



WHO WE ARE

The Mid-Main Community Health Centre Association is a non-profit society operating a multi-discipline health centre in Vancouver, Canada. Mid-Main sponsors health-related activities linked to the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology.

www.midmaincommunityhealth.net

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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IUBAT STUDENT IN ADULT WARD AT ICDDR,B: ONE OF OUR CLINICAL PARTNERS



During the busy cholera season, ICDDR,B admits over 1,000 patients per day. Our students learn about assessing and managing critically ill adults and children often with severe dehydration on top of existing problems such as malnutrition, diabetes or hypertension.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

2009 is a significant threshold for the IUBAT College of Nursing. From modest beginnings five years ago, our first BSN students graduate this year. They have progressed well. International faculty are pleased with their performance; the best local hospitals want to hire them.

GOING FORWARD IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WE SEE TWO PRIORITIES:

1. To train the trainers: Bangladeshi educators as permanent IUBAT faculty.
2. To expand nurse education opportunities by partnering with other agencies.

Developing local educators will be a slow process. For the foreseeable future, IUBAT will need international volunteers as visiting faculty. Visiting faculty help ensure high standards of nursing practice in the classroom and clinical settings. Over time, their influence will transfer the necessary values and skills to local nurses who will become educators at IUBAT and elsewhere.

Our agency partners – the progressive hospitals where IUBAT students practice - want to upgrade their staff nurses and educators. Visiting faculty will assist in teaching and coaching these working nurses as well as nurse educators in other settings.

This is an exciting time for nursing in Bangladesh. Significant progress appears possible due to demand and opportunity. Visiting faculty will play a key role in strengthening the profession to improve health services across the country.

OUR CLINICAL PARTNERS

As in most Canadian programs, IUBAT nursing students attend various hospitals for their clinical practice. Fortunately we have several excellent partners at present: United Hospital is a modern international hospital with major programs in medicine, neurosciences and cardiac care. ICDDR,B the “Cholera Hospital” is a busy downtown centre with a high number of critically ill and malnourished children and adults. The Families for Children Orphanage (sponsored by Canadian donors) houses about 125 children from infants to teenagers, with a large special needs population. The Centre for Woman and Child Health is a large maternity and pediatrics centre situated in a recently industrialized rural area north of the campus. The National Institute of Mental Health is a government-run facility with multi-disciplinary programs and up-to-date therapy.

“The placement of IUBAT students in ICU has been a resounding success. These students are knowledgeable, efficient, keen to learn and skilled. They make a major contribution to our patients’ care and to our team. It would be great if we could have more of them, more often. They truly function at the international standard.”

Dr. Brian Cobb, Director of Medical Education
Dhaka Hospital, ICDDR, B.



ENTRANCE TO THE IUBAT CAMPUS
ON THE NORTHERN EDGE OF DHAKA

IUBAT IN DHAKA

Dhaka's International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) is Bangladesh's first non-government university. It was established in 1991 as a non-profit institution (www.iubat.edu). Its newly built campus beside the Turag River includes classrooms, offices, laboratories, a cafeteria, and a recreation hall. IUBAT programs currently lead to degrees in Business (BBA and MBA), Engineering, Computer Sciences, Tourism & Hospitality Management and now Nursing (BSN). Courses are taught entirely in English.

VISITING FACULTY NEEDED FOR UPCOMING SEMESTERS

The IUBAT Nursing program runs year-round. We rely on international volunteers to assist with teaching and clinical supervision in all areas of nursing practice.

Lesson plans for most courses are already prepared and all teaching is in English. We can provide a safe and interesting experience in classroom, hospital and community settings. It helps if guest faculty can stay for an entire semester, or at least six weeks as that is best for everybody. We cannot provide airfare or salary, but we do offer airport pick-up, a nice guest-house near the campus, meals and local transport during your stay. We can also issue tax-deductible receipts for all expenses associated with your visit.

Previous experience in teaching nursing is not essential. Social workers, dietitians, rehab professionals, pharmacists and physicians also teach in our program. The most important qualities for visiting faculty are openness to other cultures, enthusiasm about developing novice nurses, and flexibility.

When in Dhaka, most volunteers enjoy their interactions with the other faculty, students and neighbours. It is a friendly and appreciative atmosphere where we are completely immersed in the local society.



CANADIAN
VOLUNTEER SHAUNA
CONNAUGHTON
RUNNING EARLY
MORNING LAPS
WITH NURSING
STUDENT NOOR
MOHAMMED
ON THE IUBAT
CAMPUS.



STUDENTS PROVIDE FIRST
AID FOR THE UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY AS WELL AS
SOME OF OUR GUEST-HOUSE
NEIGHBOURS.



STUDENT POONAM SHAH (ON RIGHT) INTERVIEWS LOCAL SHANTY DWELLERS DURING HER COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING COURSE.

