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Media Release

Queen's Birthday Honour for RUH consultant

A consultant at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, Professor Tim Cook, has been awarded an OBE for service to Anaesthesia during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Professor Cook, who has been consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine at the RUH since 1998, said: "It is very humbling to receive this honour. Teams of staff throughout the hospital have worked tirelessly to provide high quality compassionate care for patients with COVID-19. This has led to outstanding care, many lives saved and innumerable families supported. In Bath this has required teamwork at all levels across the hospitals and this will be mirrored across the whole NHS."

Professor Cook's work over the past 18 months has included, at the start of the pandemic, maximising preparedness for anaesthesia and critical care working together, and identifying COVID-19 risks to healthcare workers in particular the high impact on ethnic minorities and frontline staff.

He was involved in providing clear and early guidance on how to anaesthetise patients with COVID-19 and prepare them for ICU treatment. This guidance was the first such guidance globally and has been widely used internationally. He also provided national advice about personal protective equipment, the risk to anaesthetists and ICU staff, restarting elective surgery in summer 2020 and spring 2021, preparation for the second surge and the impact of shielding on staff and organisations. Working with teams in Bristol and Sydney his work has highlighted the risk of spread of disease by aerosols and the importance of staff protection and ventilation within hospital settings.

He said: "Clearly, I work with numerous and diverse teams. I firmly believe that collaboration is the key to any and all success. Any award therefore reflects the work of teams rather than individuals. I thank all the members of the teams I have worked with for their skill, sacrifice and dedication and my family for the constant support they have provided."

RUH Chief Executive Cara Charles-Barks said: “I’m delighted that Tim has been honoured – his OBE is well-deserved and a tribute to his outstanding work not just in the past 18 months but in his entire career at the RUH. It is also recognition of the immense efforts and professionalism of all in our critical care service during the pandemic. Congratulations and our thanks to Tim and all in the team.”

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 provides 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 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 and 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 has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: 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