

Breaking News:



National Palliative Care Strategy signed and endorsed by Ministry of Health Nepal

The National strategy was signed and endorsed by the current Honourable Secretary of Ministry of Health on 12th May 2017, and the President of the Nepalese Association for Palliative Care (NAPCare) Dr Bishnu Paudel and Dr Dan Munday were present for this important milestone. This gives a framework for development of palliative care (PC) in Nepal for the next ten years.

Full story next page.

NAPCare:

NAPCare is again facilitating PC training sponsored by the Government. The 2-week course of theory and clinical experience training 40 doctors and senior nurses from government hospitals across the country will be held from the end of May in Kathmandu.

Visas:

The INF Health Agreement has progressed following a successful combined meeting of 9 government ministries. Once finalized, Drs Dan & Ruth can apply for clinical visas.



INFI Needs Assessment Project

March was a busy month continuing our Post-Earthquake Survey of Palliative Care Needs. We spent a week with our friends and research collaborators at SAHODAR doing a house to house survey in three areas in Lamjung and Gorkha to discover the number of people with palliative care needs.



The areas visited had all been severely affected by the 2015 earthquake and people were still living in temporary buildings made of wood and tin. Life otherwise was normal with people continuing to farm, and schools and health posts were in temporary buildings (as pictured below) or in rapidly built new buildings.



One of our main findings was that people have very little access to effective management of chronic illness (both early diagnosis and disease monitoring), and a paucity of locally available medication and palliative care for those with advanced disease. These findings will continue to shape our ongoing research and development work.

National PC Strategy signed and endorsed by Ministry of Health Nepal:

The signing of the National strategy on 12th May 2017, now gives the framework for implementing development of palliative care in Nepal for the next ten years.

The draft National Strategy for Palliative Care was previously officially handed over to the Honourable Secretary on 23 April 2017. This brief ceremony held in the Ministry of Health Office was attended by NAPCare President, Executive and some key members, the WHO Nepal representative, and several government officials. Dr Daniel Munday and Dr Ruth Powys(Russell) were honoured to be invited to attend and asked to add a few words to the occasion.



This is the culmination of 15 months of work led by NAPCare, involving the Ministry of Health and Population, WHO, other health related NGOs and with the generous support of Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration, Canada.

The national strategy takes a public health approach and builds on the ongoing needs assessment work done by INF, and aims to make palliative care available to all who need it whatever their age and illness and wherever they live. It includes provision of palliative care from village health posts staffed by mid-level health workers, through to district hospitals led by GPs who have completed Nepal's unique MDGP qualification, up to secondary and tertiary hospital settings in major cities.

This is a very significant and exciting milestone, and will pave the way for government and non-government agencies to work toward better palliative care provision across the country.

Prayer and Praise Points:

Give thanks for

- Official endorsement of the National PC Strategy
- Ongoing opportunities for strategic PC training and development
- Highly motivated Nepali colleagues and excellent INF PC staff in Manju, Regina and Purna Maya

Please pray for

- NAPCare in its key role in encouraging Implementation of the National PC Strategy and ongoing planning
- Wisdom for Manju who will be based at Tansen from June developing a consultative PC model
- Finalization of INF health agreement and provision of visas

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