

FRIENDS OF PATAN HOSPITAL



Update

Friends of Patan Hospital
1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220

Founded in 1982 as a Christian mission hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal, Patan has evolved into an independent secular hospital with its own Board of Directors. It maintains the values of its founders, providing 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 about \$3.8 million through efficient operations and the contributions of many individuals and church groups in the U.S., Europe and Australia.

Check out our website!
www.foph.com

This update is published to keep you informed of current events at and affecting the hospital. Friends of Patan Hospital is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

PICU and NICU Units are Fully Functional

After three years of preparation, fully functional Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Units with six beds each opened in July 2009 for patient care. Comprehensive training over a three month period was provided by a team of 20 volunteers including six physicians, 11 nurses and three pharmacists was led by Dr. Sanjita Basnet, a Nepali physician who works in Illinois, and the late Michele Avila, a critical care nurse at Stanford who was Vice President of FOPH. Dr. Theresa Grover, an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Medical School who is in charge of the 60-bed NICU at Children's Hospital in Denver, also provided leadership in this training in Nepal. Training was provided to 25 physicians and 60 nurses.

The main focus of training was in strengthening and reinforcing assessment skills, 24 hour monitoring and critical thinking. Emphasis was placed on teamwork, infection control practices and organization. Nurses and physicians learned about assembly, use, care and storage of equipment, medication calculations and errors, procedures and general nursing care in these units. Further follow up training for nurses and physicians will be provided this year



The pediatric ICU at Patan Hospital opened on July 7, 2009.

by FOPH volunteers, including Dr. Saraswati Kache, who teaches at Stanford University School of Medicine.

The cost for a newborn or child patient in the PICU/NICU is approximately \$42/day if a ventilator is not required. If a ventilator is required, the cost is about \$69/day.

Total billed amounts for a hospital stay in these units average about \$500 for a typical patient.

Although such an amount is small when compared to the cost for similar care in the United States, it is a substantial amount in Nepal. Accordingly, there is an increased need for charity care donations which can be used to save the lives of children at Patan Hospital.

Patan Academy of Health Sciences Begins Operation

Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) has been established to train healthcare workers to provide care in rural areas of Nepal. PAHS has established a new medical school, which will train physicians. These doctors, many of whom are recruited from rural areas, will be required to spend 2 to 4 years in rural areas after completing their medical training at Patan Hospital. The first class of 60 medical students began training this month.

The provision of health care services in rural areas is a serious problem in Nepal and throughout the developing world, and the PAHS model brings together lessons from the experience of other programs in a unique combination for dealing with the problem of retention of rural health care workers. PAHS takes a substantial number of its students from rural areas and gives them preparatory courses to help them meet the standards for admission to medical school. The PAHS curriculum actively and directly engages with rural communities, socializing and teaching students within that context in rural postings. The model continues to take responsibility for supporting former students after they graduate by developing support networks as well as infrastructure for them in the field. It also develops family practice and related residency programs that give priority to PAHS graduates who have completed their initial rural service obligations and are willing to take on an additional commitment of rural service. In this manner rural service becomes a key part of a career path.

The government of Nepal has made a substantial commitment to PAHS. It has provided about \$1 million for construction of new facilities at Patan Hospital and has also provided support for 16 five-year scholarships for students. PAHS has raised about 4 more pledges from western sources. The yearly cost of a scholarship, including a stipend for room and board, is approximately \$10,000.

FOPH has agreed to support PAHS in its mission to help improve access to health care in rural areas by accepting tax-deductible donations designated for PAHS. FOPH has set up accounts for scholarship donations and for capital donations to PAHS.



This new lecture hall is used for training at Patan.



The neonatal ICU at Patan Hospital opened on July 2, 2009.

Endowment Fund Update

Despite the recession as a result of the prudent management by the investment committee of FOPH, the FOPH Endowment Fund has maintained its value despite having given FOPH \$20,000 in 2009 and \$20,000 in 2010 for expenditures. As of June 23, 2010 the Endowment Fund has a value of \$507,900. The endowment was created in October 2007 with a gift of \$500,000 from Jim and Marilyn Simons. It creates an opportunity for Patan Hospital supporters to make donations to the hospital in their estate plans. Suitable memorial acknowledgements are made by Patan Hospital to show appreciation for such support.

