

Winter 2023/24

# together

for staff and supporters

**Invite to  
Buckingham Palace**

**Graduation  
celebrations**

**National recognition  
for Hospice at Home**

**State of the  
art pathology  
hub opens** Page 7



# Your University Hospitals Dorset

An update from our chief executive, Siobhan Harrington



## Welcome to your first edition of Together magazine for 2024!

We are now in the new year, full of possibilities and some exciting milestones for our NHS here in Dorset.

Our incredible teams are working tirelessly to support you in a challenging health and social care climate - indeed we are in the midst of one of our toughest times of year, when winter pressures are at their highest. With that in mind, I always like to start with a thank you - so thank you to everyone working across University Hospitals Dorset (UHD), to all our partners, and to you, our community for your ongoing support.

Before talking about the year ahead, I think it's important to reflect on some of our progress in 2023.

Our transformation programme marked some great milestones last year, like the opening of the Poole Theatres complex, the topping out of the BEACH (Births, Emergency, And, Critical care, children's Health) Building at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital and the opening of the new Dorset Pathology Hub to name a few. I know these changes will make a huge difference for the people of Dorset and I am excited to see the benefits they will bring.

We've continued to reduce waiting times for patients,

with some way still to go. We've had the largest number of staff ever to complete the national NHS Staff Survey and we've had improved patient survey results giving positive feedback in maternity, inpatients and our emergency department.

Throughout 2023 there were also some significant challenges too. From industrial action to very high bed occupancy within our hospitals, financial pressures and floods (both inside and outside the hospitals) - we've definitely been kept on our toes.

## So what's ahead in 2024?

Our transformation process continues at pace. Some of the changes are going to cause short term disruption in some areas but the outcome will outweigh this in the end. By this time next year, it will only be a few months before our BEACH Building is complete, a huge milestone to reach and a day that will be remembered.

As services start to move between sites, there will undoubtedly be a period of unease, both for patients and staff alike. Please bear with us while we go through this transition, as we know that this will deliver real improvements for all. We will be running events across UHD and externally through the year to engage everyone more in the changes ahead.

We will of course be continuing to look for new, innovative ways to care for patients, and will work closely with all our partners, an example being collaborating on research projects with Bournemouth University.

This year also sees us embed our 'Patient First' improvement programme, supporting teams to make improvements every day and having a management system in place to enable them to do this.

We would like to do more engagement with the community this year, so if you have an event which you would like us to come along to, please let us know by emailing [engagement@uhd.nhs.uk](mailto:engagement@uhd.nhs.uk).

I know there will be many positives to come in 2024, and I also expect we will be faced with many challenges. But we have a wonderful team of people here at UHD, who I have seen time and time again come together through the good and bad, to overcome what stands before them. And they do this so that they can continue to care for patients who rely on them.

Thank you for all your support in 2023. I wish you all good health in 2024 and hope we can continue to build on that support and engagement over the coming year ahead.

*Siobhan*

# Christchurch Day Hospital awarded for outstanding service

The team at Christchurch Day Hospital has been accredited by Bournemouth University (BU) for the exceptional care they provide to patients.

The hospital was awarded Practice Development Unit (PDU) accreditation which looks at how services maintain and develop excellence in practice, leadership management, meaningful and effective engagement of users and carers, support for the care team and how they evaluate practice development.

The PDU accreditation plaque was presented to the Day Hospital by Michele Board, BU associate professor and deputy head of department for nursing science.

She said: **“It’s a great privilege to be back at Christchurch following their successful reaccreditation event in December. They continue to develop their practice for the benefit of patients. The team cares and supports each other immensely, and this cascades to the patients and families that visit.”**

Laura Martin, clinical lead at the Day Hospital, said: **“This is a wonderful boost for our team and allows us to continue the standard of care we have worked hard to embed into our day to day. We know it makes a difference to our patients to know they are receiving the very best patient care.”**

Christchurch Day Hospital is part of University Hospitals Dorset and provides specialist assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation for older people.



