

## Pediatric Fundamental Critical Care Support (PFCCS) Funding Application

### ANMF Application for Funding -- 2018

#### **Submitter:**

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#### **Background:**

Over the past 4 years, I have worked with Dr. Sangita Basnet to add clinical and educational value for critically ill children in Nepal. Like most developing countries, pediatric ICU (PICU) physicians in Nepal are not fellowship trained. Instead, their PICUs rely on general pediatricians 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. With increased training for PICU physicians in Nepal, we can indirectly increase health care access for critically ill children, and improve mentoring & education that Nepalese physicians can offer to their own students and trainees. We believe education that empowers improvements in health care for Nepalese children can solidify the local healthcare infrastructure, facilitate self-sustenance, and maintain independence from foreign reliance.

For these reasons, Dr. Basnet and I have committed to coordinating an annually recurring course to train pediatricians in Nepal since June 2016. The Pediatric Fundamental Critical Care Support (PFCCS) course includes didactic lectures and medical simulation to help 30 Nepalese pediatricians per year improve their ability to recognize and treat critical illness in children. The course has served as a Pre-Congress Workshop to the Nepalese Congress of Pediatrics over the last two years, and is 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).

In 2016, we received grant funding from the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) to support most of the administrative costs for the inaugural course. In 2017, these costs were supported by America Nepal Medical Foundation (ANMF) through Nepal Critical Care Development Foundation (NCCDF). I'm happy to say that the last 2 courses have been very successful. All 60 physicians received PFCCS certification upon completion of the course exam. Over the years, we have recruited faculty from Michigan State, Stanford, Northwestern, and Southern Illinois Universities to teach as part of the 2-day efforts and this has additionally provided a diverse physician network for Nepalese physicians to interact with. A collaborative group between the course participants has also been formed to work on standardizing care to critically ill children in Nepal. This group continues to meet annually to discuss medical protocol development.

Once again, we have been invited to organize the PFCCS course this summer (June 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018) with the same partners, and are finalizing plans.

#### **Need for Funding:**

For 2018, we are again asking ANMF to support the administrative costs (total ~ \$1460). This includes educational material for Nepalese course participants and licensing of the course from SCCM.

Specifically, the costs include:

- Course license and teaching materials: \$250
- Individual PFCCS textbooks to be given to each of the 30 participants: \$860 (~\$30 per student)

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Nepalese course participants will additionally pay a nominal registration fee to support meals/snacks during the conference. Course faculty from the US will 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 2018