

**Obituary****Late Prof. Dr. Neelam Adhikari**

With a heavy heart, we mourn the demise of Prof. Dr. Neelam Adhikari, who passed away on November 01, 2020, after a short battle with cancer.

Prof. Dr. Adhikari joined this institution in its previous incarnation as Shanta Bhavan, in 1979 and continued to serve till 1982, overseeing the institution transform to Patan Hospital in 1982 and finally Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) in 2008. She was the Chair of the Department of Paediatrics for 27 years from 1982 to 2009. Prof. Adhikari served as founding chair of Ethical Committee of Patan Hospital (presently Institutional Review Committee, IRC-PAHS) which was established in 2008. She became the founding Rector of PAHS in 2009 and served in the capacity till she resigned from active service from PAHS in 2011.

Prof. Dr. Adhikari was a very caring Paediatrician. Her simplicity, honesty, dedication, ethical practice, and rational prescribing were exemplary. A lot of what the department of Paediatrics is today is due to her tireless efforts. The establishment of a separate Paediatric block in 2001, initiation of Paediatric research in collaboration with Oxford University in 2005, and the starting of NICU/PICU in 2009 are her major contributions.

Prof. Dr. Adhikari was a very enthusiastic teacher. Her appetite for academic discourse, the pursuit of knowledge, and evidence-based medicine were remarkable. She was an avowed reader who encouraged colleagues and students to be life-long learners. Even after formally resigning from the position, she served PAHS as a visiting Professor to guide mainly the postgraduate students and was a regular attendee of weekly grand rounds at PAHS auditorium. Her discussion and remarks in such meetings were listened to with a lot of appreciation and attention.

Prof. Dr. Adhikari will be fondly remembered as a mentor and a mother-figure by many paediatricians, both in PAHS and outside. Her contribution to furthering the cause of child health at the national and international level can never be forgotten. She was an active member of NEPAS (Nepal Paediatric Society) and Chairperson of the AEFI (Adverse Events Following Immunization) National Committee. She also represented Nepal in the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS).

It will be very hard to fill the void left by her demise. Undoubtedly, Nepal has lost a true warrior who kept fighting for the cause of child health throughout her life. It is an irreparable loss.

May her soul rest in eternal peace!

PAHS family,  
Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Lalitpur, Nepal

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3126/jpahs.v7i3.33737>