



**University  
of Suffolk**

## Achieving Impact in Schools Outreach: Soft Skills of the Trauma CT Radiographer

NANCY SIMS – DIAGNOSTIC RADIOGRAPHY LECTURER

# How did this come about?



- **INVITED BY A SCHOOL**

- Different themes
- Many contributors
- Carousel day



- **WHO WHERE THE STUDENTS**

- 6 groups of 25-30 boys aged 14-15
- South Essex



- **THE BRIEF**

- Focus on soft skills
- Describe what your profession does
- Healthcare but not a doctor or a nurse

Band 6 Diagnostic  
Radiographer working in  
CT out of hours when a  
Pre-Alert RTC comes in

# Background Agenda for the Students



- **WHAT IS MAJOR TRAUMA?**

- What is major trauma?
- Trauma networks
- TARN data



- **TRAUMA CT SCANNING**

- Patient Preparation
- Standard Polytrauma Protocol



- **CAMP BASTION**

- History of Camp Bastion
- How has it influenced Trauma Radiology?
- Camp Bastion protocols

# The Scenario

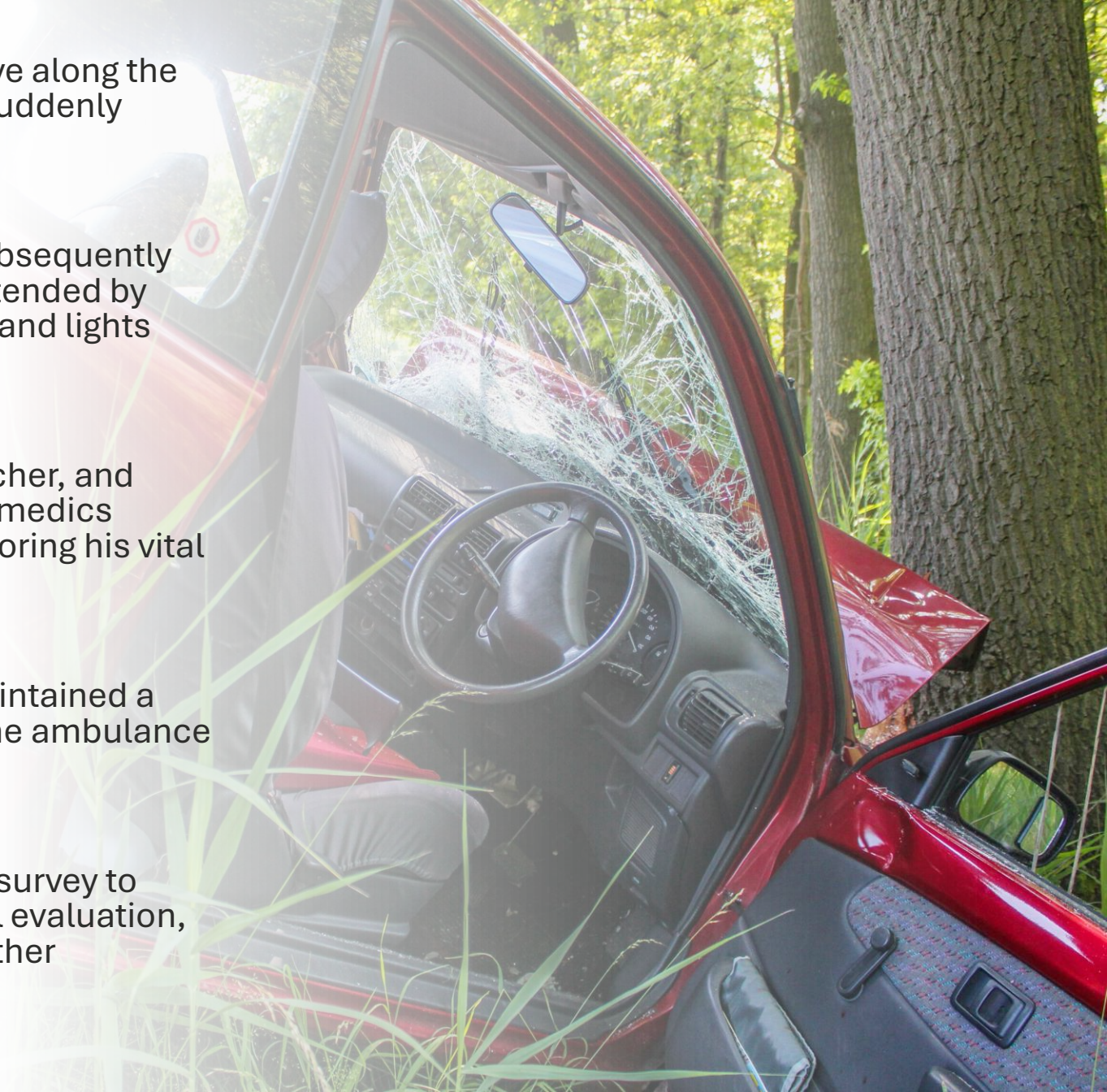
Christos just got a new car. He was enjoying an evening drive along the coastal road, but this night took a tragic turn when a deer suddenly appeared in his path.

