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# OPERATIVE REPORT

## First Annual Meeting of CNIS

(Ottawa) The first annual meeting of the Canadian Network for International Surgery was held in Ottawa on November 13, 1995 at the Hotel Raddison. The network was incorporated this August with the stated purpose of promoting the delivery of essential surgical care to the underprivileged of the developing world. The first order of business was the election of a board of directors. For the sake of continuity the founding directors Dr. Ronald Lett, Dr. Peter McLean and Mrs. Joan VanDuzer were elected for a one year term. Dr. Lett was chosen to be president. Those in attendance at the meeting recommended that the scope of the CNIS be clearly defined to include

essential obstetrical and anesthetic service; and that the directors appoint three members to the executive to provide representation to obstetrics, orthopedics, and anesthesia.

A financial statement was received and the objectives of the CNIS were discussed. The consensus was that all CNIS endorsed projects should include an educational component and one of the main roles of the CNIS would be to endorse and support members projects.

The CNIS felt that the directors should make membership an early priority and that the CNIS publicize itself in the different surgical news letters. It was decided to seek a formal link with the CSH. The executive was given the responsibility of developing a strategic plan to meet the network's objectives.

## Ethiopian MD Participates in Ottawa Meetings

Dr. Alemseged Janka, the head of surgery at the Jimma Institute of Health Sciences in Ethiopia, came to Ottawa as the guest of the CNIS to attend the Canadian Conference on International Health and the CNIS annual meeting. He also participated as a facilitator in the Essential Surgical Skills Instructor's course. Following the Ottawa meetings he went to Montreal to spend 10 days in the Department of surgery at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

## Essential Surgical Skills Workshop

At the CCIH an Instructor's Workshop on an Essential Surgical Skills Curriculum, which uses case based learning and simulation to teach essential skills, was presented. Dr. R. Lett who developed and tested the curriculum utilizing final year medical students in Ethiopia, presented the curriculum evaluation. Following this participants rotated through basic skill instructional centers where they had the opportunity to see the techniques and simulators used for each unit. The centers and the facilitators were:

## Loutfi Chairs Symposium on Surgical Development

(Ottawa) A symposium on international surgical development programs was held at the Canadian Conference on International Health. Dr. Antoine Loutfi, ( McGill University) who organized and chaired the symposium also presented his work on the continuing surgical education of GP's in Ethiopia. Dr. John Fowles (Orthopedics Overseas - University of Montreal ) spoke on the establishment of regional training centers with the example of the orthopedic project in Tunisia.

(continued p2 - see Symposium)

1. Fundamentals Dr. P. Seviour (Pictou, NS);
2. Life Support and Anesthesia - Dr. R. Lett (Prince George, BC)
3. Gastrointestinal Emergencies - Dr. A. Janka (Ethiopia)
4. Obstetrical Emergencies - Dr. J Seviour (St. John's. Nfld.)
5. Trauma & Orthopedics - Dr. P McLean (Montreal);
6. Educational Materials - Dr. M Wansbrough (Toronto).

A critical discussion on the curriculum was lead by Dr Leora Berkson, a McGill Medical Education Specialist.

## Symposium cont'd

Dr. Michel **Boulvain** ( Médecins Sans Frontières-Laval) addressed the surgeon's point of view in emergency situations with specific reference to Sri Lanka. Dr. Fred **Wiegand** (Queen Elizabeth Hospital-Montreal) presented a fascinating discussion on the surgical activities of the International Red Cross. A presentation on a project to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity in Russia was given by Dr. H. **Muggah** of McMaster University and the symposium was concluded by Dr. JR **Maltby** of the University of Calgary who discussed the organization and resources needed for anesthesia programs in Nepal and Ethiopia.

## CNIS Operative Report

This is the first edition of the CNIS Operative Report which we hope to circulate quarterly. One of the objectives of the CNIS is to facilitate communication between individuals concerned with the delivery of essential surgical care. To this end it is hoped that members will use this newsletter to let others know what their international activities are and to bring forward ideas or comment. Written contributions are encouraged and can be forwarded to the CNIS head office at #310 1669 Victoria Street, Prince George BC or faxed to (604) 561 1286. Comments may also be sent by e-mail to [lett@unbc.edu](mailto:lett@unbc.edu). Want-ads will also be accepted from members for inclusion in the report.

## Who are members of the CNIS ?

The CNIS, which was just incorporated in August, 1995 has only been accepting members since October. The majority of members are physicians but the membership includes lay people as well. Our current medical membership includes general surgeons, obstetricians, urologists, family physicians, a cardio-thoracic surgeon and a senior health policy advisor for CIDA. A surgical resident, a medical resident and one medical student have also signed on. Dr. F. **Germa**, a family physician in British Columbia, has recruited five other Ethiopian Canadian Professionals to participate and states that there is further interest in the Ethiopian community. A surgeon from Uganda, Dr. O. **Kobusingye**, who attended the Canadian Conference on International Health, joined the CNIS and has started discussions concerning her interests in the initiation of a trauma registry in Uganda. In response to an Editorial by Lett and Loutfi in the Canadian Journal of Surgery ( October 1995), which promoted the importance of essential surgery and mentioned the organization of the CNIS, inquiries have come from across Canada and in one instance from Nepal. We hope that the base of support for the CNIS will become even broader.

### Membership Application: CNIS

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

email:

Profession:

Membership fee:

student - \$25

regular - \$50

organizational - \$500

benefactor - \$1000

Make checks payable to the CNIS and forward to:

#310 1669 Victoria Street Prince George, British Columbia.