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## Media Release

### **RUH supports international stroke research study**

Researchers at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust are supporting an international study looking at whether a new drug could help reduce the risk of strokes reoccurring in patients.

The Librexia study is investigating whether the use of milvexian, an anticoagulant that thins the blood, helping to reduce the risks of blood clots from forming in the bloodstream, can reduce the risk of future ischaemic stroke in patients who have already suffered an ischaemic stroke or transient ischemic attack.

An ischaemic stroke happens when a blockage cuts off the blood supply to part of the brain, killing brain cells. This can result in speech and visual disturbance, and numbness or weakness in the face, arms and legs.

A transient ischaemic attack (TIA) is caused by a temporary disruption in the blood supply to part of the brain. This can cause sudden symptoms similar to a stroke.

Strokes affect around 100,000 people a year in the UK and are a leading cause of death and disability. While many people who have had a stroke go on to make a good recovery, others may experience another stroke.

Patients taking part in the study must be aged 40 or over and can sign up to be part of the study if they attend the RUH within 48 hours of an ischaemic stroke or transient ischaemic attack.

Upon enrolment to the study, participants are randomly assigned to receive either milvexian or a placebo, in addition to standard medications suggested by their doctor.

Patients are then seen at the RUH every 13 weeks and for assessments, including blood tests and tests on liver and kidney function.

Kelly Spencer, Head of Research Operations at the RUH, said: “It’s fantastic that the RUH has been invited to be part of such an important study, which could lead to a really positive outcome for many of the people we care for.

“The RUH is well-respected for its commitment to research and studies like these reflect our on-going work to support vital medical trials which can help us better care for our patients now and in the future.”

## **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.

Our new Dyson Cancer Centre brings together many of the RUH's cancer services under one roof to provide a cancer services hub for over 500,000 people in the South West. The centre includes the RUH's oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services, a 22-bed inpatient ward, a dedicated pharmacy, research team and nuclear medicine and physics teams.

A key feature of the new centre is the Macmillan Wellbeing Hub. The three-storey hub provides a welcoming, non-clinical space designed around the needs of patients and their families. It also includes comfortable accommodation where relatives and loved ones can stay overnight.

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](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)