

FRIENDS OF PATAN HOSPITAL



Update

Friends of Patan Hospital
1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220

Founded in 1982, Patan Hospital is a Christian mission hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal which provides quality, compassionate care to all who come, regardless of religious affiliation or ability to pay. The hospital treats almost 320,000 outpatients and 20,000 inpatients per year. This is accomplished with a balanced budget of \$2.75 million through efficient operations and the contributions of many individuals and church groups in the U.S., Europe and Australia.

This update is published to keep you informed of current events at and affecting the hospital. With so much happening in Nepal at this time, you may periodically check our website under "Recent News" and "Nepal News." You can also get daily reports on the internet at www.nepalnews.com.

**Check our website!
www.foph.com**

Thanks are due to over 130 people who attended our successful fundraiser last October, helping us to raise nearly \$13,000 for the organization. To send a donation, kindly use the address on the left. Friends of Patan Hospital is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Nepal News

Patan Hospital facts:

- Everyone who comes to Patan Hospital receives treatment, regardless of ability to pay.
- Contributions from donors in 36 states in the U.S. have ranged from \$15 to \$5,000.
- The new 140-bed maternity wing, when it opens in 2007, will increase inpatient capacity almost 50 per cent and upgrade many hospital facilities.

Because of the extent of the media coverage it received – three times more on CNN than at the time of the royal massacre – most of you are aware of the demonstrations in Nepal. These resulted in the King giving up the power he seized on February 1, 2005 and the restoration of parliamentary government. For those of us who have affection for the Nepali people, what has happened is encouraging. The people of Nepal have – at the risk of their own lives – shown that they will not accept an authoritarian government, only a democracy.

Serious problems of governance remain. The government consists of the "old brigade," who mismanaged the country so badly that when the King first seized power the move

was generally welcomed. We can only hope that the clear will of the people for the politicians to cooperate and to make peace with the Maoist rebels will result in that happening.



A children's ward at Patan Hospital.



Patan Hospital Continues to Serve Patients

Events in Nepal have affected Patan Hospital. On April 20 a 19-hour curfew was put in place. The authorities refused to allow curfew passes for ambulances or hospital vehicles used to transport staff to the hospital, so the shift that was initially on duty ended up working three consecutive shifts. Throughout the period of the disturbances the hospital staff performed with great diligence under

difficult conditions.

The New York *Times* reported that casualties in Kathmandu were taken to Model Hospital. This is a private hospital in the center of the city which was close to most of the violence that occurred. However, Model was unable to cope with the load, so during periods when the curfew was lifted many of the injured were taken to other hospitals. Patan Hospital received

almost 100 patients during this period, most of whom were treated and discharged. It appears that six required inpatient treatment for up to a week. All treatment administered was given without charge. Considerable money was collected from the crowds for this purpose and Patan Hospital will receive part of that money.



The maternity wing site, April, 2006.

Funding Update

At this critical time for the people of Nepal it is more important than ever that they receive support from the outside world. The political turmoil has caused some delay in the construction of the new maternity ward which, until recently, was proceeding on schedule. The most important near-term goal for FOPH is to equip the new ward, which will increase the size of the hospital by 140 beds and includes two operating theaters. This will probably require about \$200,000. However, we only need to raise \$100,000; the

Simons Foundation will match our spending to equip the new facility. We also shall be helping in other ways. For example, it looks as if this year we will be able to provide an excellent training opportunity for Dr. Shrijana Shrestha in pediatric nephrology and pediatric rheumatology. In all of Nepal there is not a single doctor with training in these two specialties for which there are many patients. After spending some weeks with specialists in the United States Dr. Shrestha will not only take her newly

acquired knowledge to the treatment of patients at Patan, but she will also train other pediatricians in Nepal to handle such patients.



A student training session at Patan Hospital.