

## ANMF Grant Application

<b>Submission Date</b>	2018-09-28 11:10:02
<b>Full Legal Organization Name</b>	Patan Academy of Health Sciences
<b>Street Address</b>	Lagankhel
<b>City</b>	Lalitpur
<b>Organization Website</b>	www.pahs.edu.np
<b>Organization President / Executive Director</b>	Prof Bharat Kumar Yadav
<b>Title of the Project</b>	Patan Academy of Health Sciences Rheumatology Fellowship Program
<b>Contact Person</b>	Buddhi Paudyal
<b>Title</b>	Prof
<b>Nepal Social Work Council Registration</b>	No
<b>SWC Approval for Project</b>	No
<b>Total # of Board Members</b>	(executive council members)
<b>Total # of Volunteer</b>	approx 20
<b>Total # of Paid Staff</b>	approx 1300
<b>Organizational Mission Statement</b>	<b>Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) is dedicated to the sustained improvement of the health of Nepalese people, especially those who are poor and living in rural areas, through innovation, equity, excellence and love in education, service and research.</b>

**Brief Description of Organization**

Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) is an autonomous, not-for-profit, public institution for higher education in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was established in 2008, with the goal of producing well trained medical professionals who could provide needed medical services in the rural part of the country and to address needs of Nepal's rural poor, and to reduce the existing gap in the health status between the urban and rural populations in Nepal. Patan Hospital, the main teaching hospital of PAHS, has been involved in post graduate training program in collaboration with Tribhuvan University, Institute of Medicine and National Academy of Medical Sciences since 1994. With the establishment of its own medical school, PAHS has taken the initiative to start different post graduate/ fellowship training programs to improve the health care need of the country. The proposed rheumatology training program is one of such attempts.

**Population Served**

From academic perspective, PAHS serves whole Nepal through medical, nursing, and allied subject education in undergraduate and postgraduate levels who come from all around the country. Patan Hospital, the teaching hospital of PAHS, being a tertiary level central hospital is a referral center for whole Nepal, though most of the patients who visit this hospital hail from surrounding districts of Kathmandu valley. Until now, it is the only public hospital in Nepal that has been providing rheumatology services through its in- and outpatient services.

**Program / Project Name**

Patan Academy of Health Sciences Rheumatology Fellowship Program

**Proposal Summary**

The proposed grant will supplement the PAHS effort to enrich the educational experience of the rheumatology fellows. The fund will be used to buy educational materials for the fellows. This includes text and reference books and subscription to the rheumatology journals. The grant money will be used to buy a musculoskeletal ultrasound machine or probe. It will be used to upgrade our existing virtual class room (VCR)/telemedicine system.

**Statement of Need and Background**

There is a huge shortage of well-trained rheumatologist in Nepal. The available rheumatologists are only available in the expensive private hospitals in the capital of the country, Kathmandu. Patients with rheumatic diseases have no easy access to such specialist. Many of such patients are either managed by other specialist including orthopedics or Internal Medicine, who have limited knowledge of the rheumatic diseases. Many of the patients with common rheumatic problems like rheumatoid arthritis are being mistreated with excessive use of steroids and dubious Ayurvedic medicine by untrained health care professionals. The patients are suffering from lack of diagnosis for many years and inadequate treatment, leading to increased morbidity, disability and mortality.

In Nepal, there is no rheumatology training program. Most of the rheumatologists get their training from outside the country. This is further limited by number of available rheumatology positions and financial constraints. Hence, there is an immense need to train future rheumatologists in the country. This could have a long-lasting impact in the care of patients with rheumatic diseases in Nepal.

The rheumatology program has already selected 2 fellows for this year. The session will start from October 2018. They will graduate after completion of 2 years of training. We are coordinating with rheumatology experts from India and North America to help in the initial phase of the training. After completion of the fellowship,

## What are the goals of the program?

the graduates are expected to supplement the slim workforce in rheumatology in the country.

In summary, there is a huge problem with access to rheumatology care in Nepal. This is due to the limited number of well-trained rheumatologists. There is no rheumatology training program in the country. This new rheumatology training program will be a giant leap in improving the access to rheumatology care in the country. Funding to support educational and diagnostic tools for this program will have a huge impact not only for PAHS, but for whole Nepal in general.

- With the help of this project, we would be able to support the training of two rheumatologist each year. It will produce two well trained rheumatologists each year who will be rheumatology board certified by the Nepal Medical Council (NMC); which is the regulatory body for medical practice in the country.
- With the help of the project, we would be able to improve the diagnostic services of Patan Hospital/PAHS. Similarly, the diagnostic capability of the fellows will be enhanced as Musculoskeletal ultrasound is a sensitive tool to diagnose and assess the treatment response of many rheumatic diseases and their complications.
- Upgrading of existing virtual class room (VCR)/telemedicine service at PAHS will help our fellows to access for distance education, for example from academic centres in India and North America. Moreover, this will support the continuing medical education of our medical and postgraduate students as well as doctors posted at PAHS district rural teaching hospitals.

There could be some implementation challenges as we plan to move forward to achieve these goals. However, with diligent planning and meticulous execution of the program and with close supervision, we can overcome the challenges.

- The fellow's progress will be regularly monitored by fellowship program committee every 3 months and fellowship review committee every year. Systematic evaluation of the program (performance of the fellows, quality of the program, faculty evaluation etc.) will be carried out every 2 years.
- The success or failure of musculoskeletal ultrasound as a diagnostic tool is evaluated by diagnostic yield of this particular machine to pick up the diagnoses and complications of different rheumatic diseases. Moreover, fellows' performance to use this machine will help us to evaluate this machine.
- Upgrading of telemedicine/VCR system at PAHS will be evaluated by assessing the attendance register of this room, number of participants at each sessions, connections with different international academic centres and above all, by

assessing the performance of the VCR users.

## How will you evaluate success or failure for each goal?

**Total Program Budget**

• Purchase of rheumatology text- and reference books: USD 2,000.00 • Purchase of musculoskeletal ultrasound (or probe if fund is not adequate): USD 15,000.00 • Purchase of instruments essential for upgrading of telemedicine/VCR system: USD 10,000.00 • Total budget: USD 27,000.00 (1 USD= NRs 116.00 as of 27th September 2017, however, this may change day to day)

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09-28-2018

09-28-2019

**Requested Amount** USD  
27,000.00 (1 USD= NRs 116.00 as of  
27th September 2017, however,  
this may change day to day)

**Grant Period From** 09-28-2018

**Grant Period To** 09-28-2019