



# FRIENDS OF PATAN HOSPITAL

# Update 2019

November 2019

Friends of Patan Hospital  
1980 Dahlia Street  
Denver, CO 80220

*Founded in 1982 as a Christian mission hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal, Patan Hospital has evolved into a Nepali-run independent multi-specialty medical facility that has been held up as a model for others to follow. It maintains the values of its founders, providing high-quality, compassionate care to all comers, regardless of ability to pay. The hospital treats over 350,000 patients per year with a budget of only about \$6 million through efficient operations and the contributions of individuals and charitable organizations from North America, Europe, and Australia. In addition, the Patan Academy of Health Sciences was established in 2010 for the purpose of training medical personnel to serve in remote underserved areas throughout Nepal.* ∞

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.

## A Long-Awaited Success Story

When Patan Hospital was founded by the United Mission to Nepal in 1982, the long-term goal was to create a sustainable model of health care delivery that would eventually be managed solely by the people of Nepal themselves. In 2008, that vision was realized, when UMN handed over the reins of the hospital to the government of Nepal.

A coterie of talented, visionary Nepali physicians has now turned Patan Hospital into one of the premier medical institutions in Nepal, both for patient care and for medical education. They are educat-

ing the health care policymakers of the future and performing cutting edge research to find new and creative ways to tackle the difficult problems at the intersection of poverty and health. By investing in the intellectual and human capital of Nepal, they are setting up Patan Hospital as a model for other developing nations to follow. The people of Nepal are tackling the problems of Nepal.

### *The PAHS Mission Statement*

PAHS is dedicated to sustained improvement of the health of the people in Nepal, especially those who are poor and living in rural areas, through innovation, equity, excellence and love in education, service and research.

Friends of Patan Hospital is privileged to support the vision of these dedicated professionals and follow their lead as they prioritize the hospital's needs and set a course for the future.



Photo printed by permission of Patan Academy of Health Sciences

# Latest News from Patan

## ***Patan Expands Its Services***

A new 24-bed single-room ICU has been recently constructed at Patan Hospital and will be opening this winter. Thanks to a generous gift from the Nick Simons Institute, the new ICU is already fully equipped with several new mechanical ventilators. Expanded ICU services will benefit the sickest patients at Patan as well as enhance the education of Nepal's future doctors at the Patan Academy of Health Sciences.

In addition to plain X-ray and ultrasound, Patan Hospital has in recent years acquired both a CT scanner and an MRI machine, greatly improving their diagnostic capability and eliminating the need for costly transfers to other facilities in order to obtain these life-saving images. As always, these services are priced at a level that the general public can afford, as Patan continues to survive on a pay-as-you-go system in order to cover their day-to-day operating expenses. Medical insurance is virtually unknown in Nepal, and most patients pay cash up front for their medical care.

## ***Hospice Nepal***

Hospice Nepal, the first organization of its kind in Nepal, provides both at-home and in-patient care - free of charge - for dying patients and their families. In the past year, they treated approximately 230 patients in the Kathmandu Valley. Since 2005, they have also trained over 1200 other health professionals to

provide similar services throughout Nepal, and they are developing a model of rural community-based palliative care that can be implemented in remote areas. To accommodate

the expanding need for these services, Hospice Nepal is currently raising money to build a new 20-bed facility in Kathmandu. Monetary support for this endeavor can be sent directly to FOPH. As always, 100% of your contribution will be sent directly to Hospice Nepal. Read more at [www.hospicenepal.org.np](http://www.hospicenepal.org.np).



*This current inpatient unit of Hospice Nepal includes eight beds. Plans for a new 20-bed facility are underway.*

## ***New Residency Programs at Patan Hospital***

Historically, it has been difficult for medical school graduates in Nepal to find post-graduate residency training positions in-country, forcing many of them to go abroad and resulting in a significant loss of human capital for Nepal. In 2017, Patan Hospital inaugurated several post-graduate residency training programs to address

this problem, including programs in pediatrics, internal medicine, surgery, general practice, obstetrics/gynecology, orthopedics, radiology, ENT surgery, and psychiatry. Currently, they are able to provide critically-needed residency training for 34 medical school graduates per year. They also offer post-residency fellowships in rheumatology and emergency medicine. Patan has become one of the premier medical institutions in Nepal, and its medical education programs are becoming a model for others to follow.



*Emergency medicine fellows at Patan are learning to use bedside ultrasound to diagnose serious illness at minimal cost to the patient.*



# Friends of Patan Hospital Activities

## New Equipment Purchased for Patan

Thanks to a generous \$100,000 gift from long-time donors Russell and Marian Bernd, Friends of Patan Hospital was able to purchase some important medical equipment for Patan Hospital this year. To ensure that every operating room at Patan is fully functional, we purchased a new high-quality surgical table and operating light with HD camera that should serve the hospital well for years to come and aid in the training of future surgeons. We also purchased four much-needed hemodialysis machines. Dialysis chairs are highly coveted in Nepal, with all available units in use almost 24 hours per day. If a renal failure patient is ever suddenly in need of emergency dialysis, they sometimes have to wait for a routine dialysis patient to voluntarily give up their scheduled dialysis session in order to accommodate the emergency. More dialysis machines means that this difficult situa-

tion may become a thing of the past.

## Charity Fund Support

As always, Friends of Patan Hospital prioritizes support for the neediest of patients by contributing as generously as we are able to the the Charity Care Fund at Patan Hospital. In order to remain financially viable, the hospital generally requires cash up front for all care it provides, as health insurance is virtually unknown in Nepal. By keeping its costs to a

minimum, Patan is able to provide quality care for pennies compared to the cost of similar care in the U.S. For those in dire need, the Charity Care Fund pays for hospital admissions that a patient's family cannot afford. In the past two years, thanks to your generosity, FOPH has given \$90,000 – a new record for us – toward charity care at Patan.



A patient in the ICU at Patan who would have otherwise died of tetanus. He recovered 10 weeks later!



One of Patan Hospital's new dialysis machines.

## Okhaldhunga Hospital



Photo printed by permission of United Mission to Nepal

Okhaldhunga Community Hospital is a 50-bed Christian mission hospital in a remote area of eastern Nepal run by the United Mission to Nepal. Since 2018, FOPH passed on \$7,770 in donations designated for Okhaldhunga, which are being used to upgrade their laboratory facilities. You can read more about this remarkable hospital at [www.umn.org.np/page/okhaldhunga-hospital](http://www.umn.org.np/page/okhaldhunga-hospital).

## Update from Patan Academy of Health Sciences

In rural Nepal, there is less than one doctor for every 150,000 people, yet most medical school graduates in Nepal are unwilling and unprepared to live and work in these rural areas. The Patan Academy of Health Sciences was founded in 2010 to address this problem head-on. Preferentially admitting students from rural areas, PAHS graduated its first class of medical students in 2015, added a School

of Nursing and Midwifery in 2016, a School of Public Health in 2017, and expects to be opening a School of Allied Health Science soon. The government of Nepal recently pledged to fund full tuition for every medical student at PAHS, allowing deserving students from rural, underprivileged backgrounds to obtain medical training for the benefit of their home districts.

Through its innovative curriculum design, PAHS intentionally prepares its graduates to work in the more remote areas of Nepal. From their very first year of study, PAHS students are assigned to rural villages where they learn to work with limited resources and gain understanding and compassion for the special health needs of the rural poor.

## 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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### Benefactors (\$10,000+)

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