

Pediatric Fundamental Critical Care Support (PFCCS) Funding Application

ANMF Application for Funding

Submitter:

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Attachment: PFCCS 2017 Course Flyer

Background:

After being connected with Dr. Sangita Basnet, pediatric critical care physician at Southern Illinois University & ANMF active member, I made my 2nd trip (1st medical trip) to Nepal in June 2015 to round and assist alongside the local pediatric ICU team at Patan Hospital (Lalitpur). Prior to this, I had spent significant time doing medical work in India. My first medical experience in Nepal was very successful, but not because of direct clinical care. Instead, physicians and trainees appeared more excited about the daily educational lectures I provided on topics related to pediatric critical care medicine. This was a surprise to me. Through multiple follow-up conversations with Dr. Basnet, physicians and trainees at Patan Hospital, it became clear that there was a strong need for medical education to better support physicians dealing with critically ill children. Like most developing countries, pediatric ICU physicians in Nepal are not fellowship trained. Instead, their pediatric ICUs rely on general practitioners to function at the level of an intensivist. That's a difficult task for someone without adequate training, and leaves an area to improve upon.

In June 2016, I and Dr. Basnet organized a 2-day, pediatric critical care course for physicians from all over Nepal. The course included didactic lectures and medical simulation to help 30 Nepalese pediatricians improve their ability to recognize and treat critical illness in children. The course served as a Pre-Congress Workshop to the Nepalese Congress of Pediatrics, and was arranged in partnership between Nepal Pediatric Society (NEPAS), Patan Academy for Health Sciences (PAHS), Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, and America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF). We additionally received grant funding from the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) to support most of the administrative costs for the course. I'm happy to say that the inaugural course was a huge success. All 30 physicians passed their certification exam upon completion of the course. We additionally recruited faculty from Michigan State, Stanford, Northwestern, and Southern Illinois Universities to teach as part of the 2-day efforts. Since then, we have received a lot of positive feedback. From the initial group of participants, a collaborative group has been formed to work on standardizing care to critically ill children in Nepal. We additionally have been asked to organize the course again this summer (June 18th & 19th, 2017) with the same partners, and are finalizing plans. Following the course, there will be a collaborative meeting to discuss medical protocol development, and determine next steps amongst last year and this year's course participants.

Need for Funding:

Unfortunately, SCCM recently notified me that they are not allowed to provide repeat funding for the same project. I am therefore asking ANMF to support the administrative costs of the conference (total ~ \$850). This centers on obtaining education material from SCCM who licenses the course across the world.

Specifically, the costs include:

- Course license and teaching materials: \$250
- Individual PFCCS textbooks to be given to each of the 30 participants: \$600

May 2017

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Nepalese course participants will pay a nominal registration fee to support meals/snacks during the conference. Course faculty from the US will additionally be required to cover their own travel costs.

Project Goals:

- Provide a fun, 2-day, Pediatric Critical Care course that not only advances medical knowledge and skills, but also reinforces educational concepts through case-based learning and simulation.
- Continue this recurring course to physicians who care for many children but lack formalized curriculum/training in pediatric critical care.
- Create a self-sufficient educational model by training Nepalese instructors who can teach/direct subsequent courses; thereby making them independent of external (international) teachers.
- Reinforce a long-term educational/clinical partnership based in trust, compassion, and substantive education.
- Ultimately, provide better care to the Nepalese community by advancing local medical knowledge and clinical skills.

Target Audience:

- Pediatricians
 - Those without formal fellowship training who presently serve as PICU/NICU physicians
 - Outpatient and inpatient pediatricians
- Generalists serving in Emergency Departments
- PICU and NICU nurses
- House officers with no formal curriculum in pediatrics or pediatric critical care medicine

Expected outcomes:

- A minimum of 80% of all participants passing the course on the first attempt; confirming an effective teaching course.
- Improved collegiality amongst participating physician trainees and faculty members.
- A minimum of (but not limited to) 2 local physicians who successfully complete the training course and serve as course instructors within the next 2 years; with at least 1 local physician becoming a course director within the next 4 years.
- Feedback from each participant to ensure that future courses continue to serve this community's' needs well.

Population Served:

Anticipated number of healthcare professionals attending the course: 30

We hope to improve the care of all critically ill children in Nepal indirectly through these Nepalese physicians, and the group collaboration that results from these annual meetings.

Statement of need and financial barriers:

Patan Hospital originally started as a mission hospital and has grown into one of the largest hospitals in Nepal. To this day, the hospital serves its original mission by providing compassionate care to everybody that comes regardless of his or her ability to pay. For this reason, they have continued to depend on additional non-profit organizational funding to support many day-to-day operating expenditures, new equipment, expansion efforts, and training programs in order to help them better serve the population of Nepal. Additionally, we hope to keep the costs to each participant nominal, if possible, and therefore are seeking alternative funding support.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Ajay Khilanani

May 2017