

# Tragic Motorcycle accident: UOA Docs Help Patient Put His Life Back Together Piece by Piece



**Michael Barressi**

Classic cars, Mustangs, dirt bikes, and motorcycles. Michael Barressi loved working on things with motors. Then one night in July of 2020, Michael's life changed forever as he was involved in a severe motorcycle accident in Hazlet.

Michael was rushed to the Level I Trauma Center at Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas hospital in New Brunswick with multiple bodily injuries and numerous broken bones.

Once Michael was stabilized, our team of doctors at UOA began the process of piecing Michael back together. Drs. Sergei Pushilin and Carlos Sagebien, both trauma specialists at UOA, worked tirelessly to put Michael back together. Dr. Pushilin, initially on call the day Michael arrived, treated Michael with plate fixation of his right humerus fracture and external fixation of Michael's severe, compound fractures of his left humerus, forearm, wrist, and tibia. Care was then transferred to Dr. Sagebien, Chief of the Division of Orthopaedic Trauma at RWJ-Rutgers Medical School. Dr. Sagebien managed to salvage Michael's left leg with multiple operations, including a reconstruction of the tibia bone that was missing 15cm of bone during the accident. In addition to caring for the severity of Michael's left wrist and forearm injuries, Dr. Sagebien enlisted the help of Dr. Monica, an upper extremity specialist at UOA, to assist in the fixation of Michael's severe left arm injuries.

Michael spent two weeks in a coma and 45 days in the ICU during his stay at Robert Wood Johnson New Brunswick before being released to the Kessler rehabilitation center in West Orange, NJ. His long journey to recovery was not an easy one. However, thanks to the expert care of our specialists at UOA, Michael was walking virtually pain-free and using both of his arms less than a year after his accident.

Though Michael doesn't remember much of the early days in the hospital, he was quick to note that he has had over 190 procedures over the past year including 10 orthopaedic surgeries.



**Before surgery**



**After surgery**

"The care I received at RWJNB and UOA was outstanding. I am truly lucky that Dr. Sagebien and the team at UOA took care of me. He is excellent, funny, and has a great bedside manner. I think he did a pretty good job putting me back together! His staff was amazing." It truly is a miracle that Michael is alive, out of his wheelchair, and able to walk. Having leading specialists in every subspecialty of orthopaedics allows our team of doctors to maximize patient outcomes as highlighted by Michael's care. In fact, on November 1st, Michael returned to work at Buehler Dodge as a warranty specialist. As time goes by, Michael is getting better each day. He looks forward to continuing to return to normal and is eager to be back working on the engines he loves. Thanks to the talented team of doctors and staff at UOA, Michael is getting his "Life back in Motion".

Scan to learn more about



**Carlos Sagebien, MD**



**Sergei Pushilin, MD**



**James Monica, MD**