## Dorset nurse invited to Buckingham Palace

**“Shaking hands with The King was pure joy...”**

A nurse working at University Hospitals Dorset (UHD) attended a special reception hosted by The King to celebrate the role of international nurses and midwives in the UK.

Deepa Pappu, equality, diversity and inclusion lead at UHD, received the invitation to Buckingham Palace after NHS England recognised her contributions to nursing in her role as professional nurse advocate.

Deepa said: **“I am deeply moved by His Majesty’s thoughtful gesture of spending time with international nurses and midwives on his birthday. It was one of the most memorable days of my career. My family back home and friends around the world were super excited. The kind and happy messages from my colleagues made me feel truly loved. To be invited to the palace and shake hands with The King was beyond my dreams. It was pure joy.”**

Deepa joined the NHS as an internationally educated nurse from Kerala, south India, in 2004. Throughout her career she has worked hard to welcome other internationally educated nurses as they arrive in Dorset. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Deepa supported new arrivals who were isolated from their home support systems.

In her new role as equality, diversity and inclusion lead, Deepa continues to ensure colleagues across the trust feel at home at UHD.



# Overnight Hospice at Home service earns national recognition

The 'Hospice at Home' pathway was established from Christchurch Hospital's Macmillan Unit, in collaboration with the Community Night Nursing Team in Dorset, following challenges to meet high demand. The team supports patients and their loved ones at the 'scariest time to be living with an advanced illness'.

The service provides dedicated, tailored support to patients under specialist palliative care. Patients are triaged by a 24/7 helpline, with the service aiming to increase both the capacity and quality of care for patients in their homes overnight.

Louise Pennington, lead nurse for palliative care, said: "I know many of us, me included, have experienced what 3am can

feel like when you are caring for someone who is dying. I am proud of our teams and the impact that we are having across the system in east Dorset for patients with palliative and end of life care."

The collaboration has since been showcased as one of six successful case studies in a report published by Sue Ryder, titled 'Best practice in end-of-life-care', with the initiative commended for "implementing services in response to challenges, and meeting local population health needs".

Louise added: "The partnership has empowered the team. It's important to focus on the 'out of hours' period, which is 75% of the week, as this is the scariest time for a person living with advanced illness, and for their families. Our staff feel enabled to be caring in the way that they should be caring again."

## Hospital care at home - the virtual ward

Our fantastic Hospital at Home Service has now expanded to five pathways, providing patients with the acute hospital care they

need in the comfort of their homes. Our frailty pathway alone has cared for 374 patients since April, saving 2,250 bed days.

Dr Gillian Cumming said:

*"Our patients prefer to be in the own home with family around them. We know older people are more at risk of hospital acquired infections and deterioration if they stay in hospital."*

# Where to go for the right medical help

---



**999**

**Dial 999 for life-threatening emergencies**



**111**  
111.nhs.uk

If you need medical help fast or think you need to go to an Emergency Department (A&E) use NHS 111 first – online or by phone\* – to get clinical advice or direction to the most appropriate services for treatment



**GP  
Pharmacy**

For all other health needs, contact your pharmacy or GP practice. You can also access NHS advice and information at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

\*If you are a BSL user, have hearing loss or difficulties communicating you can call NHS 111 by text relay on **18001 111** or use the NHS 111 British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter service by visiting [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk)

Transformation update  
**The easy way to stay updated**

To make it easier to follow the progress on our transformation programme, take a look at our infographic showing you where to find out the latest on our plans.

Your hospitals are changing  
**- where the public can find out more**

The latest on the £500m reconfiguration of our hospitals as Royal Bournemouth becomes the major emergency and Poole the planned care hospital

Communications for  
**Everyone**

Dorset Health Information events



Regular 'marketplace' events to inform local people on investments and give them the opportunity to provide views  
 3-4 per year

Governors



Our governors ensure the continuing effective development of our trust and regularly engage with members of the public about our transformation

Ad-hoc

In the news

Keeping the media informed on our plans

Ad-hoc



Corporate events

Celebrating key milestones in construction plan eg. topping out, official openings

