

OPERATIVE REPORT

SUMMER 2010



TEACHING SAFER BIRTHS

IN THIS ISSUE...



© R. Lett
Woman and child at market, Bamako, Mali

Almost half of the 500,000 annual pregnancy-related deaths recorded worldwide occur in sub-Saharan Africa. The need to teach safe pregnancy and birthing procedures in developing nations is more apparent than ever.

CNIS has taught safer surgical and obstetrical procedures in Africa for 1 1/2 decade. In 2007 we established a specific obstetrical course that is now taught on a regular basis in Uganda and Rwanda. CNIS plans to expand this to other areas. The course addresses the issues of maternal mortality and incapacity with an emphasis on safe motherhood in low income regions.

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OUR WORK IN AFRICA NEEDS YOUR HELP

For 15 years CNIS has had a major commitment to advance surgical and obstetrical health and safety in Africa. More than 15,000 African professionals have been trained in surgical and obstetrical skills, injury control and safety promotion and over one million modern surgical textbooks have been shipped to supplement electronic surgical information available on our web site. **The overall impact of CNIS includes fewer deaths, timely treatment of injuries, lower maternal mortality rates and the important long-lasting effect of enabling Africans through training.**

We are optimistic that CNIS will be finalizing an agreement with CIDA by September, and at that time we will advise you of the results. In the meantime we have been continuing to prepare for our next phase of programming with our African partners which should commence in earnest very soon. While CIDA is not funding us for July and August, every CNIS staff member voluntarily agreed to reduce their income by half. There are important impacts caused by the delay in this contract. For these 2 months, CNIS has completed two ESS workshops in Tanzania, the director of the Injury Control Centre-Tanzania continued graduate studies in South Africa, the ICC-Uganda with staff continued, 2 obstetrics courses were conducted in Uganda and the CNIS staff in Vancouver had to respond to the many demands from CIDA regarding the proposed agreement. CNIS needs to cover all the costs for these critical activities during the months that CIDA is not supporting us. We are grateful to the individuals who have responded to our requests for support. The Harbinger Foundation made a specific generous donation to keep the Injury Control Center - Uganda functional and intact. However we need more help. The CNIS contingency fund of \$32,500 has been completely depleted and we have incurred debts. In addition to matching the CIDA funds, CNIS needs to raise 100,000 dollars more each year.



© L. Woolford
CNIS Obstetrics course participants perform C-Section, Kigali, Rwanda, 2010

We want to thank you for your support now and over the past 15 years. We need your help to continue our work in Africa.

Please become a member or renew your membership and consider making a tax-deductible donation to CNIS.

Your continued commitment does make a difference in Africa!

"CNIS has worked diligently to bring about long term sustainable solutions to communities across Africa."

The Right Honourable Stephen Joseph Harper, Prime Minister of Canada

From letter for the opening of CNIS' Surgical Skills Lab in Mbarara, Uganda 2007



© L. Woolford

Dr. Woolford demonstrates knot-tying while Dr. Hutchison instructs on mannequin during SOO course in Mbarara, Uganda.

CNIS OBSTETRICS COURSES IN AFRICA

The CNIS Structured Operative Obstetrics (SOO) course has been taught by Canadian obstetricians Drs. Jan Christilaw and Ellen Giesbrecht from BC, and Drs. Lorraine Woolford and Bob Hutchison from Ontario. Dr. Woolford has just returned from her third teaching trip to Africa. The CNIS Obstetrics program receives support from the BC Women’s Hospital, the Rotary Club of White Rock, and recently from the Hager Family Fund.

Many course participants will go to rural areas where they will perform C/Sections, appendectomies, correcting strangulated hernias ... whatever comes through the door. The interns will apply the valuable skills learned in the obstetrics courses.

Obstetrics in Uganda

An instructors course was held for the first time in Mbarara in January, facilitated by Drs. Bob Hutchison and Lorraine Woolford. The nine participants included SOO Director Dr. George Wasswa-Ssalongo.

An SOO providers course was held for ten interns in Kampala in June. Instructors included local SOO director, Dr. Mike Kagwa, Drs. Judith Ajeani and Andabati Gonzanga.

Eleven interns participated in the first providers course at the Surgical Skills Lab in Mbarara in July. Instructors were Drs. Wasswa Ssalongo, Joseph Ngonzi, Moses Kayondo and Ivan Bonet Fonseca.

Obstetrics in Rwanda

An obstetrics providers course was held in February in Kigali. The course was presented by Dr. Lorraine Woolford and directed by Dr. Joseph Vyankandondera, Head of the Academic Department, National University of Rwanda and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Central University Hospital in Kigali.

Seven instructors were certified in August 2009 and five of these were available to teach the February 2010 course. Six interns and three residents in their 2nd year of obstetrics-gynecology training attended the course and all were very enthusiastic about the experience.

