



3 YEAR AGREEMENT WITH CIDA

On August 19th Phil Hassen, President of CNIS and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) signed a 3-year agreement entitled Safer Surgery, Obstetrics and Communities in Africa. The CIDA contribution will be for 2.1 million dollars. Now the challenge is to raise our share. This will support CNIS' work in Africa, particularly focusing on Ethiopia, Mali, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The agreement also supports CNIS work with 3 African networks with wider reach: the African Canadian Committee for Essential Surgical Skills (ACCESS), The Injury Prevention Initiative for Africa (IPIFA) and the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). CNIS acknowledges the work of Ronald Lett and Lorne Braun in preparing this proposal and the contributions of CNIS staff and board. Since 1997, CNIS and CIDA have had 12 agreements with a total CIDA contribution of over 7.2 Million dollars. CNIS is grateful to Canadian taxpayers, donors and volunteers, whose support has allowed CNIS to reduce death and disability in Africa since 1995. The work of the past 15 years will now continue until the end of 2013.

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16TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN VANCOUVER

CNIS held its 16th annual general meeting and strategic planning session October 30-31. Doug Wallis and Andrew Howard were re-elected to two year terms. Paul Moroz, Tarek Razek, Linda Akagi, Genelle Leifso and Khwezi Mbolekwa have one more year left on their current terms. After 10 years of exemplary service on the board Dr. Gwen Hollaar of Calgary did not stand for re-election.

Dr. Rob Mulloy a general surgeon from Calgary who has volunteered for CNIS on two occasions as an ESS instructor in Awassa, was elected. Thus the Calgary connection with the CNIS board is being maintained. After the annual meeting, a board meeting was held to appoint the board executive. Dr. Tarek Razek continues as Board Chair, Khwezi Mbolekwa as Vice Chair, Andrew Howard as Program Chair, Doug Wallis as Finance Chair and Paul Moroz as Public Engagement Chair.



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Participants left to right: Khwezi Mbolekwa, Lorne Braun, Rob Mulloy, Andrew Howard, Phil Hassen, Tarek Razek, Linda Akagi, Doug Wallis, Shannon Tito, Lorraine Woolford and Genelle Leifso

The Strategic planning session took place on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. The focus of the planning session was the implementation of the new CIDA agreement. The discussions were spirited and enthusiastic. This meeting is the only time the board gets together in person. The CNIS board and committee meetings which occur on a quarterly basis throughout the year are conducted as telephone conferences.

FIRST for Health Officers in Ethiopia

The acronym of the FIRST course is explanatory; Health officer students, the first line health professionals in Ethiopia, learn Fundamental surgical and obstetrical Interventions (FI) Referral (R) and Safe Transfer (ST), the key features for this course. The course was designed in response to the problem that too many low risk cases are referred, while high-risk conditions are often delayed more than 3 days, resulting in a 6-fold increase in mortality.

3 FIRST courses were held in Ethiopia this September, two in Gondar and one in Awassa. 36 male and 17 female health officer students were trained at the courses in Gondar, led by Dr. Gashaw, while 9 women and 23 men were trained in Awassa, led by Dr. Aberra.

Dr. Robert Mulloy from the University of Calgary and Dr. Ronald Lett participated in the implementation of FIRST. The university of Calgary has provided 4 surgeons over the past 4 years in the support of skills training in Awassa.



© R. Lett
FIRST students in Gondar learn suturing

IPIFA ROUND TABLE DURING SAFETY 2010 IN LONDON

The Injury Prevention Initiative For Africa held a round table during the Safety 2010 global meeting on injury control in London. It was chaired by Prof. Hesham el Sayeed, IPIFA VP Technical. Ms. Mable Nakitto, IPIFA Secretary General spoke on capacity building activities, Dr. Robert Matonga,

IPIFA Vice President spoke on financial issues and Dr. Ronald Lett, Honourary IPIFA Steering Committee member spoke on IPIFA strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. WHO speakers included Drs. Margie Peden, Hussain Jaffar, Martin Ekeke and David Meddings.

The IPIFA executive and CNIS board members Drs. Andrew Howard and Paul Moroz attended the round table and made scientific presentations at the Safe 2010 meeting.

Now in its 13th year of operation, IPIFA is seeing the injury control issue being taken seriously in Africa.

PEACE BUILDING TO 8 PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN ETHIOPIA



© R. Lett

7 school directors, 3 school inspectors and 49 teachers completed a 3-day Peace Building Instructors workshop in Axum, Ethiopia in September. The enthusiastic participants were from 8 local primary schools: Hawelty, Ezana, Megabit, Abraha Wehtsbaha, Aksum, Kindeya, Bazen, Worea. Following the framework of CNIS editor Elaine Gibson's Power Point presentation, they worked from the English instructors manual, while activities were mostly conducted in Tigrinya. Instructors manuals were provided and student manuals for the 3 new schools. The budget for each school was accepted by the individual school committees and will be distributed on a monthly basis.

Left: Peace Building course participants gathered outside primary school in Axum, Ethiopia

CANADIAN INSTRUCTOR COURSES

SSSL Nursing Instructors Course

CNIS progress in perioperative nursing is continuing. The Safe Surgery Saves Lives Nursing curriculum, previously piloted in Ethiopia, now has an instructors manual. Using material she developed, Genelle Leifso conducted an SSSL instructors course on October 16. Nine nurses from BC were certified as instructors. With manuals, newly certified instructors and Genelle's leadership, CNIS is prepared to expand this program in Africa.