Ad-hoc



Together

Regular section to update people on where we are with our investment plans and what the benefits will be

Quarterly



UHD website

'One-stop-shop' for the latest news on UHD transformation and reconfiguration

Regular updates



Social media

Facebook LinkedIn X Instagram YouTube  
 Stories, videos, photos and interesting updates about the projects to provide views

Min 2/3 updates per week



If you want an opportunity to engage with us, please get in touch at **communications@uhd.nhs.uk**

# State of the art pathology hub opens

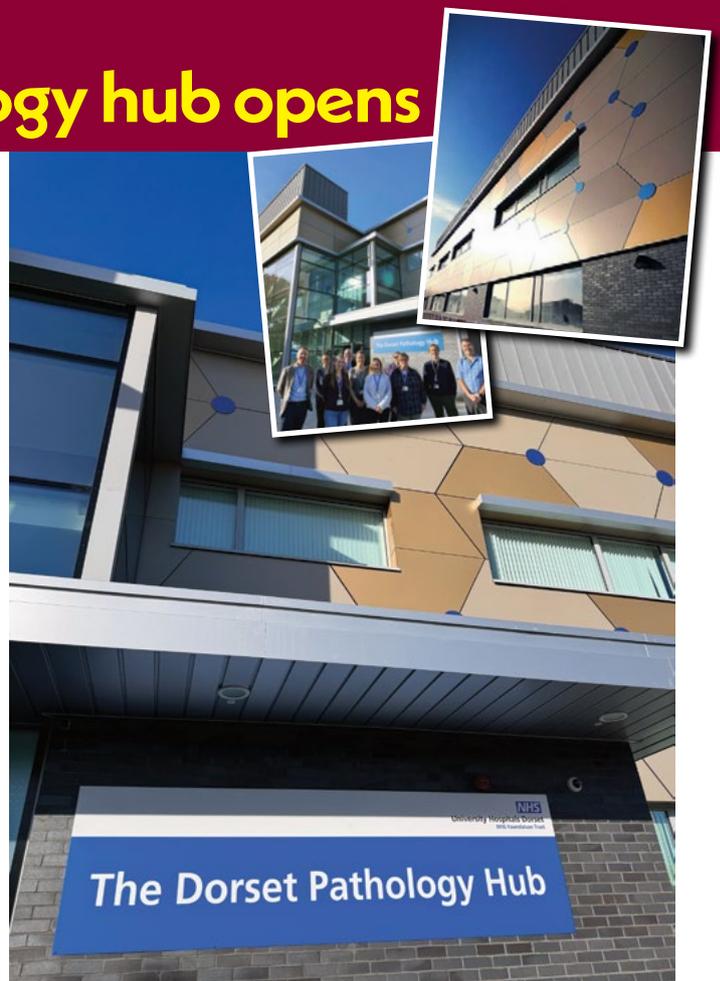
After many years in planning, the Dorset Pathology Hub opened its doors in November. The molecular pathology team were the first to move across and are already reporting patient results.

When fully open next year, the facility will be one of the most advanced pathology hubs in the UK, supporting hospitals across the region to improve diagnostics for patients, meeting the growing demand for specialist treatment and care.

As part of the fantastic opening week, UHD also learnt that the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS), has accredited a new degree at Bournemouth University in Biomedical Science.

Head of pathology, Paul Massey, said: *"This is not just about buildings but building futures. Congratulations to everyone involved in the creation of this Dorset Pathology Hub and watch this space for more news as other teams move into their new home."*

The new state-of-the-art laboratory, located on the Wessex Fields site next to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, is part of the One Dorset Pathology network - a collaborative partnership between Dorset County Hospital and University Hospitals Dorset. The project has been backed by the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which supported the project with a £2.7m Local Growth



Fund investment in the histopathology diagnostic hub as part of its initiatives to support Covid-19 recovery and accelerate healthcare resilience in the county.

## Stroke successes and future plans

Building work to create our single UHD stroke unit on the RBH site, creating a 43 bedded stroke unit, is anticipated to start in January 2024. This is expected to be complete by the summer.

