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Media Release

Presenter of BBC TV's 'The One Show' is guest speaker at hospital's Annual Meeting

Popular broadcaster and Vice President of the Patients Association, Angela Rippon, will be guest speaker at the Trust's Annual General Meeting in September.

The theme of this year's event is 'putting the patient at the centre of the service'. The AGM will also feature information about the hospital's plan to become an NHS Foundation Trust.

The Trust's chief executive, James Scott, said: "The safety of patients and their experiences of the care we provide are the Board's top priorities. The Trust Board is absolutely committed to continuing to focus on these areas into the future, to ensure they are widely embedded in our daily activities. We are therefore delighted to have Angela Rippon agree to attend our AGM as guest speaker, in her capacity as Vice President of the Patients Association."

Katherine Murphy is Chief Executive of the Patients Association. She explained that the charity had been campaigning for many years for a more patient-centred health service which uses patient experience as the benchmark for assessing the quality of services.

She said: "All too often patient experience is overlooked but we believe that it can and does make significant improvements to patient services. In addition, we believe that patient safety is paramount. We are encouraged by the efforts of Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust to make these their priorities. We look forward to hearing from the Trust about the initiatives they plan to put in place to make this a reality."

Angela Rippon said: "At the Patients Association we receive thousands of letters and calls from people who want to share their experience of hospitals with us. Clearly it's a lottery. Some are brimming over with justifiable praise, others are full of anger, frustration, or just plain heartbreaking. We all want a universal service we can be proud of so I applaud the RUH's ambition to be a centre of excellence in patient care, and look forward to attending their AGM."

The AGM will be held at the Assembly Rooms in central Bath on September 14, 2011, with tea and coffee from 5.15pm. The AGM gets underway from 6pm. A detailed agenda will be on our website shortly, just visit www.ruh.nhs.uk

Ends

Notes to Editors

An official publicity shot is attached with this email.

If you plan to attend the event, to film or send photographers, please notify the RUH communications team beforehand. Call Helen Robinson-Gordon, Head of Communications, on 01225 825849 or Communications Officer Alison Laing 01225 821299.