



FRIENDS OF PATAN HOSPITAL

Update 2015

September 2015

Friends of Patan Hospital
1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, CO 80220



Check out our website!
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.

Nepal Earthquake Report

The devastating earthquakes on April 25th and May 12th and frequent aftershocks have caused close to 9,000 fatalities, innumerable injuries, and serious damage to many of the buildings in Nepal. During the height of the crisis Patan Hospital provided 24-hour emergency medical services as well as food and water to many families affected the earthquakes, handling over fifty casualties in the first 24 hours alone. Fortunately, the buildings at Patan Hospital were not seriously damaged by the earthquakes and are for the most part intact. However, in the weeks following the earthquakes all medical services had to be provided on the ground floor of the hospital or outdoors in tents. Patan Hospital also operated a field hospital in Kathmandu which served over 200 patients each day at the height of the crisis. Medical students at Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) contributed greatly to the emergency response, with first, second and third year students filling support roles at Patan Hospital and fourth and fifth year students assisting

in the rural areas. In Naukot, which lost its hospital in the April 25th earthquake, students treated patients and distributed food and shelter.

Jill Allison, PhD, the Global Health Coordinator at Memorial University of Newfoundland and a friend of PAHS has visited Nepal twice since the earthquake and had the following to say about her observations:

“Patan Hospital has done a fantastic job of managing the earthquakes and their aftermath of health and social consequences. Staff of every kind, faculty, and students pitched in and “pitched up” in the classrooms, doing rotating shifts and sleeping, eating and trying to stay focused within the confines and walls of the hospital. The fantastic disaster management plan developed last year and test run only a few months before the quake proved to be invaluable and worked like clockwork. Very few glitches. Tents went up, triage was established and patients were seen immediately. Patan has been praised by government and NGOs

for the great work they did and have been presented as a model for others to follow. They are all very humble about this but also are very willing to share their personal experiences of the earthquakes. Compelling and brave and harrowing. The staff at Patan proved that well supported and confident practitioners even in low income countries, settings can handle anything. They did not need anyone to show up offering to help. They needed moral support, financial contributions and our willingness to continue partnerships and be available to do what was needed if requested. In fact, it is a point of pride for all the staff at Patan that they knew what to do and just got on with it.”

Because of the excellent preparedness and emergency response by the staff at Patan, there was a remarkably low incidence of amputations for orthopedic injuries due to the timely and appropriate surgical care. Moreover, the effective operation of the field hospital that was established

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Latest News from Patan

Hospital Leadership Change

In February of 2015 the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled that the previous Vice-Chancellor of PAHS, Dr. Sangita Bhandary had been illegally removed from office when she was replaced by Dr. Jay Shah, the vice-chancellor who visited the U.S. last summer. Many felt that the court was inappropriately influenced by political considerations and was not acting in the best interests of the hospital. Nonetheless, Dr. Shah graciously stepped down and the leadership of PAHS accepted Dr. Bhandary as their new vice-chancellor, without the rancor and strikes that had followed her initial appointment a few years ago. While there was some initial uncertainty about how well Dr. Bhandary would carry on the altruistic mission of PAHS, much of this concern has fallen away in light of the excellent cooperation and teamwork exhibited by all the hospital staff and leadership during the massive earthquake crisis. FOPH looks forward to working closely with Dr. Bhandary to support the mission of the Patan Hospital.

Charles H. Revson Foundation

Dr. Cliff Tabin, a member of the International Advisory Board at Patan Academy of Health Sciences and a geneticist at Harvard University, assisted PAHS/Patan Hospital to obtain a \$15,000 grant for earthquake relief from the Charles H. Revson Foundation. This money has been specifically designated for the funding of surgical equipment needed in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Friends of Nepal Sends Aid

Friends of Nepal (FON) is a non-profit group whose membership consists mostly of returned Peace Corps volunteers from Nepal, including FOPH board member Chrissy Kohrt. At the time of the earthquake, the board of FON decided that the best way to help was to donate to a credible aid organization that had already mobilized to meet the immediate needs of earthquake victims. Patan Hospital was the perfect choice; with Chrissy's help FON was able to send \$30,000 in urgently-needed support this past May.

Okhaldhunga Hospital

FOPH continues to accept donations earmarked for Okhaldhunga Hospital, a Christian mission hospital located in rural Nepal east of Kathmandu. In past years, these funds have paid for the shipment of supplies to Okhaldhunga in conjunction with the Project C.U.R.E. shipment sent to Patan Hospital. This year, a shipment from Project C.U.R.E. was not needed, so the \$5,000 in donations designated for Okhaldhunga were used to purchase two oxygen concentrators and new lighting for their operating room.