Since the RBH and Poole teams came together in April on the one site, they have reduced the patient's length of stay by an average of 1.5 days. The team also has ambitious plans for the future, including stroke delivering a same day emergency care service and taking part in a 'pre-hospital video triage' pilot with our ambulance colleagues SWAST. This will provide earlier intervention before patients come into hospital.

The team has also recently been successful with national bids to expand the Stroke Early Supported Discharge Service to enable more complex stroke patients to go home sooner.

Gemma Brittan, therapy services manager, said: *"These are fantastic opportunities for our patients and we are committed to supporting our stroke team to deliver these initiatives."*

The unit gives patients access to improved facilities and cutting-edge technology such as



the Walkerbot - pioneering equipment which helps people relearn how to walk. The device is the only one of its kind in an NHS hospital in England, and is now in use at RBH - helping patients to take the thousands of steps needed a day to allow their brains to rewire during recovery.

The aptly named Walkerbot appeal began in 2020 and thanks to generous donations from incredible individuals, local businesses and community supporters, the robotic device was funded by our UHD charity in just 20 months.

# Juggling the catering 'hot potato'

All wards on our Royal Bournemouth site are now receiving visits from specialist REGEN trolleys, delivered to the wards for staff to then heat up the food and serve to patients at a convenient time.

On a visit to see the new arrangements in action, Dr Matt Hodson, deputy chief nursing officer and chair of the UHD nutrition steering group, said:

*"The new catering arrangements are already improving the quality, choice and flexibility of our food offering for patients, while reducing waste."*

*"At times we felt we were juggling hot potatoes in getting the arrangements in place, but everyone came together to support the rollout - in particular, the support we've had from catering colleagues and ward teams has been outstanding."*



## Centenary celebrations

In 2023 we honoured not one, but two very special milestone birthdays for our patients.

We were thrilled to help lovely Agnes reach the big 100 following hip surgery at Poole. Mr Bassam Zwan, consultant orthopaedic surgeon, performed the operation and visited Agnes afterwards, where he was joined by ward staff to deliver her cake and sing a round of happy birthday to her.

Also over at Poole was Jean, whose 101st birthday was commemorated by ward staff with cards, decorations and of course, cake!



## The kindness of strangers

When long-stay patient David needed a haircut, staff nurse on duty, Jade Webb, appealed on social media for help.

Enter good Samaritan and local hairdresser, Sophia, who came to the ward and gave David's hair a (very) new lease of life, no charge. Thank you so much to Jade and Sophia for putting our patients first.

For all its faults, it's stories like this that are a welcome reminder of how social media can be a force for good.



# Patients benefit from tattoo-less treatments at UHD

**Thousands of patients receiving radiotherapy at University Hospitals Dorset no longer need to have permanent tattoos to accurately mark the target site for their treatment.**

Radiotherapy involves a beam of radiation aimed at a tumour to kill it. As it can damage non-cancerous cells, the procedure involves complex planning to ensure the right dose is delivered at the exact site it is needed, with a series of small tattoos traditionally used to help guide this.

However at Poole Hospital, patients are now treated on one of three 'surface guided' radiotherapy treatment systems which use a series of 3D stereo cameras to create a skin map of the individual patient instead. Combined with detailed treatment planning CT scans, a target site is 'locked' so if a patient - and their tumour - moves, it turns off the radiation beam.

David Frost, head of therapy radiography at UHD, said:

*“Here at UHD we are using*

*the latest technology to benefit our patients. While the tattoos assisted our treatment, they often had a negative psychological impact and were a permanent physical reminder of being unwell. For some of our patients it was also the first tattoo they ever had.*

*“This technology is quicker, more accurate and can allow a reduced imaging dose for our patients, reducing the level of radiation. Going tattoo-less is a fantastic milestone for all of us to reach.”*

The tattoo-less treatment is not commonplace in the NHS, and in some parts of the UK can only be offered in private centres. UHD is the first trust in the south west to offer the service, and the team also operate a fourth system at The

Robert White Centre at Dorset County Hospital, in Dorchester. The centre is named after multi-millionaire businessman Robert White, who gifted Poole Hospital more than £10m to advance cancer treatment before his death in 2015.

