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Media Release

RUH to feature in new Radio 4 series

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust takes centre stage in a new Radio 4 series looking at the importance of humour, relationships and personal connection in healthcare.

The series is presented by the RUH's very own Dr Phil Hammond - doctor, journalist, broadcaster and comedian.

Dr Hammond, who works at the RUH with children and adolescents with chronic fatigue syndrome, visited hospitals around the country to meet with staff working at all different levels of the NHS.

Through his conversations he hears about what makes staff laugh and cry and finds out why they are so proud to work for the NHS.

At the end of each of his visits he performs a stand-up show for staff, with the content based on his experiences of those he met at that particular hospital.

One show in the four-part series focuses solely on the RUH and its staff.

Those interviewed at the RUH ranged from hard-working cleaners to consultants and intensive care staff.

Dr Hammond said: "It's been a real privilege to be involved with this series. I've met so many wonderful people across all levels of the NHS and heard so many incredible stories.

"One of the programmes focuses specifically on the RUH and it was wonderful to meet with so many people in the Trust – many that I hadn't had the opportunity to speak to before.

“I hope people will like the series. It’s an affectionate look at the people that make the NHS the incredible organisation that it is, and how humour plays a vital part for staff when communicating with their patients and colleagues.”

The weekly series begins on Thursday 26 August at 6.30pm on Radio 4. The RUH will be featured on Thursday 9 September at 6.30pm. If you can’t listen live, you can listen back on the BBC Sounds app.

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