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Nepal PICU/NICU project

Hello my healthcare colleagues. I am writing you as this new decade begins to tell you about our Nepal PICU/NICU project. As most of you know, last year a group of multi-disciplinary team members made up of more than 15 individuals from all over the world came together in Kathmandu, Nepal. This team was lead by Sangita Basnet, MD, a Nepali born pediatric intensivist who now practices in the United States. Three years of intense planning culminated in the opening the first ever state of the art PICU & NICU in Kathmandu, Nepal. Two 6 bed units, made possible by hardwork, dedication, volunteerism, and donations by the Simon's Family were opened in June 2009 and as a result children's lives are being saved who would have otherwise died due to a failure in access to pediatric and neonatal critical care management availability.

The team and it's leadership made a commitment to return to Patan Hospital, where the units were opened, twice yearly in order to continue what was started. During the months that the units have been in operation neonates and children in Nepal have had their lives saved and families changed. We have found that by decreasing mortality and investing in intellectual capital, of the amazing Nepali physicians and care providers we can do a little bit to change the world. These Nepali physicians, nurses and pharmacists are amazing individuals with a heart for improving healthcare in their country and we are committed to offering them our skills to help them achieve that end. They are excited to hear the most recent treatments and standards of care in pediatric and neonatal critical care management to improve outcomes.

Our team, due to dedication and desire for long-term change, have shared information related to our program at conferences around the United States. Currently, we have a poster being presented at The Society of Critical Care Medicine in Miami, Florida. Last year, we provided a presentation in New Orleans, Louisiana at the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and we've been invited back this year to share our knowledge in Washington, D.C.

We would like to invite you to be a part of the 2010 educational update for our Nepali healthcare colleagues and offer you the opportunity to join us in this amazing experience. We are planning a one month training session in November 2010. We need nurses, clinical nurse specialists, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, pediatric intensivists, neonatologists, pediatric gastroenterologists, pediatric cardiologists, pediatric hospitalists and others in order to make this the best educational opportunity it can be. We plan to start teleconferences next month in order to explain the program, our goals, and the timeframe and commitment necessary.

If you are interested, or you know someone that is, please send an email to me with your contact information and we'll be sure to keep you informed. Please feel free to forward this email along to anyone that you know who you think might be interested as well, even if you can't directly be a part yourself.

If you have specific questions please feel free to contact me at my personal cellphone, which is 415-601-9918.