While the trust has been using surface guided radiotherapy for two years, the team went tattoo-less for all cancers for the first time this year.

Ola Williams is one of the patients benefiting from the new treatment. He said:

*“Having cancer can be really unsettling and while you feel grateful for the treatment, it feels really positive not to have to go through another process - in this case having a tattoo.”*

UHD carries out around 25,000 radiotherapy treatments each year, and the team supports around 130 patients every day.



## Beside the sea in ED

Our children's waiting room in the emergency department (ED) at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital has been given a makeover by local artist, Mirek Lucan.

Two new pieces of art are on display, showcasing Bournemouth pier, Dorset's famous beach huts, and a jamboree of under sea creatures - as well as a



skateboarding deep sea diver!

ED practice educator, Jen O'Donnell, said: *“Waiting in the emergency department can be an anxious time for young people so we*

*wanted to create a child and teen friendly environment to help our patients and their families. We're really pleased with the work and have had great feedback from our patients too.”*

# Celebrating three years of the BU-UHD partnership

The partnership between Bournemouth University and UHD has reached another milestone and is benefiting staff, students, patients and the people of Dorset.

Over the last year, both organisations have worked together to host successful public health and research events, have led programmes to develop staff and enabled new research studies to be launched and published.

The number of joint research studies continues to increase, each one bringing new insights into understanding our health and shedding new light on the effectiveness of different treatments. This included a study into how different parts of the brain interact with each other after a cold water dip, helping to explain why people often feel more upbeat and alert after swimming outside or taking cold baths.

The sold out, public health talk with Professor Sir

Jonathan Van Tam was a great success, as were two joint research-focused events. Planning has begun already for a further research conference in 2024 and an expanding series of joint health talks.

Each year many of our staff both clinical and non-clinical undertake further study at BU and many teams across the hospitals host BU students on placements. Some 1,796 BU students benefited from real life, hands-on experience in the workplace through placements over the last year, helping us deliver services in a range of departments including pathology, physiotherapy and communications. We are learning from BU students at UHD in long placements / internships and hope to roll out these internships to more departments next year.



Dr Ruth Williamson, consultant radiologist and visiting professor for Bournemouth University, said: *“The vision for our partnership was to work together across all four faculties of the university.*

*A huge thank you to everyone who has given their time, energy and intellect to bring our two organisations closer together to benefit patients and residents in Dorset and beyond.”*

Professor Anand Pandyan, Executive Dean for the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences at BU, added: *“As our partnership matures, it has been uplifting to see the impact of the work directly benefiting the people of Dorset and beyond, and the workforce within the region. I would also like to personally thank the staff at UHD for enriching the training our students receive and for the contributing to research supervision.”*

## BU-UHD partnership welcomes new Associate Professor of Nursing Practice

The BU-UHD partnership has appointed its first associate professor of nursing practice, Dr Lindsay Welch, in a move that will strengthen the collaborative working.

Dr Welch started her role in November and will be focusing on enabling clinicians to develop research through access to education, research awards and research infrastructure. She brings with her extensive research experience gained from working as a respiratory nurse in acute, primary and

community lead settings and continues to be engaged in respiratory nursing and research.

Dr Welch joins the partnership from Health Innovation Wessex where she worked as a programme manager while also being a nurse lecturer and researcher at the University of Southampton.

She said: *“To have a genuine clinical academic post within the NHS is unique and a rare opportunity. It really is a dream position to have a role that allows me to work with, support and develop colleagues and ultimately improve patient outcomes and experiences.”*



# Graduation celebrations

Congratulations to everyone who celebrated their university graduation this winter. With many of these learners starting their university journey during the Covid pandemic, 2023 graduates have overcome some significant challenges on their road to graduation. We are delighted to have played our part in their success - a big thank you to all the UHD staff involved, supporting placements and lecturing on courses at BU - it really is a joint effort.

