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Media Release

RUH appoints new Non-Executive Director

Dr Simon Harrod has been appointed the new Clinical Non-Executive Director to the Board of Directors at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust.

Dr Harrod trained as an anaesthetist in London and became a consultant at St Bartholomew's in 1996. After several medical management roles, he was appointed as the medical director for the Royal London Hospital from 2015 until retirement in 2022.

During his 40 years in the NHS, including 25 years in hospital management, Dr Harrod has led on many changes in healthcare, including the introduction of electronic record systems and the development of robust patient safety processes.

Dr Harrod, whose non-executive director role has a key focus on patient safety and care, said: "I've had a career-long interest in patient safety and improving the quality of healthcare for all patients.

"I am looking forward to working with the board and using my experience in the health system to ensure the hospital continues to deliver high quality care for its patients. I aim to understand the needs of the local community and ensure these are reflected in the trust strategy."

Non-Executive Directors play a crucial role in bringing an independent perspective to the boardroom, in addition to any specific knowledge and skills they may have.

Alison Ryan, Trust Chair, said: "I'm delighted to welcome Dr Harrod to the Board as a Non-Executive Director. His wealth of experience and knowledge will be invaluable in offering strategic advice and support to the Board."

Dr Harrod and his wife now live in Amesbury. In the last 18 months he has become a trustee of the new Amesbury History Centre while continuing with his of his hobbies of cycling, fly fishing and keeping his kit car on the road.

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.

Our new Dyson Cancer Centre brings together many of the RUH's cancer services under one roof to provide a cancer services hub for over 500,000 people in the South West. The centre includes the RUH's oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services, a 22-bed inpatient ward, a dedicated pharmacy, research team and nuclear medicine and physics teams.

A key feature of the new centre is the Macmillan Wellbeing Hub. The three-storey hub provides a welcoming, non-clinical space designed around the needs of patients and their families. It also includes comfortable accommodation where relatives and loved ones can stay overnight.

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