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Media Release

RNHRD recognised as a Centre of Excellence for treating Paget's disease

Bath's Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) has been recognised as the first Centre of Excellence in the South West for its treatment of patients with Paget's disease and its research into the condition.

The coveted honour, from the Paget's Association, recognises the RNHRD's diagnostic and treatment facilities, the clinical expertise of its staff, the number of patients cared for and its involvement in Paget's disease research.

Paget's disease affects the normal repair and renewal process of bone and in some cases can cause chronic pain.

At the RNHRD, patients with suspected Paget's disease, and those with a known diagnosis, are seen in a monthly metabolic bone disease clinic supervised by specialist consultants. Scans, x-rays and other necessary investigations such as blood tests can all be done on site, and patients who need treatment receive it on the centre's dedicated infusion unit. The team also includes a nurse specialist and physiotherapy and occupational therapy teams, all of whom help to provide support to patients.

Dr Sarah Hardcastle, Consultant Rheumatologist at the RNHRD, part of the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are extremely pleased to be receiving this award in recognition of the care we provide to our patients with Paget's disease, and our involvement in Paget's disease research.

"Our recent research efforts have been supported thanks to a generous legacy donation that was left to the department in 2020. This has been used to fund staff research time and is one of the key reasons we have received this Centre of Excellence accolade.

“We look forward to working with the Paget’s Association to continue to improve the outlook for patients with this condition in the future.”

Dr Hardcastle and fellow RNHRD consultant Tehseen Ahmed will be co-directors of the Centre of Excellence.

The Paget’s Association is a UK charity supporting those affected by Paget’s Disease of Bone, funding research and raising awareness. More information can be found at www.paget.org.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 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