



# OPERATIVE REPORT



Volume 14 Issue 1

Summer 2008

## Annual Bethune Roundtable a large success!

The 8th Bethune Round Table conference on international surgery hosted in Vancouver on May 9- 10, 2008 had record breaking participation. This Canadian initiative devoted to addressing surgical issues facing low-income regions around the world. It was founded by the Office of International Surgery of the University of Toronto in 2000,



Drs Gashaw, Kyamanywa, Mbembati, Aberra, George

and has received support from many Canadian surgeons, many of whom are members of the CNIS.

This meeting in Vancouver was hosted by both the Branch for International Surgery (BIS) of the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the CNIS. Dr Robert Taylor, both a Clinical Associate Professor at UBC and a Surgeon Associate of the CNIS, was the principle

organizer and the Conference Chair. The theme of the conference was, "Addressing Outcomes and Impact of International Surgery Initiatives".

CNIS was heavily involved in the roundtable as five CNIS-partner African surgeons (see photo) attended. Three received scholarship, and had podium while two had posters presentations. Two of the keynote speakers, Dr. Gwen Hollaar and Dr. Jan Christilaw, are active members of the CNIS.



Dr. Haile Debas

A conference highlight was Dr Haile Debas', Director of Global Health Sciences at the University of California, presentation on the "Evolution of Surgery in International Health" in which he stressed the evolving recognition of the public health significance of the burden of surgical disease. He noted a strong need for increased training in emergency and essential surgical care as good data to show that essential surgical care is cost-effective. We note that these are principles of CNIS. The CNIS was truly pleased to co-host this year's BRT.

## A Special Tribute to Our Volunteers

The success of the CNIS is dependent on the commitment and hard work of volunteers. The CNIS recognizes one persons outstanding contribution and wards the distinguished volunteer of the year award. For the



year 2007 Dr. Jan Christilaw, a clinical professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UBC and Vice-President of Medicine for BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre in Vancouver, BC is the recipient. Dr. Christilaw is known both locally and internationally, as an expert on

issues of Cesarean Section and reproductive health. Dr. Christilaw's interest and excellence on a number of projects with the CNIS. Jan co-author the Structured Obstetrics Operative course manual and piloted the Structured Operative Obstetrics course in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in Kampala Uganda and taught 10 Canadian specialists the SOO instructors course in Vancouver. The CNIS is extremely pleased to have



**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!**

## The Failure of Humanity: A discussion with Roméo Dallaire

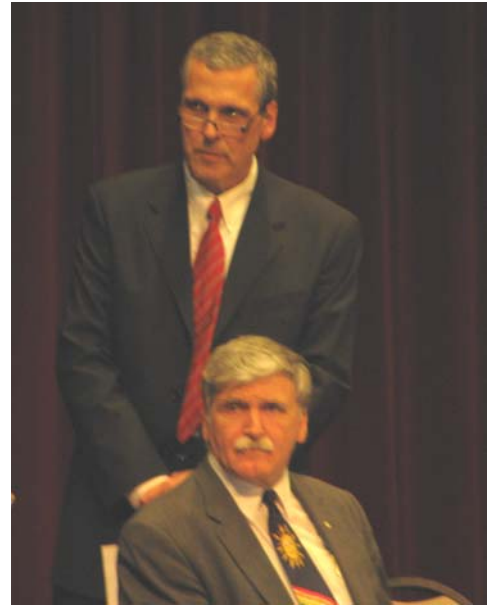
More than 620 people attended a presentation by Lt-General (Rtd) Roméo Dallaire on Friday, June 13th 2008 in Vancouver. The event was hosted by the CNIS with the financial support of the Child and Family Research Institute and Office of Pediatric Surgery Evaluation and Innovation OPSEI. The moving orator discussed the nature of peacekeeping and conflict resolution efforts in the and prevent it from responding to current problems facing humanity such as Darfur. For him, the “Responsibility to Protect”(R2P) doctrine, a Canadian concept, should become the moral authority to inform foreign policy. The R2P concept means that it is imperative for states to intervene in order to protect populations from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity.



**Left to right: Romeo Dallaire; Dr. Ron Lett; Jessica Pautsch; Dr. Geoff Blair**

21st century. Senator Dallaire argued that political will and the self interests of the Security Council plague the effectiveness of the UN injury death.

The CNIS peace-building projects conducted with elementary school children in Ethiopia and Uganda recognizes that through awareness and education children will be empowered to help reduce the staggering statistic that 13% of Africans will die an



### Thank you to all of our volunteers

A big thanks to all of our volunteers who helped make the Romeo Dallaire event run smoothly. A special thanks to the North Atlanta Church of Christ youth group who helped promote the event by sending out posters throughout Vancouver.



**Clockwise: Martha Ismur, Bianca Jones, Danika West, Sarah McGimsey, Noel Sand, NAC group, Linda Benkaiouche, Justine Greenwood**

