



PRESS RELEASE – 18 August 2017

Kidney specialist becomes first ever to join South Tyneside hospital

A leading UK kidney specialist has become the first ever kidney consultant to be appointed at South Tyneside District Hospital, thanks to the joint working taking place as part of the South Tyneside and Sunderland Healthcare Group.

Attracted by the ability to practise both acute medicine and his specialism of renal medicine, Dr Shalabh Srivastava joins South Tyneside and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts as a Consultant Nephrologist, specialising in kidney care and

treating diseases of the kidneys. It is the first joint appointment for the Healthcare Group and means, for the first time ever, people with kidney problems living in South Tyneside will be able to attend a clinic locally, rather than travelling to Sunderland for ongoing routine appointments and check-ups.

Alongside Newcastle and Middlesbrough, City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust is one of only three major centres in the North East specialising in renal medicine, providing investigations, treatment and renal replacement therapy to patients from South Tyneside, Durham and Gateshead, as well as Sunderland, who have acute or chronic kidney problems.

Dr Srivastava has already started a new clinic for adult kidney patients at South Tyneside District Hospital and runs clinics and carries out renal procedures at Sunderland Royal Hospital. He is also teaching South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's junior doctors about identifying kidney problems and dealing with them early, which can vastly improve patient outcomes.

Speaking about the appointment, Ken Bremner, Chief Executive of the South Tyneside and Sunderland Healthcare Group, said: "We are delighted to welcome Dr Srivastava to our organisation, which means we are now able to offer the services of a kidney specialist in South Tyneside for the first time. Previously, this would never have been possible and is an excellent demonstration of what can be achieved with South Tyneside and Sunderland hospitals now working together in partnership. It is a very positive step in improving provision for local patients and will benefit many people who previously had to travel to Sunderland for many of their appointments."

Dr Srivastava graduated from Stanley Medical College in Chennai, India, and, following seven years of postgraduate medical training at Barts & The London NHS Trust, came to the North East in 2011 to work as a renal trainee at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle.

He is at the forefront of medical research which may offer new hope in relation to childhood kidney diseases. He recently finished a three-year £227,000 doctoral research project funded by Kidney Research UK at Newcastle University to gain better understanding of nephronophthisis. This inherited condition causes the kidney to develop cysts and scarring as a child gets older, leading to kidney failure. At the moment, there is no known treatment for nephronophthisis. Dr Srivastava is continuing his research at the Centre for Life in Newcastle, along with Professor John Sayer, and is hoping to involve more patients from South Tyneside and Sunderland in the work.

Dr Srivastava said: "I am very excited about the opportunity in my new role to improve patient care. South Tyneside patients will no longer have to travel for all of their clinic appointments and, through our two trusts working together, there is the potential to expand renal services in both areas, which will hopefully attract more medical staff of the highest calibre to the area.

"During the time I have already spent here working in acute medicine, I have seen a large number of patients admitted to South Tyneside District Hospital with the most severe form of acute kidney injury, which can require being on dialysis. Something as simple as dehydration linked to other medications can lead to kidney failure. The good news is that, in the majority of cases, if it is caught early and treated, kidney damage is reversible so awareness and education – for patients and doctors – is very important."

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