“This has helped me so much. When we finish our internship, we are sent to the districts for 2 years. Sometimes a woman arrives who needs a Caesarean Section. If I can do that operation, she won't become a victim ...”

Obstetrics course participant, Kigali, Rwanda

Essential Surgical Skills courses held in Africa this quarter:

- Jimma, Ethiopia - 2
- Gondar, Ethiopia - 3
- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania - 1
- Moshi, Tanzania - 1

955 PEACE BUILDING GRADUATES IN AXUM, NORTHERN ETHIOPIA



© RLett

Ato Zenabe presents book prize to one of the students who exhibited the philosophy of the Peace Building Course.

485 boys and 470 girls completed the 11 units of the CNIS Non-Violent Conflict Resolution course, conducted at 5 elementary schools in Axum this year. The course is taught by 41 teachers, coordinated by Ato Zenebe Asgedom. The Non-violent Conflict Resolution course is designed to provide children with peaceful alternatives to conflict.

The 11 units are: Peace, Conflict, Conscience, Empathy, Anger Management, Self Control, Fairness, Kindness, Problem Solving, Non Violence and Reconciliation. Students who demonstrated the skills taught in the course were recognized and rewarded with a schoolbook. The graduation ceremony was held at school assembly in Axum.

Axum is located 50 km from the Eritrean-Ethiopian frontier, where there is now a cease-fire between these nations.




Jane Mortifee and Bill Sample perform to a full house at 'A Night on the Nile'

© H. Brown

2010 BETHUNE ROUND TABLE

The Bethune Round Table was hosted by the Office of International Surgery, University of Calgary, presenting surgical and obstetrical projects in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and South America.

The Global Network for International Surgery (GNIS) was inaugurated to promote communication and coordination of work conducted by the various International Surgery organizations. A workshop was conducted on use of Skype for remote surgical training and databases in surgery. Dr. Gwen Hollaar was given a 10-year CNIS service pin for her work on the board and her contributions in Uganda, Rwanda and Ethiopia.

CNIS congratulates Drs. Hollaar and John B. Kortbeek, head of the department of surgery and the organizing committee for a job well done. The next Bethune round-table will be held in Montreal in May 2011. 

NILE NIGHT RAISES \$25,000 FOR SKILLS LAB

The popular CNIS fund-raiser 'A Night on the Nile' raised \$25,000 towards a surgical skills teaching lab in Moshi, Tanzania. South African born Canadian singer Jane Mortifee and Bill Sample gave a powerful performance and the belly dancers 'Hips can Sway' demonstrated interesting moves. Drs. Ronald Lett and Jan Christilaw spoke on behalf of CNIS, convincing attendees to line up to buy 'bricks' for the lab. Purchasers names will be on the bricks.

Thank you to the 50 volunteers that helped prepare and host the event, the 60 companies that donated to the silent auction and the 30 film companies and businesses that sponsored the event. CNIS will continue to raise funds until we have reached \$40,000 to build the teaching lab. Please support the lab by purchasing a 'brick' online. We hope to see you at 'A Night at the Kasbah' in 2011, where we plan to raise money for the first CNIS surgical skills teaching lab in French-speaking West Africa.

KELOWNA HERNIA COURSE

A Hernia instructors course was held in Kelowna, BC in May. Participants from BC (8) Alberta (3) and Ontario (1) took the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons accredited course, facilitated by Drs. Gwen Hollaar and Ronald Lett. Activities include lectures on implementation of the course, practice teaching of lectures and technical skills exercises. The second edition of the instructors manual was used for the first time. Dr. Robert Taylor attended to evaluate this edition. Changes will be made based on input from facilitators and participants.



Drs. Andy Klufftinger and Doug Nottebrock review pelvic anatomy relevant to hernia repair.

© G. O'Connor

CNIS PORTRAIT

Dr. Tarek Razek

General and Trauma surgeon. Director, Trauma Program, McGill University Health Centre, Assistant professor of Surgery at McGill University.

Q: When did you get involved with CNIS?

A: I got involved early in my career following the lead of senior mentors in surgery, Ron Lett, Peter McLean and Antoine Loutfi. I was very impressed with the philosophy and approach of CNIS towards global interactive work.

Q: What is your role with CNIS?

A: I am a surgeon/volunteer and participate actively in several ongoing CNIS projects in east Africa. I am currently the CNIS board Chair.

Q: What is your most rewarding moment with CNIS?

A: Simply participating in the teaching experiences, meeting and working with colleagues from around the world.

Q: How would you like CNIS to evolve?

