



OPERATIVE REPORT



Since 1995

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Women & Children's Hospital and CNIS



Today in Africa 1 in 13 women will die giving birth. Lack of access to essential health care services for safe pregnancy and childbirth is the single most important factor contributing to these deaths.

Canadian Obstetricians from Vancouver Women and Children's Hospital have teamed up with the CNIS to challenge the 1 in 13 death rate of African women due to maternal causes. Currently Canada has the lowest maternal death rate in the world, while Africa has the highest. To make a change, the CNIS and Women's & Children's Hospital have signed a two-year agreement to conduct the Structured Operative Obstetrics (SOO) Courses in Uganda and Ethiopia. The purpose of the SOO Course is to teach management and technical surgical skills in a structured way to maximize effective learning for students—in particular to accelerate the learning of caesarian section. The fact is African women do not have sufficient access to this basic but critical operation. Dr. Jan

Christilaw and Dr. Ronald Lett conducted a one-day SOO Instructor's Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia this September. In addition, 10 Ethiopian Obstetricians and Chief Residents have been certified to teach this structured obstetrics course and 14 students took the course in September and October. The instructors were monitored by Dr. Christilaw and Dr. Ahmed Abdullah of Addis Ababa.

Without a doubt, more lives have been saved by caesarean section than any other operation in the history of medicine!

Letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper



Mbarara ESS Lab.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking the official opening of the new Essential Surgical Skills (ESS) lab at the Department of Surgery, Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda. I would also like to acknowledge the role the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS) has played in establishing this facility."

Recognizing the devastating impact of injury, the often inadequate surgical care, and the dearth of educational materials, the CNIS has worked diligently to bring about long term sustainable solutions to communities across Africa. Since

1994, the ESS program has offered a structured surgical education to primary care practitioners and medical assistants with the aim of reducing complications arising from injuries. I would like to commend all those involved with CNIS and the new ESS lab. By ensuring access to quality surgical care, you are moving forward with your goal of improving the health and well being of the people of Uganda. Your dedicated efforts are most worthy of recognition.

"On behalf of the Government of Canada I wish you every success in the years to come."



The Right Honorable Mr. Stephen Joseph Harper Prime Minister of Canada

CNIS DONORS: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Wild Rose Foundation, Harbinger Foundation, Donner Canadian Foundation, ENAHPA, University of Ottawa, McGill University, Organizational Members & Individual Members. Your Contributions are much appreciated!

Swahili Club!



SOME SWAHILI BASICS

Hello- Jambo
Good morning - Habari ya Asubuhi
Goodbye- Kwaheri
Good night- Lala Salama
Thank you- Asante
Umoja– Unity

CNIS's 1st Swahili class has graduated! Congratulations to all participants who attended weekly to earn their Level 1 Swahili certification! Veronica Fynn (front center) was the language club co-ordinator and Joseph Gakena (second from left, back row) taught the class. Our second group of the level 1 Swahili class currently runs on Tuesday evenings and is taught by Jackline Awoko.

Call the CNIS office
(604-739-4708) to get involved!

IPIFA Meeting held in Kampala

A two day IPIFA strategic planning meeting was held in Kampala, Uganda at Namirembe Guest house on the 5th and 6th of September. The meeting involved executive members of IPIFA, and two other participants from ICC-Tanzania. IPIFA had not had an Annual General Meeting for more than two years meaning that all the executive positions were actually vacant. With representation from Tanzania, Uganda, Egypt, Kenya and Canada as an associate member there was a quorum of the steering committee. The committee elected an interim executive which will manage IPIFA until a full AGM can be held at the Global Meeting on Injury in March 2008. The Interim Executive includes President Professor Wilson Odera, Vice President Finance) Dr. Babatunde A. Solagberu, Nigeria, Vice President Technical Dr. Enas El Sheik and Secretary General Mr. Milton Mutto, Uganda. A work plan was agreed upon which the CNIS will support technically and financially. It is expected that IPIFA will have new life as a result of this meeting in Uganda.



Milton Mutto, Enas Elshiek, Wilson Odera, Babatunde Solagberu

The New ESS Handbook

The ESS Manual that was originally published by the CNIS in 1995, written by Dr. Ronald Lett is now being updated by Dr. Robert Taylor, CNIS surgical associate. New surgical procedures have been added to the course and some of the outdated procedures have been removed. There has been a significant amount of illustrations added to the manual, all drawn by Emily Carr graduate Jennifer Chernecki. With the increase in volume of the ESS manual it has now been broken into two separate texts. One being the updated ESS Manual for use during the teaching of the course in the laboratory the other being the ESS providers handbook that each course participant can take with them after completing the course for future reference. The manual will be printed by the end of 2007. All cnis publications have an ISB number and will be available for purchase on our website.

WWW.CNIS.CA

Peacebuilding in Axum, Ethiopia



Susan Burak



Mr. Genero Okot

The Peacebuilding Curriculum which was developed in Uganda is being piloted in Northern Ethiopia. The first step in this process was to develop a partnership with a school in Ethiopia. Partnership has been established with Axum Primary School which is directed by Ato Zenebe Asgedom. The English curriculum was then translated into Tigrinia. From September 29th to October 1st an instructors course was conducted at Axum Primary School.