Alongside student graduations were a number of honorary awards including an Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration for retired UHD CEO, Debbie Fleming OBE (awarded for playing a vital role in forging the strong partnership between BU and the region's hospitals) and Sam Crowe our Director of Public Health for Dorset for his work leading our response to the pandemic.

To everyone who has joined UHD after finishing their degree - a very warm welcome to @TeamUHD - we are delighted you chose to join us!



Congratulations to UHD Pathology and BU biomedical science department for working together to achieve the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) accreditation for the degree programme at BU!



## Making a difference with our Bournemouth Research Hub

We're part of a network of hubs in the area, all running health research studies which aim to save and improve lives.

Most recently we have helped to develop Covid-19 vaccines, and we are also running a vaccine study for people experiencing recurrent UTIs. Next year we are looking forward to running studies into diseases such as flu, shingles and RSV.

We always have the most amazing response from the public, whose involvement is at the centre of our work. Our team has enrolled more than 1,200 volunteers into 12 different studies - that means we've seen our participants more than 7,400 times!

Our goal is to run a wide variety of studies which will help address the health needs of those living in this area. These might include

cancer vaccines and new treatments for asthma and diabetes.

We know our population is an older one, so we're looking closely at how we might align our work to ensure we are helping where it's most needed.

Nicki Lakeman, lead research nurse, said: *"Research is the key to developing better healthcare for us all and we know that every treatment starts with research. The pandemic really put research in the spotlight - and now there's a much better understanding of the work we do and its impact, which is great to see."*



# Meet the governors

## Update from your lead governor, Sharon Collett



### *Hi everyone*

It was great to meet members at our Annual Members' Meeting in October. The Bournemouth University venue and room layout provided a good backdrop for the speakers. If this was of interest but you were unable to attend in person or via Teams, you can view the recording on our website ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=49rOwMfpa9g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49rOwMfpa9g)).

We were extremely well supported by our communications team and colleagues providing volunteer, governor and charity stands from UHD. We were also thrilled to welcome colleagues who gave information about some of the diseases highlighted by Mr Parkash Ramchandani in his excellent talk. A big thank you to Helen Keefe, UHD cancer specialist nurse, as well as Healthwatch, Dorset Sexual Health and Live Well Dorset for their contributions.

We continue to explore ways to hear the views of a wide range of young people, including talks with the leaders of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Young People's Council. One of our trust values is 'always improving', and

engaging more with this group will increase our understanding and our ability to respond. If you know young people 16 years and above who might be interested in becoming members or talking to governors, please direct them to the UHD website or email us at: **[ftmembers@uhd.nhs.uk](mailto:ftmembers@uhd.nhs.uk)**.

At the end of last year, our governors were involved in organising and leading events for the Parkinson's Disease Society and

Canford Cliffs Library. If you know of any groups who would like us to provide a pop-up stand or deliver a talk, please contact us at: **[ftmembers@uhd.nhs.uk](mailto:ftmembers@uhd.nhs.uk)**.

And finally, I would like to say a warm welcome to our four new governors (pictured below) who attended our recent governor induction session and were elected to take up their new posts from 1 January.

*Sharon*



Colin Blebta, public governor for the Bournemouth constituency



Mark Haslam, public governor for the Bournemouth constituency



Elizabeth McDermott, public governor for the Bournemouth constituency



Colin Hamilton, staff governor for estates and ancillary services

# Governors out and about in the community



Our wonderful governors have been busy out in the community in the latter part of 2023. People living and working in Dorset were invited to attend marketplace style events in Poole and Blandford to find out more about their local health and care services, ranging from digital support at home to planned care and living a healthy lifestyle.

Our governors were on hand to chat with the public and answer questions on the trust and its upcoming developments alongside members from our transformation team.

Other highlights of the event included healthcare professionals who were able to offer free blood pressure checks, health checks and Covid vaccinations for eligible groups.

