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Media Release

RUH performs the first HIFU non-invasive prostate cancer treatment in the South West

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) has successfully treated two prostate cancer patients with an innovative high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) treatment, the first time this therapy has been carried out in the region.

RUH Consultant Urologist Miss Lucy Simmons, mentored by world leading expert Professor Hashim Ahmed of Imperial College, teamed up with pioneering cancer charity Prost8 and The UK Ultrasound Foundation to bring the treatment into the Trust.

The new HIFU unit at RUH Bath, with equipment funded by Prost8 and the UK Focused Ultrasound Foundation, integrates advanced image-guided capabilities and ultrasound energy to precisely target the prostate without any incisions or radiation, therefore sparing nearby healthy structures.

The partnership between the UK Focused Ultrasound Surgery Foundation (FUSF) and Prost8 highlights the united dedication of both organisations to advancing prostate cancer care and reshaping the treatment landscape and options available to men with prostate cancer throughout the UK. In addition, their commitment to supporting NHS Trusts, such as the RUH Bath, in improving access to HIFU.

RUH Consultant Urologist Miss Lucy Simmons said: "I'm proud to introduce High Intensity Focussed Ultrasound treatment for prostate cancer to the RUH. The addition of HIFU therapy to our treatment options complements our robotic program and other available treatments.

"Receiving a diagnosis of prostate cancer can be a challenging time for men and their loved ones. There are many options for treatment available and not all are suitable for everyone. It's important to note that HIFU will be the right route for some men, but not all.

"Men with newly diagnosed prostate cancer in the region who feel they may be eligible for and interested in pursuing HIFU treatment should speak to their treating clinician and discuss referral for eligibility assessment to Bath."

They are also able to contact Prost8 - <https://www.prost8.org.uk/> - as the charity will help guide them in their decision journey.

Cara Charles-Barks, RUH Chief Executive, said: “Bringing HIFU to the RUH is a brilliant addition to our prostate cancer care delivery, which will benefit the some of the people we care for with less invasive procedures and faster recovery times. We are grateful to Prost8 and the UK Focused Ultrasound Foundation.”

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 spring 2024, 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