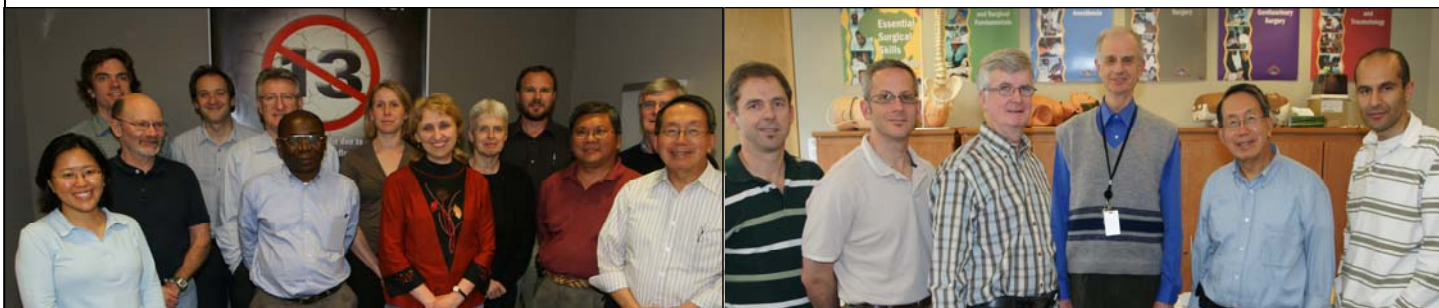


## Pre BRT Skills Courses Instructors Workshop.

The CNIS hosted four workshops at our Vancouver office the week prior to the BRT. The instructors workshops for the Structured Hernia Repair, Essential Surgical Skills, Structured Operative Obstetrics, and Trauma Team training were taught by Drs: Gwen Hollaar, Robert Taylor, Jan Christilaw, Tarek Razek and Ronald Lett. All the courses were accredited by the Royal College of Surgeons for continuing medical education credit.

The thirty-seven participants from across Canada and Dr. Mbembati from Tanzania. The purpose of the instructors

workshops is to have sufficient Canadian instructors to support the CNIS courses in Africa. Another Structured Operative Obstetrics Instructors course is scheduled for October 28th in Ottawa.



## Ten Years of Service Acknowledged

Dr. Robert Taylor and Phil Hassen were formally recognized for their ten years of service to the CNIS with a 10 year CNIS Service Pin and Certificate.

Dr. Taylor joined the CNIS in 1998. He helped establish the Essential Surgical Skills (ESS) course in Malawi, both at the University and at the Clinical Officers School and going to Malawi every year from 1999 to 2002 to instruct the course. Dr. Taylor continued this commitment



ultimately seeing CNIS become a

stable successful NGO. Phil has worked directly with the Injury Control Centre – Uganda on two occasions assisting them in improving their administration and management. He has also taught in Ethiopia for the CNIS. With his wife, Jane, a course on leadership and management to senior physicians from Ethiopia which took place in Addis Ababa. He continues with the CNIS as a volunteer vice president and hopes to continue his association with CNIS, its volunteers, Board and team of staff.

by revising and further developing the curriculum material for the ESS Instructors and Providers Course. Dr. Taylor has run the workshop, “The Place of Surgery in International Development” in Ottawa, Toronto and St John’s, and spearheaded the initiative to establish a surgical nurses section of the CNIS. He has served on the Program Committee, the Board and been employed on several occasions as the CNIS surgical associate.

Phil Hassen has also volunteered with the CNIS for ten years. Serving initially on the Finance Committee, Phil progressed through the various roles on the Board, eventually becoming Chair for two terms. During his 9 years on the board he guided the CNIS through very difficult financial and organizational issues,

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## Out and About: CNIS connects with Canadians coast to coast

### Public Engagement Workshop, St John's, Newfoundland

Dr. Robert Taylor, in joint participation with Memorial University, hosted an all day workshop on the "The Place of Surgery in International Development" in Saint Johns, Newfoundland. This was the \_\_\_ workshop to be organized by the CNIS.

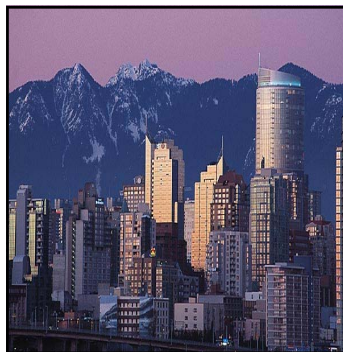
Twenty-two surgeon and surgical residents participated in this semi annual event. Ideas were generated on collaborative activity between the CNIS and Memorial University in this regard. As a result of this workshop one of the senior surgeons of Memorial subsequently took the CNIS Instructors

Courses offered in Vancouver in May. This means that there are now two Memorial surgical faculty members (Dr Darrell Boone and Dr Al Felix) who are certified instruc-



tors in at least one of the CNIS structured training courses. Our thanks to Dr Darrell Boone at Memorial for his support in arranging this workshop.

Public engagement is one of the CNIS' four core programs. The purpose of the program is to engage Canadians and raise awareness about the important work of the CNIS.



The past few months have kept our public engagement coordinator, Jessica Pautsch, extremely busy attending various events to promote the CNIS and its ac

activities.

The current state of health in development demands more exposure and international attention. People ought to be aware of the problem so that a solution is possible. This is why connecting with Canadians from various backgrounds is a fundamental aspect of our public engagement program. So, in addition to setting up information booths at academic and health conferences, Jessica has presented at Youth fundraisers, attended various Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade functions as well as Rotary, and often presents at business networking groups to discuss how they can help the CNIS grow. Only by connecting with Canadians and receiving their support can the CNIS continue its

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING—MEXICO

What's up doc?

- Shannon Tito and

### The CNIS staff

Patron: Her Excellency the Right Honorable  
Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada  
Chair: Doug Wallis, CA  
President Dr. Ronald Lett  
Vice-President: Phil Hassen (Volunteer)  
Robert Taylor: Surgical Associate  
CNIS Manager: Elizabeth Schaefer  
Book Keeper: Tom Canning  
Web-project Manager: Raven Morris  
Reports Consultant: Lorne Braun  
Public Engagement Coordinator: Jessica Pautsch



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### JOIN THE CNIS or RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Individual Membership: \$25 (student) \$50 (Adult)

Organizational Membership: \$500.00

### DONATE

Donations are matched by CIDA and are tax deductible.