THEY ARE FILLING WATER BOTTLES ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE.



NURSING STUDENTS CREATED A HEALTH FAIR AT IUBAT TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL NURSES' DAY.

CHRONIC ILLNESSES SUCH AS DIABETES, RENAL AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE ARE GROWING RISKS.

LETTER OF SUPPORT

“The Canadian Nurses Association wishes to congratulate the Mid Main Community Health Centre (MMCHC) on the establishment of the Bangladesh Health Project. It is wonderful to see such strong commitment from your centre, your partners and volunteers. I am positive that the efforts of the MMCHC will achieve even further results with your continuous work in nursing education, advocacy, community health, and capacity building for the citizens of Bangladesh.”

June Webber RN, PhD Director, International Policy and Development, Canadian Nurses Association

JUST HOW BAD IS THE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH?

“Firoza, a 22-year-old burn patient, was screaming in pain when the ward assistant (aya) was changing her bandages. ‘The number of nurses is inadequate here and they are busy with other work. It is the norm that the ayas would change the bandages in exchange for taka 100,’ said a relative complaining about nurses’ poor quality training, behaviour and non-cooperation.”

Read more at <http://www.bangladeshnews.com.bd/2008/07/06/nurses-missing-in-nursing/>

Dr ASMM Rahman surgeon at United Hospital, said, “The shortage of skilled nurses is a deep-rooted problem. Nurses come from families facing some kind of financial hardship. In our society there is a taboo on the nursing profession and girls from respectable families are discouraged. No one writes in school essays that she wants to be a nurse. In other countries nursing is a noble profession. But we are yet to understand that.”

Read more at <http://www.thedailystar.net/2007/01/22/d701222502138.htm>

“One trainee male nurse was very motivated to learn and give all possible care to patients. He was doing everything for patients. Other trainee nurses didn’t like it. They told him not to provide all care to patients but he continued. One day other male nurses lured him behind a building and physically assaulted him. After this he lost his motivation.”

Read more in Hadley MB et al. Why Bangladeshi nurses avoid ‘nursing’. Social Science & Medicine 64 (2007) 1166–1177

“Dr Rubaiul, chief consultant at Apollo Hospitals, identified high error rates, lack of properly trained personnel, and unnecessary tests as major impediments to health services. ‘There are 42,573 registered doctors, 22,500 nurses and only 2,220 lab technicians in the country, while the reverse should have been the ratio,’ he said. The shortage of competent teachers and teaching methods, poor accreditation system and lack of community-based practical training are the other setbacks, he added.”

Read more at <http://www.bangladeshnews.com.bd/2007/05/13/health-services-dipped-for-lack-of-proper-policy/>



PROGRAM COORDINATOR, DR. KAREN LUND GREETING "FRESHERS" (NEW NURSING STUDENTS).

WHY WE THINK THIS IS IMPORTANT

Our partners and contacts in Bangladesh have encouraged us in this project. Many Bangladeshi nurses and doctors say that health care is very poor in their country. They share our vision of more and better professional development programs for nurses, higher practice standards for public services and greater respect for the nursing profession.

HOW WILL NURSING EDUCATION IMPROVE THE POPULATION'S HEALTH?

Nurses in Bangladesh have traditionally been poorly-trained, poorly-paid, and disrespected as professionals. Nurse educators are often far-removed from practice and out-of-touch with the skills necessary to provide even basic patient care. A major shift is needed, and indeed is taking place, in Bangladeshi nursing. Nurses need consistent, ongoing education based on international evidence-based practice. When education improves, practice standards are raised, the credibility of nursing increases, better wages are demanded, more nurses are attracted to the profession – and patient care improves.

HOW ARE YOUR DONATIONS USED?

FUNDING SOURCES

We receive no government funding. So far, we operate on donations of about \$25,000 per year, mostly from a few families. Modest tuition covers university costs for general courses, computer lab and registration.

WHERE IS IT USED

Your donations are used only for the College of Nursing at IUBAT. We have no overhead costs and all administration is donated volunteer time.

WHAT IS IT SPENT ON

We spend frugally on library books, clinic supplies and classroom equipment. Except for these, all donated money has been spent in Dhaka.

PUTTING COST INTO PERSPECTIVE

A decent salary for a local nursing professor is about \$800 CDN per month.

\$250 CDN per month pays for a three-bedroom apartment to house visiting volunteers.

We can pay travel from Canada and annual living costs to an intern for about \$6,000 CDN.

OUR PLAN

Our business plan assumes intensive support in the first decade. Steady growth in tuition revenue will cover most program costs by 2015.

If you wish to assist, please contact us: We provide charitable donation receipts for tax purposes.

EMAIL:

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OR BY CHEQUE:

Mid-Main Bangladesh
Nurse Education Project

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