Chair of Dorset Integrated Care System (ICS), Jenni Douglas-Todd, said: *"In today's digital age we often overlook the benefit of having a simple conversation with someone, and events such as these enable those people who may not have access to or prefer not to use digital channels to find information while at the same time allowing us to hear directly about people's experiences."*

There are plans in the making to hold more events like this around Dorset and we will keep you updated on when and where they will happen.



## Exciting announcement...

Understanding Health talks have been booked for the first half of 2024. This year the talks will be joint events with Bournemouth University and will all have presenters from both organisations.

These events are expected to be very popular and so booking early is advised. To reserve your place, please book through Eventbrite using the QR codes below.

### Understanding Menopause

Rosie Harper, clinical specialist physiotherapist in pelvic health at UHD and Dr Emma Thurston, senior lecturer in physician associate studies at Bournemouth University and GP with a special interest in women's sexual and reproductive health

**Wednesday 6 March 2024, 3-4pm**

Bournemouth Gateway Building, Lansdowne (Room BG-110)



### Understanding Concussion in Sport and Practice

Dr Keith Parry, head of department for sport and event management Keith Parry and Osman Ahmed, senior physiotherapist at UHD

**Thursday 2 May 2024, 4-6pm**

The Share Lecture Theatre in the Fusion Building on Talbot Campus



### Understanding Pathology: Health under the microscope

Paul Massey, head of pathology at UHD and Dr Anna Mantzouratou, FIBMS, FHEA principal academic in human genetics and program leader BSc (Hons) biomedical science life and environmental sciences department

**Tuesday 4 June 2024, 6-7pm**

The Share Lecture Theatre in the Fusion Building on Talbot Campus



## March for Men 2024

The charity's well-known event in support of every man in our local community will be back on **Saturday 9 March** to raise funds to enhance our services for the treatment of men's health at UHD.

**March for Men** helps us to do so much more for our patients by purchasing state-of-the-art equipment to streamline diagnosis and improve treatment. For example, without the money raised by previous events, our urology team would not have been able to purchase technology like the blue light camera system



to improve bladder cancer treatment. We hope you will join us again this year! Go to [uhdcharity.org](http://uhdcharity.org) to sign up now.

## A new year for a new challenge

**Are you thinking of some resolutions to make 2024 a year to remember?** If you are thinking of starting a new hobby or trying something that pushes you out of your comfort zone - look no further, there are plenty of new

challenges in 2024 for you to get involved in.

For those not scared of heights, you can reach for the skies by braving a **skydive** or **wing walk**. Or if you enjoy the outdoors and fancy **trekking the beautiful Jurassic**

**coastline**, you can now do it to support your hospitals.

For the first time ever, you can **abseil down the Spinnaker** or **cycle from London to Paris** for a ward, department or project that is close to your heart. Or perhaps **climbing Kilimanjaro mountain** has always been on your bucket list? The world really is your oyster!



Find more information at [uhdcharity.org](http://uhdcharity.org)

## 10 new reclining chairs bring comfort to the Jigsaw Unit

After many uncomfortable chemotherapy sessions sat up right, Hilary Coleman set herself the mission to fundraise for three new reclining chairs at the Jigsaw Unit. Hilary raised an incredible £6,115 and inspired two other amazing supporters to go on to raise enough for two extra chairs.

To purchase new chairs for all 10 bays, we also received generous donations from the Ferndown and Parley Rotary Club and Faye Clifford's Open Garden. This means every patient undergoing their chemotherapy treatment in the Jigsaw Unit can now sit back and relax as they try to get some much-needed rest.



Contact us: [uhd.charity@uhd.nhs.uk](mailto:uhd.charity@uhd.nhs.uk), call 0300 019 4060/8449

or @UHDcharity on X (Twitter)  Facebook  and Instagram 

# Festive fundraising at Elf Dash 2023

On Saturday 2 December, over 200 elves dashed 2km along Branksome seafront to help raise funds for our hospital's children's wards. Following the dash, participants enjoyed a complimentary hot meal from the Rapid Relief Team and visited Santa's grotto for an early Christmas present (thanks to the elves at Haskins, Ferndown).

