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RUH nurse voted top of the class by students

An oncology nurse specialist from the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust is celebrating being voted 'Best Nurse Teacher' by medical students from the University of Bristol.

Emma Girling, a Macmillan Acute Oncology Cancer Nurse Specialist, received the award from graduating students from Bristol Medical School.

"It's a real honour to receive the award," said Emma. "I really enjoy working with the students – they're always so enthusiastic, engaged and keen to ask questions.

"I can't take the credit though. I'm part of a very close team which works well together and is so supportive, so it really is a team effort."

Most recently, Emma worked with students who went on to graduate early, becoming our newly-qualified doctors, ready to support the NHS during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students from the University spend time in different departments while they are at the RUH. They typically spend a week with Oncology, and will shadow Emma to experience first-hand her work at the hospital.

"During their week in Oncology they will spend time in clinic with consultants and also on the ward meeting and spending time with patients and their families," Emma said.

"While they are with us in Acute Oncology we aim to help them understand the patient pathway, from being admitted right through the hospital process, so they understand how all the different departments fit together.

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“I try to challenge them too, to ask how they would deal with a particular scenario and how they would support the patient. It’s a partnership – both myself and the student working together.

“I also encourage them to think about themselves and their own welfare. This can be a stressful and emotional job and it’s essential they learn how important it is to look after themselves.”

Emma, who won the RUH’s Nurse of the Year award in 2018, added: “The support I’ve received from colleagues here at the RUH has been invaluable and has allowed me to work closely with these students, our doctors of the future.”

Jack McAlinden, President of Galenicals, the University of Bristol Medical Students’ Society, said: “Emma should be immensely proud of the impact she had had on our graduating students, their careers and their lives.

“The investment she has made in time, effort, energy and patience will pay dividends for many years to come. This beneficial return will be not only for the students she’s taught, but for every patient they treat, every family they care for, and every student that they in turn will educate.”

Ends

Notes to Editor:

The World Health Organization has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Our nurses and midwives are a big part of the RUH family and throughout the year we are 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.

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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

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk

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