Swerving to avoid it, he lost control of his vehicle, which subsequently collided with a tree. Severely injured, Christos was soon attended by paramedics, who arrived promptly with their sirens wailing and lights flashing.

They carefully immobilized his neck, lifted him onto a stretcher, and transported him to the waiting ambulance. Inside, the paramedics administered necessary medical interventions while monitoring his vital signs and providing pain relief.

Throughout the journey to the hospital, the paramedics maintained a calm and professional demeanor, reassuring Christos as the ambulance sped through the night.

Upon arrival at the hospital, Christos underwent a primary survey to assess his condition comprehensively. Following this initial evaluation, the medical team determined the need for a CT scan to further investigate his injuries and ensure appropriate treatment.



# Patient Preparation

- IV Access
- Artefacts
- Immobilization



# Polytrauma Protocol

Non-Contrast  
Head

Skull to Vertex



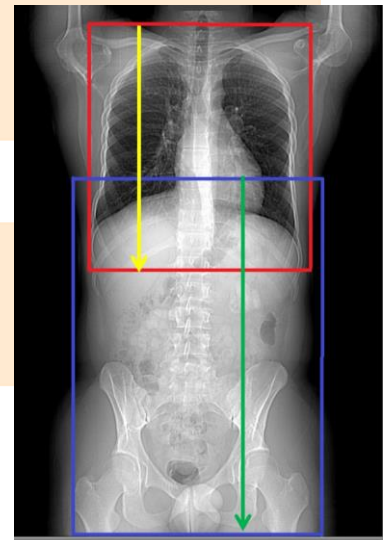
Non-Contrast  
C-Spine

Skull base to T4



Arterial Chest

Lung Apices to Top of Liver



Venous Abdo-  
Pelvis

Top of Liver to Pubic Ramus





Who else  
is  
involved?





The patient  
who is having  
the scan

Christos Dimitriou



The  
radiographers  
and assistants  
in your team

Jo, Moe, Alice and  
Kwame



The people  
who travel  
down from  
the ED with  
the patient

Sam, Nicoletta and  
Bob



The family  
members of  
the patient  
who have  
been called to  
the hospital

Lydia Angelopoulos



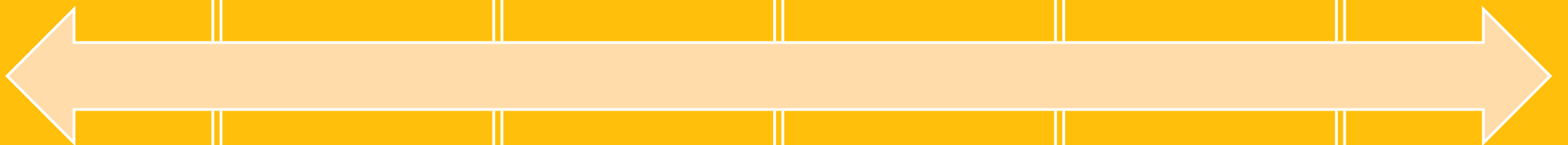
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(Emergency  
Doctor and  
Radiologist)  
who are  
caring for the  
patient

