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Press Release

NATIONAL OSTEOPOROSIS SOCIETY CELEBRATE 25TH BIRTHDAY AT RNHRD

Representatives of the National Osteoporosis Society visited the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust, locally known as 'The Min', today to celebrate the society's 25th birthday.

The occasion was marked by the cutting of a 25th birthday cake and visits to the clinical measurement department and the infusion clinic. The visit to the clinical measurement department provided the opportunity to see in action the Hologic Discovery bone densitometer, which allows bone mineral density to be assessed in a few minutes. Measurement of bone density gives a good indication of fracture risk.

The RNHRD is a leading centre for the treatment, diagnosis and management of osteoporosis and those at increased risk of fracture, as well as other bone diseases. The metabolic bone group consists of specialist staff providing high quality treatment based on best practice and research.

Osteoporosis is often referred to as the 'fragile bone disease'. One in two women and one in five men over the age of 50 will break a bone, mainly due to osteoporosis. It can also affect children. The team at 'the Min' have established expertise in osteoporosis and see on average over 300 patients per month. The hospital provides for adults on an inpatient and outpatient basis and also runs a paediatric osteoporosis clinic.

RNHRD Chairman, Peter Franklyn said: "It's a real pleasure to welcome the National Osteoporosis Society back to the RNHRD. We are particularly proud of our links which go back to when the society was first established here 25 years ago and much appreciate the support they've given us since. It's great to be able to help celebrate this milestone in their important work and our part in their success."

Dr Bhalla, consultant rheumatologist said: "Donations from the National Osteoporosis Society over the years have enhanced the service we provide for our osteoporosis patients. Thanks to fundraising from the society, our Hologic bone mineral densitometer was one of the first in the UK to be equipped with the very latest APEX software which gives improved precision when monitoring changes in bone density over time. It's of huge benefit to patients."

National Osteoporosis Society, Chief Executive, Claire Severgnini said: "During the 25 years since its inception, the charity has achieved so much and our accomplishments would not have been possible if it were not for clinical staff based at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in Bath, where it all began."

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Notes for Editors:

- For details of the National Osteoporosis Society during its 25th Anniversary year see www.nos.org.uk/25thanniversary

- 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
 - Neurological rehabilitation
 - Chronic pain management
 - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME
 - www.rnhrd.nhs.uk