

Date: 22.06.17

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Media Release

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New Forbes Fraser Pharmacy at leading-edge of cancer therapies

On Friday 23 June, NHS England's Chief Pharmaceutical Officer Dr Keith Ridge CBE will officially open the Forbes Fraser Pharmacy at the Royal United Hospital (RUH) in Bath. The new pharmacy is an integral part of the Trust's wider redevelopment plans, which include building the Dyson Cancer Centre and the RNHRD & Therapies Centre.

Far from being a simple medicines dispensary, pharmacy is at the heart of the RUH's activities, covering all aspects of medicine use at the hospital and the new state-of-the-art facility will help us provide an even better and more efficient service for patients.

The new facility includes a five-room aseptic suite, which enables the on-site production of highly-individualised cancer treatments, and also boasts a radio pharmacy suite, producing safe and effective radioactive cancer therapies and diagnostic tools – bringing a previously outsourced, specialist service right into the heart of the RUH.

Chief Pharmacist, Regina Brophy said: "The advanced technologies in our new pharmacy will allow us to contribute to a number of cutting-edge diagnostic tests – starting with the production of radioactive imaging agent Gallium-68 which will be used by the hospital's specialised Positron Scanner to help seek out prostate or neuroendocrine tumours. We expect to be the first Trust in the whole of the South West to provide this diagnostic tool."

In addition to supporting diagnostic tests and producing specialist treatments for use at the Trust, the intention is for the RUH to manufacture and supply radiopharmaceuticals to other hospitals in the area.

Regina Brophy said: "Not only will we be providing a valuable service to other local care providers, the income we generate will be fed directly back into patient care. Providing innovative services onsite will also help us to continue to attract the brightest and best pharmacists and technicians to the RUH."

The building itself has already begun receiving accolades within the construction industry. At the South West Built Environment Awards on 9 June, Kier Construction (the building's designers) picked up awards for Innovation and Value. Part of the success of the building has been the input from staff throughout all stages of the project.

Charlotte Scully, RUH Project Manager for the pharmacy build says: "Building from the ground up meant that the pharmacy team could be involved from the outset. We had a unique opportunity for staff using the facilities to feed directly into the building's design – which is so important when it comes to getting it right. Due to some careful planning, we were able to transfer services straight over to the new building, so there was no disruption to patient care."

Regina Brophy adds: “We couldn’t be happier with our new home. We are so proud to have a pharmacy that can fully meet the needs of the hospital and our patients, both now and far into the future.”

Ends

Notes to the Editor

Definition of technical terms

Aseptic pharmacy

Where pharmaceutical products are made in a sterile environment using isolators and controlled air supply via HEPA filters.

Radio pharmacy

Involves the manufacture and supply of safe and effective radiopharmaceuticals (radioactive products) for the diagnosis and therapeutic treatment of patients with cancer.

Additional notes on the facilities:

- The pharmacy has been constructed to meet stringent security requirements, with a lock-down system, alarm system, and heavy-duty reinforced doors and shutters.
- Modern, fit for purpose technological medicine storage on the ground floor of the Pharmacy includes a state-of-the-art three-armed Pharmacy Robot that automatically, quickly and accurately sorts and dispenses solid medicines – freeing pharmacists to spend more time with patients.
- The space was finished to a very high internal specification and includes large-scale art works by Dr Michele Whiting in association with the hospital’s arts charity Art at the Heart.
- The pharmacy is situated right next to where the new Dyson Cancer Centre will be located.
- The light and airy dispensary provides a calm and quiet environment from which to dispense medications to all wards and departments within the hospital and surrounding GP practices.

Forbes Fraser

Forbes Fraser (1871-1924) was an eminent surgeon credited with being a founder of the first permanent hospital to be built at the Combe Park site. At the time of his death, Fraser was working as Senior Surgeon at the Royal United Hospital and was also a visiting surgeon to the Royal Mineral Water Hospital in Bath’s city centre. Fraser tragically died of blood poisoning after he was pricked by a septic bone whilst performing an operation.

The wider role of Pharmacy

Pharmacy is central to the RUH’s activities, covering all aspects of medicine use at the hospital. Our dedicated pharmacy team has a duty to make sure the most effective and cost-efficient medicines of high quality are in use at the hospital; and that those medicines are available whenever and wherever they’re required.

Project Partners

The project was managed by the RUH’s Capital Projects Team in collaboration with a number of local partners including:

IBI Group

www.ibigroup.com

(Martin Wickes, Architect)

IBI works to create the best possible healthcare future for patients, the public, and healthcare teams alike, based on a fundamental understanding of the clinical and emotional needs of patients and

families, the operational processes through which care is delivered, and the work environments necessary to deliver that care.

Kier Construction (Western and Wales)

www.kier.co.uk

(Matt Griffiths, Design Manager)

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