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by Patan Hospital set a standard of care that was emulated by the Nepali Army as it responded to the medical needs in other parts of the country. The work done by the staff and students of PAHS is greatly appreciated by the government of Nepal, and PAHS – even more than before – is seen as a role model for the future of health education in Nepal

Although Nepal continues to be plagued with frequent aftershocks, the tents are down now and all services have been moved back inside the hospital building. It will be some time before a sense of safety and well-being returns to those living in Nepal, and there is a lot of work to be done to help the Nepalese rebuild their homes and lives. However, a great deal has been accomplished by the staff, faculty and students at Patan Hospital and PAHS, and they have good reason to be proud of what they have achieved during this period of crisis. They were an outstanding team that successfully met the challenges they faced, and we at FOPH are proud of the model they have established for others to emulate.



Services at Patan Hospital were relocated to temporary structures after the earthquakes.



Friends of Patan Hospital Activities

Earthquake Relief and Continued Financial Challenges

In the aftermath of the initial earthquake, FOPH quickly set up a PayPal account to allow those moved by the plight of the people of Nepal to donate quickly and efficiently. In the weeks following the quake, over \$48,000 was raised via PayPal from about 280 donors from ten different countries. Hundreds of donations were also received by mail, with a total of about \$121,000 in earthquake-related donations from all sources by the end of August. To date, FOPH has sent \$155,000 to Patan Hospital for direct earthquake relief and an additional \$90,000 for the charity fund and other needs. However, the hospital continues to operate under great financial strain, as many of its profit-generating activities had to be suspended during the earthquake crisis, and all earthquake victims are being cared for free of charge. Under normal circumstances, Patan Hospital depends on patient payments for almost 95% of its \$6 million annual operating budget, and this income stream was disrupted for nearly three months due to the earthquakes. In addition, many expensive operating room supplies had to be purchased urgently to accommodate the heavy volume of casualties brought in from Kathmandu and the surrounding areas. We are concerned that there may not be sufficient revenue in the near future to continue to pay the salaries of hospital staff.

As the financial status of the hospital becomes more clear, we will keep our donors informed. The outpouring of generosity from

our donors in the aftermath of the earthquake has been impressive and is greatly appreciated by our friends at Patan Hospital and PAHS. We trust that our donors will not forget the needs of the Nepali people even as news of the earthquake fades from the headlines.

C-Arm Purchase

In the immediate aftermath of the initial earthquake, the number of orthopedic injuries requiring emergency surgery at Patan Hospital increased exponentially. In order to get these procedures done in a timely fashion and avoid limb amputations, the hospital had to acquire immediately a second C-arm X-ray machine. The C-arm allows the orthopedic surgeon to examine the positioning of bones in real time during surgery so that the correct adjustments can be made. FOPH was made aware that one of these machines was available in Kathmandu that very week for a good price, and Dr. Fred Grover at

Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Denver, Colorado, persuaded his church to sponsor half of the \$20,000 purchase price. FOPH agreed to pay the remaining \$10,000, and the machine was delivered to the hospital within one week of the earthquake. Many thanks to Dr. Grover and the members of Montview for their prompt and generous action.

Charity Fund Support

FOPH continued its commitment to support medical care for those unable to pay by sending \$30,000 for 2014 and the same for 2015 to the Charity Care Fund at Patan Hospital. The 2015 contribution was graciously supplied out of the surplus of money initially given by Jim and Marilyn Simons to furnish the Maternity Wing which was constructed in 2008.

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.



Many patients were moved outdoors after the earthquakes.

Patan Academy of Health Sciences graduates 1st Class

The April and May earthquakes disrupted the final year of studies for the first class of medical students at PAHS, but in August of this year these students took their final exit examination. FOPH congratulates these newly-minted physicians and wishes them great success as they continue with their post-graduate training. As per the mission of PAHS, these students were specially selected and intentionally trained to practice medicine at rural health posts far away from urban Kathmandu.

With minor adjustments, the remaining students continue their studies. One of the four rural sites used for

six-month postings for fifth-year medical students has been rendered unusable by the earthquake; the remaining three will be ready for another batch of students this fall.

The School of Public Health has been accredited and should open soon. The School of Nursing has been delayed maybe six months, but plans are still moving forward.

As PAHS looks to open a School of Nursing and a School of Public Health and to expand its

number of medical students, there is an urgent need for additional housing for these students. Patan would ultimately like to construct a dormitory for its students on a nearby plot of land, but financial support for this project, with a pre-earthquake cost estimate about \$500,000, is still needed.

Curriculum for a 4-year MDGP program (residency-type training for medical school graduates) is currently being developed. The

program will not start for at least three years, but it will eventually provide invaluable training to fully equip doctors to work in the remote rural areas of Nepal.



Honor Roll of U. S. Donors

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

Major Benefactors (\$40,000+)

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