Helping to spread some Christmas joy this year is John Lewis and Partners Poole who kindly sponsored the event. The fun-filled day wouldn't have been possible without the support from the Mr Pops Balloons, 1st response Training and all of our fantastic UHD volunteers. Not forgetting our super special guest, Father Christmas of course!



**Here are the latest highlights from the charity that is always by your bedside.**

## The fundraising total for a new revolutionary eye simulator is in sight

In summer 2021, we launched a **£201,000** fundraising appeal to buy a new surgical Eye Simulator to transform training for the next generation of eye surgeons across Dorset.

It will be used by more than 75 surgeons, for **30,000** sight saving operations. The vision to revolutionise surgery for common eye conditions like cataract and glaucoma with this pioneering machine was also shared by Friends of the Bournemouth Eye Unit who generously gifted a grant of **£25,000** towards the appeal and a recent donation of more

than **£20,000** by a kind-hearted but modest trust that we are very grateful to.

This takes our appeal to the last stretch with **£30,000** left to raise. It is fantastic to see that the total really is in sight for more patients needing these surgeries in the future! If you would like to help our hospitals get there, please donate at <https://tinyurl.com/45fp4and>

## Investing in the area we love to live and the future of our hospitals

You will have seen the building works underway to transform our hospitals to reorganise how we will deliver our healthcare services. The Royal Bournemouth Hospital will serve as the major emergency hospital, while Poole Hospital will focus on planned care.

By 2025, the new six-storey building at RBH will welcome patients to a new emergency department, children's health department alongside new critical care and maternity units.

To support this, our charity will be launching its fundraising appeal to provide the additional enhanced facilities and equipment that are above and beyond what the NHS can provide.

We will be raising funds for things like new equipment, improved welfare facilities for staff and artistically designed areas to improve the patient and visitor experience in the new BEACH Building.

Stay tuned to hear more about the exciting journey ahead for our hospitals and all our patients who depend on our NHS.

**Contact us: [uhd.charity@uhd.nhs.uk](mailto:uhd.charity@uhd.nhs.uk), call 0300 019 4060/8449**

or @UHDcharity on X (Twitter)  Facebook  and Instagram 

## Healthcare support worker open day at Royal Bournemouth Hospital

We're looking forward to our next open day for healthcare support workers at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital on Saturday 20 January. If you or someone you know is interested in kickstarting their career in healthcare, please let them know about our event. Walk-ins are very welcome, but we encourage people to apply to ensure an interview for a position on the day. This can be done via our website or through the UHD jobs social media channels. No previous experience is needed as we provide full training for this role to ensure employees success.

## Newly qualified nurses recruitment day

Our twice-yearly event for newly qualified nurses took place on Sunday 19 November at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. Attendees experienced a tour of the hospital, talks from our matrons, information about our preceptorship programme and an opportunity to network with UHD staff. We're looking forward to welcoming our next cohort of nurses when they graduate. The next newly qualified nurses recruitment day will be on Saturday 11 May, 9am-5pm at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. You can register for this event nearer the time via our website or our social media channels.

## Autumn careers fairs at local universities

We've had a fantastic time attending careers events at Bournemouth University and University of Southampton recently. Staff from Business Intelligence and IT attended the Annual Careers Fair at BU where they spoke to students about the various non-clinical opportunities available at the trust and Therapies attended the OT Fair at Southampton - with many showing an interest in embarking on their careers with us after they graduate. With so many roles to choose from, you can guarantee there is a role in the NHS for anyone.

## Follow us on social media

We have active recruitment focused profiles across Facebook, X and Instagram where you can keep up-to-date with our latest events, job vacancies and more.

Facebook:  [UHDNHSjobs](#)

X:  [UHDjobs](#)

Instagram:  [UHD\\_jobs](#)

# Vital statistics

2023\*

- We saw **439,901** patients in our outpatient departments
- ...and an additional **86,193** virtually
- Carried out **13,794** day case procedures
- Supported the birth of more than **3,313** babies
- Attended to **140,697** patients in our emergency departments

\*Stats up until end of November 2023

Thank you 