Dr Vernon and Dr Khan



The Student  
who you are  
training

Sofia





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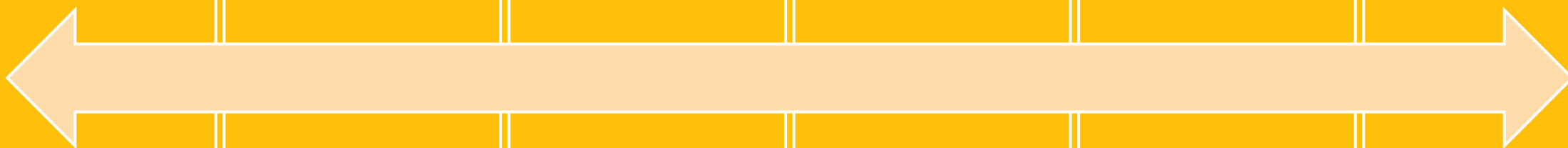
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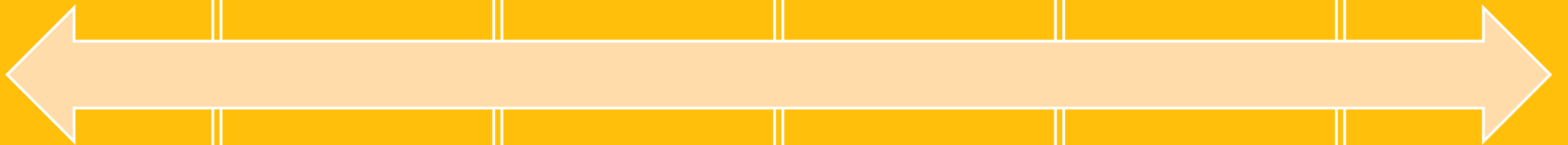
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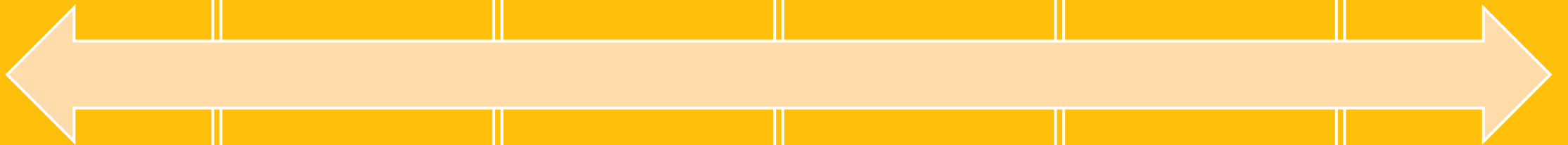
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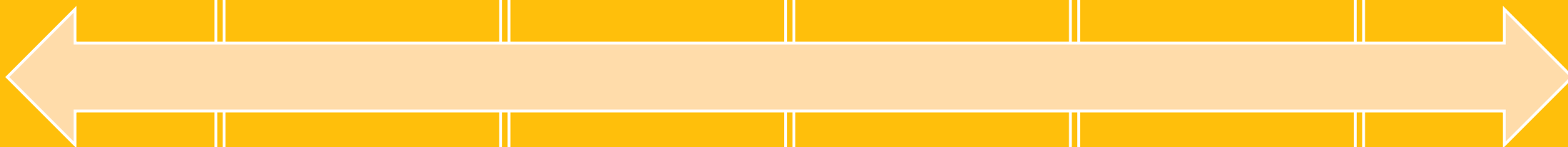
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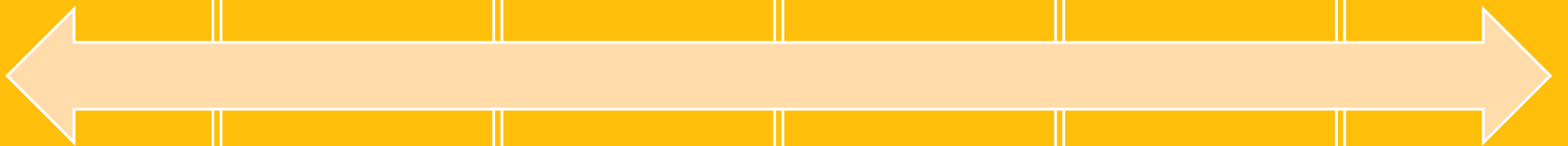
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# The Soft Skills Discussed

**Communication:** The ability to convey information clearly and effectively, both verbally and in writing.

**Teamwork:** The capacity to work well with others, collaborating to achieve common goals.

**Problem-Solving:** The aptitude to analyse situations, identify problems, and develop effective solutions.

**Adaptability:** The ability to adjust to new conditions, environments, or changes in the workplace.

**Emotional Intelligence:** The skill of understanding and managing one's own emotions, as well as recognizing and influencing the emotions of others.

**Time Management:** The ability to prioritize tasks, manage time efficiently, and meet deadlines.

**Leadership:** The capability to guide, motivate, and inspire others, regardless of one's official position.

**Conflict Resolution:** The skill to mediate disputes and find peaceful solutions to disagreements.

**Critical Thinking:** The capacity to think clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas.

**Creativity:** The ability to generate new ideas, think outside the box, and approach problems innovatively.

**Resilience:** The ability to stay positive, recover quickly from setbacks, and maintain focus and motivation in challenging situations.

**Active Listening:** The skill of fully concentrating, understanding, responding, and remembering what is being communicated by others, ensuring effective and meaningful interactions.



# Key themes

Responsibility  
of the scan  
execution

Working  
alongside  
doctors

Exhilaration  
from a complex  
situation

Strategies to  
focus on the  
task in hand

Patient-  
Centred Care

Stressful but  
meaningful