15th May 2014

Press Release

THE RNHRD MARKS INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL TRIALS DAY WITH HELP FROM BATH’S NATURAL THEATRE COMPANY

The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust (RNHRD) is once again taking part in activities to mark International Clinical Trials Day (ICTD), with the help of Bath’s world renowned Natural Theatre Company.

The RNHRD, known locally as the ‘Min’, has an excellent reputation for research both nationally and internationally and is currently involved in around 30 research projects, including clinical trials.

Jane Carter, Research and Development Manager at the RNHRD says, “We welcome the opportunity to shine a spotlight on clinical research and the vital role it plays in the NHS. We are a specialist Trust and our programme of research underpins the treatment we provide and our expert knowledge of the chronic conditions in which we specialise. It has always been a core principle of the Min to combine clinical research and development with high quality patient care.”

International Clinical Trials Day commemorates what is widely regarded as the first true clinical trial, when James Lind investigated the possible causes of scurvy in 1746. Jane continues “Clinical trials have developed a great deal since then; research is a core activity of the NHS today; it’s the way we gather evidence to improve patient treatment and care.”

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During this nationally recognised day, the Clinical Research team at the Min will have an interactive display board in the hospital’s foyer and visitors will be able to experience James Lind’s original trial for themselves. In addition performers from the much loved Natural Theatre Company will be participating in the event, so visitors can expect to be entertained as well as informed.

Jane adds, “The event is an excellent opportunity to remind patients they can proactively get involved in research projects. We want people to know it’s ‘OK to Ask’ your clinician about clinical studies, you don’t need to wait to be invited!”

“People can help themselves and future patients by taking part in clinical studies. We are very grateful to the 736 new participants who took part in research projects at the Trust in 2013/14, which represents an increase for the third year running. We will continue to work in partnership with patients to keep improving treatments and care.”

The Bath based hospital is inviting patients, visitors, health professionals and the public to come along and talk to research staff and find out more at the Trust on May 20th and May 21st 2014. The Natural Theatre Company will be at the Trust on the morning of May 21st.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

RNHRD

- The RNHRD NHS FT is a national specialist rehabilitation and rheumatology hospital based in Bath. Offering services to adults, children and young people, the trust has expertise in general and complex:
  - Rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions,
  - Chronic pain management including Complex Regional Pain Syndrome
  - Fatigue Management (CFS/ME and cancer survivorship fatigue).

- [www.rnhrd.nhs.uk](http://www.rnhrd.nhs.uk)

- The Trust has an excellent reputation for research both nationally and internationally. Research informs our treatment programmes and contributes to a better understanding of many of the conditions in which we specialise.

- The RNHRD is currently involved in over 30 National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) projects covering a variety of conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, connective tissue diseases, chronic fatigue syndrome and pain.

The Natural Theatre Company

- The award winning Natural Theatre Company have been an institution in Bath for nearly 45yrs, producing a unique style of visual comedy with an impeccable eye for detail.

- Artistic director, professional actor and keen supporter of the RNHRD Andy Burden will be joined by fellow actor Pavel Douglas. Pavel is famous for his role in the Bond movie ‘Golden Eye’ and was nominated as ‘Villain of the Year’ at the British Soap Awards in 2007.