A: One of our biggest challenges is ongoing financial support for all of our



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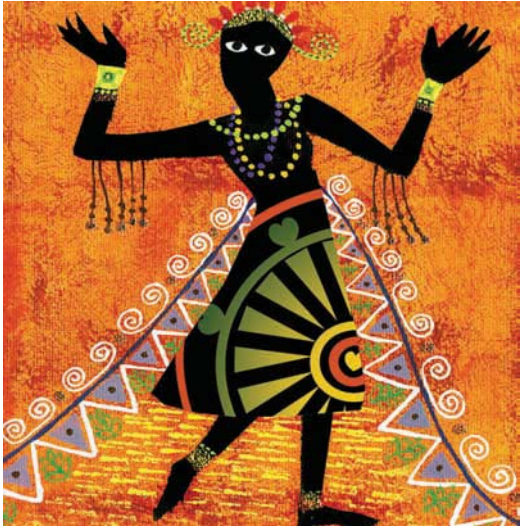
Dr. Razek in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

successful programs – nothing is more frightening than the potential loss of a good program and relationship - solidifying our funding base is a critical future step.

Q: What should Canadians know about us?

A: How much good work is being done by this organization, by so many remarkable people, in long standing partnerships with so many remarkable people globally.

It's all about capacity building and the development of long lasting relationships globally between colleagues.



Canadian Network for International Surgery Info: 604-739-4708 www.cnis.ca

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ON THE CUTTING EDGE

- **CNIS Primary Surgery Wiki Update** - The book *Primary Surgery* which is available on our web site has had 3 chapters revised: Chapter 5 Surgery of Sepsis, Chapter 12 Appendix, Chapter 22 Proctology. Thanks to Drs. Husein Moloo and Robert Taylor for their important intellectual contribution.
- **AGM Oct. 30** - CNIS AGM and Strategic Meeting will be held in Vancouver on Saturday October 30. For information, please call 604-739-4708 or email office@cnis.ca
- **Hager Family Fund support** - CNIS would like to thank Bob and Judy Hager and the Hager Family Fund held at the Vancouver Foundation for their generous support.
- **It's a Boy!** - CNIS congratulates our International Director, Ronald Lett and his wife Elsie for the birth of their son, Lawrence, at 4 kg on July 18 in Addis Ababa.
- **Swahili classes** - CNIS fall Swahili classes Sept. 14 - Oct. 27 and Nov. 2 - Dec. 15. Information/registration, call 604-739-4708 or email office@cnis.ca
- **In memory** - CNIS member and supporter Dr. Robert Salter passed away at age 86. He will be remembered as one of the most esteemed orthopedic surgeons in the world.
- **Our sympathies** - Our deepest sympathy goes to CNIS accountant Barry Elkin and family, whose daughter Suzanne passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 14.
- **Supplies from Keir surgical** - CNIS would like to thank Keir Surgical for their generous donation of forceps, scalpel handles, scissors and other surgical teaching supplies.
- **ICC-U training** - A one week training was held for senior staff at ICC-U in April. Topics were Burden of Injury in Sub-Saharan Africa, Conceptual Frameworks, Hospital Surveillance, Clinical Traumatology, Community Injury Surveys, Measurement of Injury Severity and Proposal Writing. Mable Nakito presented ICC-U, Lovisa Chrispin Nakajubi, the WHO child injury report and Jerome Nsajju, the history and mandate of IPIFA.
- **Bioskills Lab meeting in Florida** - On May 27th Dr. Ronald Lett did a presentation on the implementation of the CNIS structured surgical skills courses and skills labs in Africa at the first meeting on Bioskills Labs organized by the University of Florida in Orlando.
- **Upcoming Instructors Courses in Canada** -
 SSSL Nursing workshop, Vancouver, October 16
 Structured Operative Obstetrics instructors course, Ottawa, October 21
 Essential Surgical Skills instructors course, Ottawa, October 22-23
 For information/registration: office@cnis.ca / www.cnis.ca

CANADIAN NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

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JOIN CNIS OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

INDIVIDUALS: \$50 (Regular) | \$25 (Student)
 ORGANIZATIONAL: \$500

CNIS IS A REGISTERED CHARITY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT

Patron: Her Excellency the Right Honourable
 Mich elle Jean, Governor General of Canada
Chair: Dr. Tarek Razek

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International Director: Dr. Ronald R. Lett

Manager: Elizabeth Schaefer

Accountant: Barry Elkin CA

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Surgical Associate: Dr. Robert Taylor


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IT Coordinator: Timothy Steeves

Public Engagement: Karethe Linaae MFA

Vancouver Office Assistant: Grace Green

SMALL DONATIONS ADD UP



\$25 JUST CAN TRAIN A NEW AFRICAN
 /MONTH SURGICAL INSTRUCTOR
 THIS YEAR

CNIS DONORS: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Harbinger Foundation, Donner Canadian Foundation, Bob and Judy Hager Family Fund, CNIS Organizational and Individual Members and Friends of CNIS.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS MUCH NEEDED & GREATLY APPRECIATED!