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Media Release

Royal reception for RUH staff

Two members of staff from the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust were amongst those who had the opportunity to meet King Charles III last week at a reception held at Buckingham Palace.

Mark Doblus, Lead Clinical Practice Facilitator for International Nursing, and Sarang Thacker, a midwife, were among 400 nurses and midwives to join The King as he celebrated his 75th birthday, along with the 75th birthday of the NHS.

The event celebrated the contribution of international nurses and midwives working in the NHS over the decades.

Mark said: "It was surreal to get the invitation and I got more and more excited leading up to the event. I came to this country five years ago and have worked in the RUH ever since. Shaking hands with The King fulfilled a childhood dream and will be forever stored in my memory.

"I can't believe I have been given this opportunity. It is a recognition for the hard work we do to support our new nurses and midwives and the NHS and I couldn't be any prouder to represent the RUH at Buckingham Palace.

"I had the chance to wish The King a happy birthday and tell him I am from the Philippines and now live in Bath. Now, I have another dream, which is to live to see the 100th year of the NHS and perhaps another Filipino Chief Nurse."

Sarang said: "It was wonderful to see The King acknowledging the care and contribution that colleagues bring to the NHS and the country as a whole.

"He seemed so very kind and patient. Shaking so many hands, while looking genuinely interested. He thanked so many people for what we do.

Toni Lynch, RUH Chief Nurse, said: "I'm so pleased that Mark and Sarang were given this incredible opportunity.

"The NHS has always been somewhere where patients have benefited from the expertise, commitment and compassion of staff from around the world.

"Our international nurses and midwives play a vital role and make such a difference to our staff and patients. We are so grateful for the enormous contribution they make across the RUH every day."

Ends

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