) Guidelines in response to a request from the STARS Medical Advisory Committee. In line with the Guidelines STARS produced the Blackouts Checklist patient resource which received a commended award at the British Medical Association Patient Information Awards.

Professor John Stephenson says "It is due to STARS that children and adults are now able to receive an accurate diagnosis for unexplained loss of consciousness and benefit from the support and advice this charity offers."

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Trudie says, "It's hard to believe that STARS is eighteen this year. From being a small support group, STARS is now a truly international charity with patrons including Sir Roger Moore and Sir Elton John. Francesca, who was just three when she was diagnosed, is now a grown woman and works for STARS herself. I want to say thank you to everyone who has supported the charity both during the early years and now, helping so many people around the world."

Sir Roger said, "Congratulations to STARS on its coming of age. I am very familiar with the fantastic work of STARS, helping people affected by blackouts. I salute Trudie and her team for all their hard work and hope that the charity goes from strength to strength in the coming years."

Thanks to being immersed in the charity at a young age, Trudie's elder daughter, Charlotte, who also helps out with STARS, has herself trained to become a doctor.

Today, STARS provides information and support from diagnosis through to treatment and long term management of syncope for all age groups across the world. The overall aim of the charity is to ensure that anyone presenting with unexplained loss of consciousness receives the correct diagnosis, the appropriate treatment, informed support and sign posting to the appropriate medical professional.

STARS provides a 24 hour/7 days a week helpline, patient and professional information resources, website www.stars.org.uk, organises medical and patient meetings and participates in raising awareness of syncope and cardiac arrhythmias through the annual

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Heart Rhythm Week each year. To celebrate its birthday STARS has launched the Blackouts Check iPhone application produced to help patients identify blackouts which require medical attention and prompt doctors to ask the right questions to reach a correct diagnosis. The app is available for £2.99 from the itunes store:

<http://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/blackoutscheckapp/id416830448?mt=8> . With each download of the app £1.82 of funds go to the Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures (STARS) charity.

Ends

1. For more information, contact Pippa Mawle at STARS on 01789 451 833 or pippa@stars.org.uk
2. Trudie Lobban MBE will be available for interview. Please contact STARS to arrange.
3. The STARS website is at www.stars.org.uk

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