Funds Raised by Children at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church

The children at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Denver, Colorado recently raised \$1,316 to support charity care for children who are served by the Neonatal ICU at Patan Hospital. About 50 families participated in this effort to teach the children about healthcare in Nepal and to encourage their participation in helping children in Nepal.

New Adult Intensive Care Unit Operational

Training Provided to ICU Nurses

The new adult ICU with eight beds has replaced the prior five-bed ICU, and the prior ICU has been converted to a High Dependency Unit (HDU) with five beds that is used as a medical step-down area for patients needing extra monitoring before being transferred to the wards. The total cost of these improvements was approximately \$150,000, of which \$50,000 was raised in Nepal. Jim and Marilyn Simons matched the Nepali donations, and FOPH also donated \$50,000 for these improvements.



Rhonda Martin provides instruction to ICU and Step-down unit nurses at Patan Hospital in March 2010.

In March of 2010, Rhonda Martin and Jeanne Praetsch, two critical care nurses at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, traveled to Patan Hospital to provide training to the ICU nurses. This program was initiated a year and a half earlier when several Patan Hospital doctors traveled to Boston to invite doctors and nurses to teach and mentor at both Patan Hospital and the Patan Academy of Health Sciences. Rhonda was asked to help with the expansion of the ICU and to provide content on cardiac nursing to the ICU nurses. An exploratory trip was made in late 2008 to ascertain exactly the nurses' needs, what education they felt they needed and wanted and at what level.

Jeanne, a nurse educator with a strong background in cardiac nursing accompanied Rhonda to provide the didactic and practical training. They were at Patan hospital for seven days providing morning and afternoon classes to 23 ICU & Step-down Unit nurses, as well as mentoring on the unit, downloading educational programs to the laptop and assessing needs for the future.

Honor Roll of U.S. Donors

Patan Hospital is particularly grateful for the support of these individuals and organizations across the United States.

Major Benefactors (\$40,000+)

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Dialysis Unit Operational

The German Nepal Help Association has donated hemodialysis equipment to Patan Hospital which has been used to equip a newly operational dialysis unit. Two hemodialysis machines are presently operational, and there are plans to expand the unit to accommodate a total of 6 machines.

FOPH Mourns Death of Michele Avila

FOPH's Vice President Michele Avila's unexpected death on February 23, 2010, has saddened and distressed her many friends and colleagues in Nepal and the United States. Michele's untiring work helped bring better health care to children in Nepal. Her leadership role last year in training healthcare professionals who staff the Neonatal and Pediatric ICUs at Patan Hospital was greatly appreciated by all who were involved in this effort. She will be greatly missed as follow up training is provided for these units in the future.

Priority Needs

Patan Hospital is far better equipped than it was five years ago, but there still are many important needs for equipment. For example, funding for the new endoscopy suite includes a video gastroscope and a side viewing duodenoscope, but also should have a colonoscope and a bronchoscope. The cost of these additions will be about \$25,000.

There are many urgent maintenance needs in the old building. Several have been met during the past few months. One of the two semi-functioning elevators has been replaced, thanks to a special gift by the Simons. Also, the rusted galvanized piping on one floor has been replaced by plastic piping donated by a Nepali manufacturer of this piping and this has led to a matching gift which will take care of another floor. Still to be financed are replacement piping for the third floor and the pediatric wing. The costs here will be about \$15,000, critically needed since leaking pipes cause all sorts of problems.

A new priority is to establish an electronic medical records system. The present system of record keeping allows retrieval and is unique in Nepal, but it requires a lot of manpower and is not as useful for patient care as an electronic system. A Korean aid agency has agreed to donate \$17,000 towards this goal, but \$50,000 more is required.



The new adult Intensive Care Unit.



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