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## Media Release

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### Find out how we're improving care for patients with breathlessness

Members of the public are being given the chance to hear first-hand how the Royal United Hospital is improving the care provided to patients with a common, debilitating disease.

Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) experience progressively worsening breathlessness over many years, interspersed with 'exacerbations' during which they suffer an acute deterioration in symptoms, resulting in frequent admissions to hospital.

At the RUH we have around 500 admissions per year for COPD, and many of these patients are subsequently readmitted within three months of being discharged.

Respiratory Physician Dr Vidan Masani will be talking about the work the RUH is doing to improve care for this group of patients at our Annual General Meeting which will take place from 5.15pm on Wednesday 26 September at the Assembly Rooms, Bath.

He'll be joined by Dr Alastair Kerr, Elderly Care Consultant, who will be speaking about how we are improving care for patients at the end of their lives.

Exhibitions will also showcase some of the other work the hospital is doing, with staff on hand to answer any questions guests may have.

Brian Stables, Chairman, said: "I would encourage anyone who is interested in our work and the services that we provide to our community to come along to find out more. Dr Masani and Dr Kerr will give our attendees a fascinating insight into the work that is going on at the RUH.

"We are hoping to become an NHS Foundation Trust by the end of the financial year and this is a great opportunity for our 5,260 public members as well as members of the public to get involved and influence the future of their local hospital. Anyone can become a member for free and get involved. It is our members who will help us to improve our services and meet the community's healthcare needs."

If you wish to attend our Annual General Meeting please call 01225 821299 or email [RUHmembership@nhs.net](mailto:RUHmembership@nhs.net)

To sign up as a member please visit [www.ruh.nhs.uk/foundationtrust](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/foundationtrust)