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Press Release

HOSPITAL ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR

A new medical director has been appointed at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust (RNHRD), locally known as 'the Min'. Dr Ashok Bhalla, who is a consultant rheumatologist at the hospital, joins the hospital board as medical director succeeding Dr Tim Jenkinson.

Chief Executive, Kirsty Matthews said: "It's a pleasure to welcome Dr Bhalla to join the trust board and we look forward to working with him. On behalf of the board I would also like to thank Dr Jenkinson for the tremendous contribution he made during his time in the post."

Dr Bhalla has worked at the RNHRD since 1988 and helped establish its pain management service. His specialist interests include inflammatory arthritis, osteoporosis and other metabolic bone diseases, chronic pain and fibromyalgia.

Dr Bhalla said: "I am delighted to be appointed to join the board. We are justly proud of the services we offer at this hospital and I look forward to playing my part in developing them further."

Dr Jenkinson will remain at the hospital in his post as consultant in rheumatology and sports and exercise medicine, and will also be the lead for clinical education in the trust.

ENDS

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Notes for Editors:

- 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