

PALLIATIVE CARE

ripples

Updates on how INF is supporting Palliative Care development in Nepal

INF Palliative Care on TV:

Our Scottish partner, EMMS International, celebrated 175 years in 2016. In November Scottish Television did a series of three short features on their main 6pm news programme, highlighting EMMSI palliative care projects in Nepal. This was an excellent opportunity to share the work we are doing – please watch the features which can be found at emms.org.uk.

Recent Events:

At the recent Indian Palliative Care conference in Coimbatore, India, Dr Dan was invited to present about pall care in disasters; Sr Manju presented the Tansen hospital survey of PC needs; Regina (research assistant) presented the oral history work completed; and 3 posters were presented. What an opportunity for all five of the INF pall care team (with 4 others from Nepal) to be there, networking with colleagues working in SE Asia, and learning of other developments relevant to our Nepal context.



At the IAPC conference

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FELLOWSHIP



What's been Happening?

The past 5 months have seen ongoing significant activity in palliative care, despite limitations consequent to the delay in the INF health agreement and lack of relevant health visas.

The research work led by INF has progressed with farther field work for post-earthquake study, and ongoing work on the palliative needs survey, and testing an appropriate tool to recognize palliative needs in hospital patients. Sr Manju piloted a palliative inpatient consultative service at Tansen Hospital for 3 months. The most common palliative condition there is end stage respiratory disease.

INFNepal again celebrated World Hospice and Palliative Care Day – and staff were very encouraged to see the TV feature (above) that included Green Pastures! Major redevelopment plans for this Pokhara hospital are underway. Provision of clinical services continues despite the impact of current refurbishment. Low-key community palliative care work and inpatient support is provided by Purna, and Dr Ruth is still awaiting a visa to be able to return. Frail elderly with multiple morbidities are a significant group needing palliative support in this context.

NAPCare:

Nationally, the Nepalese Association of Palliative Care continues to plan for the official handover of the developed National PC Strategy to government, hopefully within the next few months. Over the past 3 months NAPCare has held two 2-day PC training workshops for doctors and nurses from hospitals around Nepal which we have been able to support.

Trekking for post earthquake needs survey:



A crowded 6-hour bus ride and 6 hours trekking brought the team to a remote earthquake affected area for initial field visits to meet and interview people to understand PC needs of vulnerable members. The majority were old and frail, now living alone or as a couple, as nearly all the younger generation have left this area, to work overseas or in the city. Significant issues have been identified for these people, and ongoing data collection continues.



Conference Reflections:

"PC is everyone's business" "It's not just about numbers, it's about individual stories"

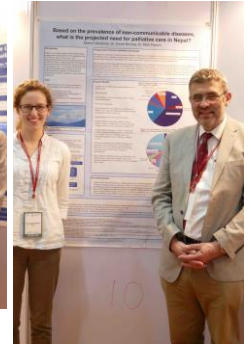
There's always something we can do In PC

PC is for all people - but what about refugees, prisoners and end stage disease apart from cancer?

Learning the art of living... and need for positive thinking and harmony



INF team members presenting, and posters with authors



Prayer and Praise Points:



Give thanks for

- Opportunities to support national PC colleagues in training and PC development
- Opportunity for INF PC team to attend IAPCON conference, present our research and network with colleagues in SEAsia.



Please pray for

- Good relationships with key Nepali PC champions and for wisdom in encouraging and strengthening NAPCare in its key role in PC development and coordination in Nepal
- Wisdom with PC development at Green Pastures, and appropriate care for needy frail elderly in the Pokhara area.



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