



# FRIENDS OF PATAN HOSPITAL

## Update 2014

October 2014

Friends of Patan Hospital  
1980 Dahlia Street  
Denver, CO 80220



Check out our website!  
[www.foph.org](http://www.foph.org)

*Founded in 1982 as a Christian mission hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal, Patan Hospital 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 350,000 outpatients and 33,000 inpatients per year. This is accomplished with a budget of \$6 million through efficient operations and the contributions of many individuals, church groups, and charitable organizations in North America, Europe, and Australia.*

### FOPH Increases Charity Care Support

An important part of the mission of Patan Hospital is to provide health care to all comers, irrespective of a patient's ability to pay for that care. In a typical year, approximately 4,300 patients receive subsidized care. FOPH's board of directors strongly supports this tradition and has authorized a significant donation to the Charity Fund at Patan Hospital each year. In 2012, we increased our annual donation from \$20,000 to \$25,000, and last November we were able to increase our support to \$30,000. This increase reflects the importance to our board members of this part of the hospital's mission. It is a very direct way to make a difference in the lives of the poorest of the poor in Nepal.

One recent beneficiary was a twelve-year-old girl from a remote village who was brought to Patan Hospital with typhoid fever and pneumonia. She was critically ill and spent forty-two days in the Intensive Care Unit and another twenty-two days in the Children's Ward before becoming well enough to go home.

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*The Emergency Room provides services to all who need care, irrespective of the patient's ability to pay.*

The total hospital bill was \$1,888, of which the family was only able to pay \$743 - and that only by selling their buffalo and a goat! Another case involved a fifteen-year old girl from eastern Nepal with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome who required fifty-three days of ICU care. The patient's mother was only able

to pay \$200 of the \$2,670 bill, and the rest was covered by the Charity Fund.

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.

# Latest News from Patan

## **Update: Patan Academy of Health Sciences**

In 2010, Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) admitted the first class of medical students to its 5-year MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) program. PAHS was founded for the purpose of training doctors who will be motivated to work in the underserved, rural areas of Nepal in order to better address severe disparities in health between rural and urban Nepal. Students from rural areas are given preferential treatment in the admission process; the curriculum is designed to teach social responsibility through community engagement in urban slums and village health posts; and each student is to spend six months of their fifth year working at one of four rural district hospitals. This fall, after years of planning, the inaugural class of PAHS entered their final year of training and started the first of these six-month rural postings. The remoteness of these hospitals will

make this a challenging six months for these students and their supervisors, but one that will make a unique contribution to the groundbreaking medical education they have received at PAHS and hopefully prepare them for a career serving the underserved in rural Nepal. We congratulate Dr. Shah and the faculty of PAHS for successfully navigating the extensive arrangements that had to be made in order to reach this historic milestone.

In addition to the medical school, PAHS is well on the way to opening a School of Nursing and a School of Public Health. They have completed development of a nursing/midwifery curriculum and are nearly finished with the same for a Masters in Public Health (MPH) program. As they tackle the logistics of each, one pressing need is for dormitory space to house the large number of students expected, including those of the medical school. PAHS is in discussion with the government of Nepal about obtaining a tract of land near the hospital on which to build student housing and is looking for private funding for construction of the building.

## **Construction of Pediatric and Orthopedic Block Nears Completion**

Retrofitting and construction of the pediatric and orthopedic building is in its final stage. Wards in the old building are already being shifted to this new building

to better accommodate the Pediatric and Orthopedic services, and work on the 4th floor is nearing completion. The Pediatric Ward will occupy the ground floor. The Orthopedic Ward and Ultrasound Department currently occupy part of the space there but will be relocated when the old building is retrofitted. The second floor will be the Medical Ward, and the third floor will be the Private Ward. A light structure on the fourth floor will contain the library, with teaching, reading and seminar rooms which will provide additional space for the Patan Academy of Health Sciences. This construction will add an additional 200 beds to Patan Hospital. Funding for this project has been provided by the Government of Nepal.

## **Improved Facilities Provided for ENT Outpatient Clinic and for Endoscopy Services**

As a part of the ongoing efforts to improve the provision of services at Patan Hospital, the ENT Outpatient Clinic has been moved to a larger room. Besides serving patients, the ENT Clinic also provides instruction to interns and to Patan Academy of Health Sciences medical students. Due to a substantial increase in the volume of outpatients, inpatients, and surgical procedures over the past two years since the establishment of the ENT Clinic, the previous space was outgrown. The Endoscopy Room has also been moved to a less congested Medical Ward room. Both of these relocations permit better utilization of space at Patan Hospital.



