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Communications Department

Tel: 01225 82 5849/5799/6230

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RUHcommunications@nhs.net

www.ruh.nhs.uk

Back from the front line in Afghanistan - RUH Consultant is Healthcare Reservist of the Year

Richard Graham, a Consultant Radiologist at the Royal United Hospital, has been awarded the Healthcare Reservist of the Year award at the Military and Civilian Health Partnership Awards 2013.

This award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the healthcare of patients in the Armed Forces or the Reserve Services.

Richard has just returned from his second tour of duty in Afghanistan, working as Royal Naval Reserve Surgeon Commander at a UK military hospital.

His role in Afghanistan involves leading the radiology department and being a member of the trauma team, treating soldiers often with appalling or life threatening injuries. Most casualties are collected by helicopter which brings the hospital to the patient and allows their treatment to begin while they are being transferred.

When casualties arrive they undergo immediate resuscitation during which Richard performs an ultrasound scan. He will typically perform the ultrasound scan to check for internal bleeding. If the patient is stable enough then this is followed by a CT scan. The CT gives more detailed images, which can be of the whole body. Richard interprets this scan immediately, identifying the life threatening injuries and communicates these to the surgical team allowing them to conduct their surgery in the most effective way. The CT scan is normally done within half an hour of them arriving at the hospital.

The Military and Civilian Health Partnership Awards recognise the efforts of health professionals from the public, private and voluntary sectors across the UK in providing care to service personnel, veterans and their families.

As well as being an Officer at the Royal Navy Reserves unit, HMS Flying Fox, based in Bristol, Richard is also Head of the Royal Naval Reserve Medical Branch.

Richard was delighted with his award: "I am very honoured to receive this award which I'm really accepting on behalf of the Royal Naval Reserve Medical Branch, in recognition of the important contribution it has made to healthcare in the battlefield, and the vital part deployed radiology has played in the overall world-leading trauma outcomes at the UK Hospital in Afghanistan."

To find out more about the Royal Naval Reserve, call 08456 075555 or visit the website www.royalnavy.mod.uk/navyjobs

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