

9th Oct 2013

Press Release

NATIONAL ARTHRITIS WEEK AT THE RNHRD OCTOBER 2013

The Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Foundation Trust (RNHRD) is supporting National Arthritis week, which runs from the 7th to the 13th of October this year. There will be an interactive display in the RNHRD outpatient area, where curious visitors can find out more about arthritis and how it can affect everyday life as well as information on how to help manage the condition.

The RNHRD, known locally as the 'Min' was one of the earliest hospitals in the world to specialise in the treatment and rehabilitation of rheumatic diseases and has an international reputation in research in this area.

Dr Ashok Bhalla Medical Director and Consultant Rheumatologist at the Bath based hospital explains "It is estimated that around one in six people in the UK have some form of arthritis, a group of diseases that affect the joints which can lead to pain and disability."

Dr Bhalla continues "Doing up buttons or zips, tying up shoelaces, opening a jar - these are all everyday tasks that most of us take for granted, but for someone with arthritis these activities can be a real challenge due to swelling, inflammation and pain."

CONT...

“There is no cure for arthritis but you can slow down the progress of the condition and relieve the symptoms to allow people to carry on with their lives.

We want people to know there has been a revolution in the care of arthritis in the past decade and we now have a wide range of effective treatments for many types of arthritis, it does not have to be the severely disabling condition it was a generation ago.”

Says Dr Bhalla “We hope that Arthritis Week helps more people understand this condition, the difficulties it can present and the options available to alleviate symptoms.”

The RNHRD outpatient area is open to members of the public during the day and visitors are welcome to view the information and support material available in the foyer.

ENDS

Press contacts:

Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS FT:
Marketing and Communications
01225 465 941 ext 278

Notes to 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
 - Chronic pain management
 - Fatigue Management (CFS/ME and cancer survivorship fatigue)
- www.rnhrd.nhs.uk
 - Further details on Arthritis Research UK can be found here <http://www.arthritisresearchuk.org>