*New Orthopedic Ward provides ample room for patients.*



## Friends of Patan Hospital Activities

### **Digital X-Ray System purchased for Patan Hospital**

Last spring, Patan Hospital asked FOPH to purchase a new X-ray machine for them since one of their two X-ray machines broke down last winter. They later discovered that their one remaining operational machine also required some expensive repairs. Since Patan Hospital performs about 80,000 radiology procedures each year, they needed a machine that would be fast and capable as well as durable and maintainable. After discussion with several vendors and consultation with experts with first-hand experience with this type of equipment, it was determined that the best option was to buy a new digital X-ray system to replace the broken machine, and to upgrade the existing X-ray machine to a digital system as well. Digital radiography allows the X-ray beam to be captured directly onto a computer plate so that images can be processed

much more quickly and efficiently than with the previous technology. The new digital detector plates are also more durable than their older counterpart, so these new DR systems should serve the hospital well for years to come. Konica Minolta of Japan, a reliable vendor with whom the hospital has years of experience, agreed to provide these two systems, along with an extended seven-year warranty, at the steeply discounted price of \$97,000, paid for entirely by FOPH through the generosity of our donors.

### **Project C.U.R.E. Shipment**

Again this year, FOPH paid for the delivery of another shipping container from Project C.U.R.E. full of donated medical supplies and equipment designated for Patan and Okhaldhunga hospitals in Nepal. This shipment was coordinated by FOPH Board Member Dr. Rebecca Mashburn. When Dr. Jay Shah was

in Denver, he and some FOPH board members met with Doug Jackson, C.E.O. of Project C.U.R.E., and toured their Denver warehouse. It was exciting and enlightening to see how much thought and care goes into processing and repairing all the donated equipment and supplies and organizing and preparing each shipment, and what a large number and variety of items are available. Dr. Shah and Mr. Jackson discussed how to ensure that the materials in each shipment are of true value to the hospital so that nothing is wasted, and Mr. Jackson invited Dr. Shah to come up with a “wish list” of items he would like to see included in future shipments. We look forward to continued and improved collaboration among Patan Hospital, FOPH, and Project C.U.R.E. in the years to come.



*Newly relocated Endoscopy Room.*



*Patient receives care in the recently expanded ENT Outpatient Clinic.*

## Oxygen Plant Need

In 2012, an oxygen plant and piping for oxygen delivery to the wards were installed at Patan Hospital for the purpose of providing a safer, more economical, and more reliable source of oxygen for patients, replacing the 50 or so oxygen tanks per day that were being used. FOPH provided \$130,000 of the \$330,000 total cost, with Jim and Marilyn Simons contributing the remaining \$200,000. Due to heavy demands on the system and the addition of more beds in the newly expanded Pediatric and Orthopedic Block, the hospital may be in need of a new more powerful compressor for the oxygen plant in the near future. FOPH will work with the hospital staff to evaluate alternatives for addressing this need.

## Vice Chancellor of Patan Academy of Health Sciences Visits U.S. and Canada

Dr. Jay Shah, the Vice Chancellor of Patan Academy of Health Science (PAHS), travelled to the U.S. this past summer to attend the 2014 Harvard Macy Institute Program for Leading Innovations in Health Care and Education in Boston, MA. He was also able to visit several other major academic medical centers where certain faculty members have connections to Patan Hospital and to Nepal, including McMaster University in Toronto, the University of Colorado at Denver, the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Shah met with fellow medical educators and shared details of the groundbreaking work that is being done at PAHS. Friendships were established that will lead to increased cooperation between

Patan Hospital and these medical centers, including possible research partnerships with Mayo Clinic and Harvard, training opportunities for Nepali physicians at the Mayo Clinic as well as for Mayo residents at Patan Hospital, and collaboration with the University of Colorado on motivating doctors to work in rural areas. FOPH sponsored Dr. Shah's Mayo and Denver visits and hosted a fundraising dinner in Denver at which several FOPH supporters and board members were able to meet Dr. Shah and hear more about his work at PAHS. Many thanks to Jim and Amy Hecht for spearheading the Denver visit, and to Aaron Mansfield at Mayo, Karl Stobbe at McMaster, and Kim Solez in Edmonton for coordinating those visits.

## Honor Roll of U. S. Donors

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

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