17 teachers took the course which was taught by Genero Okot the head teacher in Uganda who lead the program in Uganda, Susan Burak a conflict resolution lawyer from Vancouver and Ronald Lett CNIS President. In late October 280 copies of the Students Peacebuilding were printed and presented by Mr John Jackson of CIDA to Ato Zenebe Asgedom. Currently the program is being taught to those 280 primary 5 students for 45 minutes 3 times per week. The CNIS experience in Uganda was that injury and violence were reduced in the schools where this program was taught. There has been very positive feedback from the school inspectors in Axum who have already requested the expansion of this pilot to the other 4 primary schools in Axum. The CNIS is currently looking for funding for next year for that purpose.



More about Axum, Ethiopia



The early history of Ethiopia begins with the glorious but little known kingdom of Axum. The origins of the Axumite state are now dated to the middle of the 2nd century BC. At the height of its power, between the 4th and 7th centuries AD, the Axumite kingdom controlled most of present-day Ethiopia, including territories in the southern parts of the Arabian Peninsula. The Axumite rulers were in regular diplomatic and commercial contact with Egyptian, Greek, Byzantine and Persian empires. The achievements of this grand culture are recorded today in the ruins of its cities, reservoirs, temples and, most remarkably, its towering obelisks (pictured at left). These obelisks, also called stelae, are known to be the tallest single pieces of stone ever quarried and erected in the ancient world. Their age and use is a complete mystery.

Their age and use is a complete mystery.

Modern Day Axum

Axum's population is estimated to be Seventy-five percent Ethiopian Orthodox, while the remainder of the population is Sunni Muslim and P'ent'ay (Protestant and other non-Orthodox Christians). Although Axumite Muslims have attempted to build a mosque in this most holy of Ethiopian towns, Orthodox residents, and the emperors of the past have replied that they must be allowed to build an Ethiopian Orthodox church in Mecca if the Muslims are to be allowed to build a mosque in Axum. Axum TSION Mariam which is celebrated on the 2nd of Dec draws people from all over the country. Due to its historical value, its carved from rock obelisks that are over 20 meters long, in 1980 UNESCO added Axum's archaeological sites to its list of World Heritage Sites.



Locals fetch water in the ancient Baths of Queen Sheba.

**THE 8TH ANNUAL BETHUNE
ROUND TABLE ON
INTERNATIONAL SURGERY**
To be held in Vancouver,
BC, Canada

ASSESSING OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS
IN INTERNATIONAL SURGICAL
INITIATIVES INCLUDING PRECONFER-
ENCE- *INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOPS*
POSTCONFERENCE- *TELEHEALTH
WORKSHOP*

HOSTED BY BRANCH FOR
INTERNATIONAL SURGERY, UBC,
CANADIAN NETWORK FOR
INTERNATIONAL SURGERY IN
COLLABORATION WITH OFFICE OF
INTERNATIONAL SURGERY, U OF T

DATE: MAY 9 – 10, 2008
LOCATION: PAETZOLD CENTRE VAN-
COUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL

General Romeo Dallaire
in person
Friday, June 13th, 2008
Croatian Cultural Centre
3250 Commercial Drive,
Vancouver, BC



General Romeo Dallaire will speak of the enormous health challenges facing Africa including the injury pandemic. The event will also update everyone about CNIS's efforts to provide surgical care and medical education in Africa. Lieutenant General Dallaire served 35 years with the Canadian Armed Forces. His best-selling book, *Shake Hands with the Devil*, is a stirring account of his experience as the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda, which exposes the failures of the international community to stop one of the worst genocides in the 20th century. His book can be purchased at www.cnis.ca.

Dallaire's story shares the most extreme results of being given responsibility without authority. Dallaire's presentations discuss leadership and conflict resolution, illustrated with stories of his own experiences. He inspires listeners to address the ethical and moral issues in conflicts and insists that governments put humanity above political and economic interests.

WHATS UP DOC?

- Asef Karim and partners from Global Smile Oral Health Association have joined CNIS as organizational members.
- Dr. Ronald Lett was married in October 2007 to Elizabeth Mersie Nega. They will make their home in Addis Ababa.
- Memorial University in Newfoundland has renewed its organizational membership with CNIS and is slated to have a CNIS public engagement workshop in 2008.
- Seana Chen is the new Office Assistant at CNIS. Seana is perfecting the materials for the obstetrics course. Welcome to the Team Seana!
- Phil Hassen regularly works with the office in order to provide leadership as Vice President (Volunteer).
- Respicious Boniface was named director of ICCT, Victoria Munthali continues as Co-director.
- The Department of Surgery in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania has signed a new MOU with CNIS. The University of California in San Francisco UCSF has Signed an MOU with CNIS. The CNIS, UCSF and Dar will collaborate in building a surgical skills lab in 2008.
- The Department of Surgery Maputo, Mozambique has signed an MOU with CNIS.

In memoriam: A donation was made to the CNIS in memory of Mike Wysoki and Glen Lett. Include CNIS in your legacy, ask us how: 604-739-4708 or email office@cnis.ca



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INTERNATIONAL SURGERY**
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Book Keeper: Tom Canning
Reports Consultant: Lorne Braun
Newsletter Editor: Tara Lett

JOIN THE CNIS or RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Individual Memberships: \$50.00

Student Memberships: \$25.00

Organizational Membership: \$500.00

DONATE

To the ESS, INJURY CONTROL or SCHOOL PROJECTS online or by post. All donations and memberships are matched by CIDA and are tax deductible.