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## **RUH researchers help national and international COVID-19 studies**

Research teams at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) are taking part in important national and international studies into COVID-19 and looking at possible treatments for people affected.

The Trust has joined others across the UK in answering Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty's call for urgent collaboration into investigating the disease. He wrote to every NHS Trust in the country to encourage efforts to enrol patients into nationally prioritised clinical trials.

In the letter, the country's five most senior doctors highlighted the crucial role of gathering reliable evidence to combat the global pandemic. The UK is now running clinical trials in primary care, hospital and intensive care settings.

At the RUH a large international study has been open since the start of the pandemic, gathering information from positive COVID-19 patients that may help scientists to understand more about the virus. There are also a number of studies going on in the RUH's Intensive Care Unit, involving confirmed COVID-19 patients, some to trial treatments and another which aims to identify genes that may make some people more unwell. A clinical trial has also begun across the whole Trust, trying out drugs used for different viruses with the aim of identifying possible treatments to help patients in their recovery.

Dr Kelly Spencer, RUH Research Manager, Operations, said: "We're really proud to be a research-active hospital and proud to be participating in these research studies. It's essential that we learn as much as we can, as soon as we can. There has been a great effort to accelerate the set-up of these trials, working with the clinicians, pharmacy and other support departments and we thank them for their cooperation in these busy times.

“We’re looking at treatments that are already in use for other conditions, like anti-viral drugs or drugs that help the immune system to better fight disease, to see if any of these are effective against coronavirus. We’re not expecting to find a cure, but we do hope that these treatments may help patients to recover more quickly from coronavirus or reduce their stay in hospital.”

Read more about RUH COVID-19 research here

[www.ruh.nhs.uk/patients/research\\_development/covid19.asp](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/patients/research_development/covid19.asp)

## Ends

Note to editors:

Research and development is an important part of our hospital’s work. It informs our treatment programmes and contributes to a better understanding of many conditions.

In partnership with local universities in Bath and Bristol, as well as many other universities and NHS trusts, we ensure that this research is carried out to the highest standards.

Our clinicians are involved in a number of research projects and evidence based working. We are committed to encouraging further research and evidence based working and will support applications from external researchers to conduct studies here.

## Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has announced that 2020 will be the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Our nurses and midwives are a big part of the RUH family and throughout the year we will be celebrating the work they do, going above and beyond every day to give our patients compassionate care.

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country

offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit\\_for\\_the\\_future](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future)

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Chair:  
Alison Ryan

Chief Executive:  
James Scott



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Matters  
Working  
Together  
Making a  
Difference