

11.04.23**Communications Department**Royal United Hospital
Combe Park
Bath
BA1 3NGTel: 01225 826230 / 821459
Mobile: 07557 756658 (office hours)ruh-tr.communicationteam@nhs.net
www.ruh.nhs.uk
www.twitter.com/RUHBath

Media Release

RUH researchers appeal for more volunteers for Parkinson's trials

On World Parkinson's Day (Tuesday 11 April) researchers at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust are appealing for more people to volunteer to take part in vital studies into the complex condition.

Parkinson's disease is a condition in which parts of the brain become progressively damaged over the years leading to a wide range of physical and psychological symptoms, including involuntary shaking of parts of the body, slow movement and stiff muscles.

While there is currently no cure for Parkinson's disease there are treatments available that aim to reduce symptoms and help people to maintain their quality of life.

RUH Research Nurse Ruth Hamlin said: "The treatments and medications for Parkinson's disease which are in use today are the result of previous research trials, which shows how important these studies are in tackling conditions like this.

"We find that people who do volunteer for trials get a lot of satisfaction from knowing they are contributing to the discovery of what could be really vital treatments for people with their condition."

There is still time to sign up to the Chief PD trial at the RUH, which is exploring whether medication can help to reduce the number of falls that people with Parkinson's experience.

Another trial set to begin at the RUH soon will be recruiting people living with Parkinson's who experience hallucinations.

The RUH is also recruiting to a study for people with conditions associated with Parkinson's disease such as progressive supranuclear palsy – a rare neurological condition that can cause problems with balance, movement, vision and speech.

Research Physiotherapist Emily Graham said: “We run a lot of studies looking at various aspects of Parkinson's disease and while some studies do require people to attend the hospital, others can be done from home, which we know can be very helpful for people with movement difficulties.

“Research is vital in shaping future treatments in all areas of healthcare, so if you have Parkinson's and would like to be part of one of our studies, please get in touch and we can discuss the trials that we have available for you to take part in.”

To volunteer for a Parkinson's research trial at the RUH please email ruh-tr.researchopu@nhs.net or call 01225 825797.

You can find lots more information and advice about Parkinson's disease and research on the Parkinson's UK website: www.parkinsons.org.uk

Ends

Notes to Editor:

At the RUH we're proud to put people at the heart of what we do, striving to create an environment where everyone matters. Everyone means the people we care for, the people we work with and the people in our community.

We provide a wide range of services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

We also provide specialist services for rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME via the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases which we acquired in 2015.

In 2021, we acquired Sulis Hospital Bath, an independent hospital that provides care for both private and NHS patients. This has enabled us to provide more care for NHS patients, as well as continuing to provide private care to those who choose it. Any additional income earned through private care is reinvested in services for the benefit of the people we care for at both Sulis and the RUH.

We're currently building a new Cancer Centre at the RUH. The Dyson Cancer Centre, which is set to open in autumn 2023, will help transform the care we provide for patients, families and carers.

We work closely with other health and care organisations as members of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board. We strive to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our community by working together build one of the healthiest places to live and work.

We are rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

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