



FRIENDS OF PATAN HOSPITAL

Update 2017

November 2017

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 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.

The Patan Academy of Health Sciences

Why PAHS? From the website www.pahs.edu.np: “Nepal is still one of the most impoverished countries in the world. More than half of its people live below the poverty line, and one out of ten suffer from a disability. The state of health care in Nepal is abysmal; millions of Nepalis do not have reasonable access to adequate health services. The disparity in health status between urban and rural populations is particularly shocking. The infant mortality rate is 13.2% in rural Nepal, compared to 6% in urban Nepal. Many of the rural government health posts lack basic equipment, and some have not been staffed for years. Inhabitants of the large regions that are not accessible by road may have to walk for days in order to receive treatment from a doctor.

“A fundamental cause of the appalling state of medical care in rural Nepal is the reluctance of doctors to work in remote communities. Rural

areas of Nepal have one doctor for every 150,000 people, compared to one for every 850 people in the Kathmandu valley. Most of the doctors who accept positions at rural health care facilities leave these jobs prematurely. Although several new medical schools have recently opened in Nepal, they have not taken up the challenge of encouraging students to improve the plight of the rural population. Of the more than 1000 doctors produced in Nepal each year, between 40 and 50% leave the country soon after graduation in search of greener pastures.

“The Patan Academy of Health Sciences is dedicated to improving the health status of

the people of Nepal by producing doctors who are willing and able to provide health care to disadvantaged Nepalis living in remote or rural areas. . . The goal of PAHS is that its graduates will not only provide severely needed medical care in rural Nepal, but will also eventually become leaders in health care policy, dedicated to improving the health of the remote and destitute populations in Nepal. Furthermore, PAHS will serve as a model of innovative medical education in a developing country, which can be replicated elsewhere.”

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.

Latest News from Patan

Specific Needs

In late 2016, FOPH was able to facilitate a \$4,000 donation from a private individual and his employer Genentech Inc. to help set up a Molecular Biology training lab for the medical students at PAHS. Currently, there is an urgent need for startup funds for the construction of housing for the expanding student body, as well as an ongoing need for scholarship money for poor but highly capable students from rural backgrounds. For scholarship students from rural backgrounds willing to pay back two years of service in a remote area after graduation, current tuition and fees is approximately \$4,100 annually for the five-year program, plus \$45/month room and board. If you have a passion for a particular need at PAHS or just want to support this incredible educational endeavor, we would be happy to pass on 100% of your tax-deductible contribution and get it where it needs to go.

Medical School

The first batch of medical students graduated in 2015 after five years of a groundbreaking curriculum designed specifically for PAHS which included special rural health postings designed to prepare students to serve where they are most needed. Impressively, 100% of this class passed their initial licensing exams. PAHS is now admitting its 8th class, with a continued emphasis on candidates likely to serve in rural areas. FOPH salutes the Nepali and expatriate educators and all the members of the International Advisory Board who

have volunteered their time and talent to ensure that the educational enterprise of PAHS is a success.

Schools of Nursing and Public Health

The PAHS School of Nursing has launched recently, incorporating the existing Lalitpur Nursing Campus under the PAHS umbrella. New admissions will be addressed similar to the medical school, with an emphasis on candidates likely to work in rural areas, and the curriculum will gradually be modified to incorporate rural community postings. The School of Public Health is getting closer to launch, having formed an admissions committee and beginning to hire faculty.



Cardiac Cath Lab at Patan

A few months ago, a cardiology team started performing the first cardiac catheterizations ever offered at Patan Hospital. They are now able to perform life-saving balloon angioplasty for acute heart attack patients. This service is currently available only during the day, but the cardiologist is available after hours for phone consults. In its first two months of operation, they have performed 42 procedures including twelve balloon angioplasties.



Patan Hospital's new Cardiac Cath Lab opened in July of 2017. Now echocardiograms and cardiac catheterizations are available on-site at Patan.



Friends of Patan Hospital Activities

Charity Fund Support

In order to remain financially viable, Patan Hospital operates on a pay-as-you-go system for patient care. Health insurance is virtually unknown in Nepal, and most patients pay the modest fees charged by the hospital with cash up front. For the poorest of the poor, Patan maintains a Charity Care Fund that allows it to provide care to everyone. FOPH continued its commitment to support medical care for those unable to pay by sending \$60,000 to the Charity Care Fund since 2016. As Patan expands its services to offer more costly treatments, such as intensive care, neonatal intensive care, and cardiac catheterization for heart attacks, a greater need for charity care is anticipated. Because Patan keeps its costs to a minimum, they are able to provide quality care for pennies compared to the cost of similar care in the U.S. For instance, an inpatient stay for child with severe pneumonia costs approximately \$20. Think of how many lives have been saved through the generosity of our donors!

Hospice Nepal

For the past few years, FOPH has also been accepting donations earmarked for Hospice Nepal, a palliative care facility founded in 2000 by FOPH board member and Rector of PAHS Dr. Rajesh Gongal. Hospice Nepal is the first facility of its kind in Nepal and provides both at-home and inpatient care and support for dying patients and their families. They have also started the first-ever

palliative care training courses in Nepal to equip other medical providers to meet the tremendous need for such care to cancer patients throughout Nepal. Read more at www.hospicenepal.org.np.

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.



Hospice Nepal provides both at-home and inpatient care and support for dying patients and their families.

Okhaldhunga Hospital



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Okhaldhunga Community Hospital is a 50-bed Christian mission hospital in a remote area of eastern Nepal run by the United Mission to Nepal. In 2016, FOPH passed on \$6,000 in donations designated for Okhaldhunga to buy four new oxygen concentrators for their pediatric ward. You can read more about this remarkable hospital at www.umn.org.np/page/okhaldhunga-hospital. If you would like to designate a donation, just let us know.

Dr. Bharat Yadav appointed Vice Chancellor of PAHS

Dr. Yadav began his career as a health assistant in the remote Sankuwasaba District. He came to Patan Hospital in 1989 as its most junior doctor and eventually graduated as Patan's first Nepali MDGP. Around 2004, he became chief of the hospital's ER and outpatient department, a post he held until his recent appointment by the government of Nepal to Vice Chancellor of the Patan Academy of Health Sciences.

From Dr. Mark Zimmerman, FOPH Board Member and former Medical Director at Patan Hospital: "Among the hundreds who work

at Patan Hospital, it would be hard to find a more committed soul. At 10 pm on the night after his VC appointment was announced, he was found where he often is at that time: checking up on junior doctors in the emergency room. He knows the institution inside and out and cares about sustaining its ethos. He is known as a loyal, courageous, and forthright individual who is willing to speak up for what is right and work to change what is not. He is held in high esteem by the senior doctors under whom he's worked, and he always treats juniors with respect and care."

Under Dr. Yadav's leadership, an advisory committee has been set up consisting of former PAHS

executives, including former VC Dr. Jay Shah, whom FOPH hosted in Denver a few years ago. We at FOPH are very happy to see PAHS in such capable hands.



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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