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Media Release

Award success for RUH researchers

A key research study into Parkinson's disease, led by a doctor from the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, has won a top accolade at a regional awards ceremony.

Dr Emily Henderson and the team behind the CHIEF-PD study, which is delivered by the Ageing and Movement Research Group at the University of Bristol, won Lead Network Study of the Year at the Clinical Research Network West of England Awards.

The CHIEF-PD study is one of the UK's largest ever drug trials in Parkinson's disease and specifically targets falls prevention. The medical research trial is examining whether drugs normally used to treat people with memory problems can be used to reduce the number of falls that people with Parkinson's experience

The study has enrolled 600 participants across an impressive 39 centres in the UK.

Despite the major challenges to clinical research posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, CHIEF-PD reached its recruitment target and managed to enrol a significant number of people with Parkinson's, many of whom are frail and have multiple long-term conditions. This is important to ensure that the findings from the trial are relevant to people living with Parkinson's now.

They achieved this by trialling novel approaches to research delivery, such as drugs being delivered to participants rather than them having to collect medication.

The findings from the trial will enable medical specialists to make decisions in conjunction with people with Parkinson's, to ensure they are provided with the best treatments to improve their experience and quality of life.

Dr Emily Henderson said: “To receive such a prestigious award really is a fantastic achievement and is recognition of the hard work and dedication of all the team.

“It is important to recognise the contribution of my RUH colleagues Ruth Hamlin and Veronica Lyell, whose support in recruiting over 80 people with Parkinson’s to the trial has been key to the success of the study nationally .

“We anticipate that the findings of this trial will have an important impact on the lives of people with Parkinson’s.”

You can find out more about the CHIEF PD trial here: <https://chiefpd.blogs.bristol.ac.uk/>

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Notes to Editor:

At the RUH we're proud to put people at the heart of what we do, striving to create an environment where everyone matters. Everyone means the people we care for, the people we work with and the people in our community.

We provide a wide range of services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

We also provide specialist services for rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME via the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases which we acquired in 2015.

In 2021, we acquired Sulis Hospital Bath, an independent hospital that provides care for both private and NHS patients. This has enabled us to provide more care for NHS patients, as well as continuing to provide private care to those who choose it. Any additional income earned through private care is reinvested in services for the benefit of the people we care for at both Sulis and the RUH.

We're currently building a new Cancer Centre at the RUH. The Dyson Cancer Centre, which is set to open in autumn 2023, will help transform the care we provide for patients, families and carers.

We work closely with other health and care organisations as members of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board. We strive to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our community by working together build one of the healthiest places to live and work.

We are rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk