

**Date 11.09.18**

**Communications Department**  
Royal United Hospital  
Combe Park  
Bath  
BA1 3NG

Tel: 01225 826230 / 821459  
Mobile: 07557 756658 (office hours)

[Ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net](mailto:Ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net)  
[www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)  
<https://twitter.com/RUHBath>

## Media Release

### **Bath geriatrician is the UK lead for a €10 million international trial into Parkinson's disease patient care**

A €10 million international trial to evaluate a new model of care to improve the quality of life for people living with Parkinson's disease will be conducted by the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Bristol, thanks to funding from The Gatsby Foundation.

The five-year trial is led by Dr Emily Henderson, a Geriatrician at the Royal United Hospital in Bath and an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Bristol. It is anticipated that approximately 1,000 patients with Parkinson's from the RUH catchment area will be recruited for the trial.

It will be conducted in collaboration with the University of Bristol and Radboud University Medical Centre in the Netherlands, and will see the implementation of a new integrated care model designed specifically for people with Parkinson's disease across two health hubs – here in Bath and Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

The aim of the trial is to bridge the gap between different care providers who all play a role in supporting people with Parkinson's, improving the experience of patients.

Dr Henderson said: "The critical issue for people living with Parkinson's is that there are many different health professionals involved in their care and people's experience in accessing that care can be really quite fragmented. This study is looking at reorganising the way in which we structure care so rather than doing it in a rather rigid and regimented way we will be trying to target care based on people's needs.

"For example, someone in the early onset of Parkinson's may not need to see a doctor every six months, but may need ready access to highly specialised physiotherapists. We will be taking the best of the models we have been seeing implemented abroad. Rather than having a 'one size fits all' model, it will be a specialised and bespoke approach to treating each patient.



“We are delighted to be partnering with The Gatsby Foundation and Radboud University Medical Centre to design and deliver this exciting innovation in Parkinson’s care in the United Kingdom.”

Professor Bas Bloem of Radboudumc and co-principal investigator of the new study, said: “The only way to overcome the current impasse in healthcare is to have two critical components at your disposal: firstly, adequate funding to cover the gap between the ideal model of care and what is currently reimbursed by national healthcare systems or insurers ; and secondly, a sufficient amount of time to scientifically demonstrate that the new concept works, as reflected by an improved quality of life for patients as well as cost savings for society. We are extremely grateful to the Gatsby Foundation that we are now offered the unique opportunity to implement and evaluate this exciting new model of care for people with Parkinson’s.”

The project, entitled Proactive and Integrated Management and Empowerment in Parkinson’s Disease (PRIME-PD), will be rigorously evaluated to determine the extent to which health can be improved and health care costs can be reduced.

Ends

#### **About The Gatsby Foundation**

Gatsby is a foundation set up by David Sainsbury to realise his charitable objectives in plant science research, neuroscience research, science and engineering education, economic development in Africa, public policy, and the arts. We are proactive in devising projects to achieve our aims. We are enthusiastic about supporting innovation. We are analytical as we believe it is important to understand the opportunities and problems we tackle. We take a long-term view as we do not think much can be achieved by short, one-off projects. We are always eager to form partnerships with organisations who share our goals.

*For further information or to interview any of the researchers involved in this study, please contact Joanne Fryer, Media Manager, University of Bristol [Mon to Wed], tel+44 (0)117 394 0227, email [joanne.fryer@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.fryer@bristol.ac.uk) and Caroline Clancy, Media Manager, University of Bristol, email [caroline.clancy@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:caroline.clancy@bristol.ac.uk) [Wed to Fri] tel +44 (0) 117 428 2407 or [press-office@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:press-office@bristol.ac.uk), tel +44 (0)117 428 2489.*

Ends

#### **Notes to Editor:**

- The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population



served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

- The Trust has 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.
- In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain, chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis
- The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust is now working towards building a purpose built RNHRD and Therapies Centre and a new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit\\_for\\_the\\_future](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future)
- For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

