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Media Release

RUH staff celebrate their varied healthcare roles on Allied Health Professions' Day

Staff across the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust have been celebrating the varied roles of Allied Health Professions (AHPs) as part of national AHPs' Day.

As the third-largest clinical workforce within health and care, allied health professions play a pivotal role in supporting the NHS, providing a wide range of care and support.

There are more than 400 staff at the RUH working in AHP roles. These include dietitians, occupational therapists, operating department practitioners, orthoptists, paramedics, physiotherapists, podiatrists, orthotists, therapeutic radiographers, diagnostic radiographers and speech and language therapists.

To mark AHPs' Day, RUH staff have been talking about their roles and the different ways to start a career as an AHP.

Dominic McBurney began his job as a diagnostic radiographer at the RUH five months ago after completing a degree with the University of the West of England (UWE).

He said: "My mum used to be a radiographer, so it was something that was always around me growing up and there was always an interest there. I also like talking to people and using incredible equipment – so the job really appealed to me!

"The degree course was perfect as it gives you time to learn on the job through work placements, which I found so helpful. It's when you get to ask all the questions you need to and get such helpful supervision – you learn so much.

“You’ll find me based mainly in our emergency department, carrying out x-rays for broken bones and imaging chests for possible infections.

“It’s a great job and the RUH has supported me really well with my career progression too, providing funding for extra training and giving me opportunities to work across departments with other AHP teams to further my experience.”

Chelle Wright began an apprenticeship as a physiotherapist after spending 14 years as a technical instructor at the RUH.

She said: “I’ve worked at the RUH for many years, but when the opportunity came up for me to start an apprenticeship I didn’t have to think twice.

“Most people would associate apprenticeships with younger people just starting out in their careers but I hope to show it’s never too late to become an apprentice and learn new skills.

“I’m currently doing a degree at UWE and will hopefully become a fully qualified physiotherapist next year. As it’s an apprenticeship I’ve been able to learn on the job too, which has been fantastic.

“The RUH is a great place to work – I wouldn’t still be here if it wasn’t! I’m part of a fantastic, supportive team and am really enjoying my role. You get such a sense of achievement when you get someone mobile and back home. You know you’ve really helped to improve their quality of life.”

You can search for AHP jobs on the RUH website –[RUH Vacancies | Royal United Hospitals Bath](#) – and there’s lots more information about working as an AHP on the NHS Careers website - <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.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.

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