Obstetrics Instructors Course

On October 21st at the newly inaugurated university of Ottawa simulation center, Dr. Lorraine Woolford, CNIS obstetrical associate, conducted the 4th Structured Operative Obstetrics instructors course for Canadian specialists. 11 participants were certified. SOO is conducted in Kampala and Mbarara, Uganda and Kigali, Rwanda. The expanded pool of Canadian Instructors will permit SOO to be implemented in Ethiopia and Tanzania in 2011.

ESS Instructors Course in Ottawa

The largest ESS instructors course ever with 32 participants was taught by Drs. Robin Fairfull-Smith and Ronald Lett with participants from Guyana, Nigeria, France, BC, Saskatchewan, Ottawa, Hamilton and Sherbrooke. BC participants will teach ESS in Zambia. Sherbrooke and France participants will teach in Haiti and Ottawa participants will teach in Tanzania. McMaster university has enough instructors to begin an ESS program in Guyana. CNIS capacity to continue ESS has been reinforced.

AFRICAN MARKET



CNIS' African market is a free annual community event celebrating African culture and diversity, while teaching people about some of the non-profit organizations working in Africa.

This year, hundreds of locals visited the August event to hear music, shop, leave a handprint on the African peace wall and support NGOs and African artisans. People danced to the Dunia Moja (One World) drum circle and applauded the show-stoppers, 3 young Nigerian dancers, who made an impromptu performance.

We would like to thank the participants and performers for helping us make the event better every year by presenting the colours and flavours of Africa. Our thanks also goes to our volunteer team, who spent 250 communal volunteer hours preparing and helping at the market. We welcome you again at our 2011 African market next August!



Simi, one of our young helpers and performers at the African Market

OTTAWA EVENING FOR INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

A CNIS reception was held at the brand new university of Ottawa Skills and Simulation Centre on October 21. An Evening for International Surgery gathered Ottawa surgeons, residents and others wishing to learn more about CNIS. Canada's largest simulation centre, a joint venture between the Ottawa Hospital and the university of Ottawa, offered the venue free of charge for CNIS reception and 3 days of CNIS courses!

Our sincere thanks go to Director Viren Naik, Manager Kevin Thomas and uOSSC staff Kim Tardioli, Kathy LaBelle and Julie Ghatalia, who provided expertise and volunteered their time. Also thanks to local organizers Drs. Robin Fairfull-Smith, Paul Moroz and Hassan Shenassa. Event volunteers included Genevieve Tam, Anne and Nick Moroz and Stephanie Shenassa and a dozen other Ottawa volunteers. All these people contributed to making both the courses and event possible.



© D. Tse

Dr. Robin Fairfull-Smith interviewed by Ottawa CBC news reporter Chad Pawson

Funding for the evening was provided jointly by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the Division of Orthopaedics and Division of General Surgery.

Please check our web site to see the CBC news report on the event.

CNIS PORTRAITS

Dr. Lorraine Woolford
Obstetrician/gynecologist

Q: When did you get involved with CNIS?

A: In 2007, I went to study vesico-vaginal fistula repairs at a small hospital in Ethiopia. They are rare here, but happen all too frequently in Africa, because C/Sections cannot be performed in a timely fashion. Dr. Andrew Browning at the Bahir Dar Fistula Hospital convinced me to be involved in a programme that teaches and works toward fistula prevention, instead of fistula repair.

When I took the CNIS Obstetrics instructors course in 2008, Dr. Jan Christilaw asked if anyone was willing to accompany her to Uganda to teach the course and I volunteered. I was impressed with the work that CNIS was doing, and have been involved ever since.

Q: What is your role with CNIS?

A: I am the Obstetrical Associate; I coordinate the SOO courses in Africa, currently in Uganda and Rwanda.

Q: What is your most rewarding moment with CNIS?



© L. Woolford

Dr. Woolford with SOO Students in Rwanda

A: I get lots of feedback from instructors and participants about how useful the CNIS course is, but one moment stands out.

An intern in Rwanda said to me that he felt sorry for other interns that hadn't had the opportunity to participate in the course. Following internship, young doctors are usually sent out into the districts with little or no supervision. Because of the CNIS course, he could now perform an emergency C/Section and could possibly save not just one life, but two!



HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH A DIFFERENCE

Are you looking for a gift for someone 'who has everything'. Why not give something meaningful, and help CNIS in the process? This year, we offer 3 new **Gifts of Safety**;

1. Give an African grade-5 student a year-long course in **Peace Building and Conflict Resolution** \$25
2. Educate an African **Obstetrics Instructor** so they can teach African health practitioners safe birthing procedures for years to come. \$50
3. Offer an African medical student an Essential Surgical skills course with **forty life-saving skills** \$90

Each gift comes with a card explaining how your donation is being used. You can send the card yourself or request CNIS to send it to your chosen recipients. For more information, please go to the CNIS store www.cnis.ca/store

ON THE CUTTING EDGE

- **Rotary Support from Ontario** - CNIS would like to thank the Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar for their kind donation to the CNIS obstetrics program. They have donated \$3000, which covers \$500 for an Obstetrics Instructors Course and \$2500 for an Obstetrics Providers Course in Uganda or Rwanda.
- **In memory** - A donation was made to CNIS in memory of Patricia Mae Effer (1930-2010). Mrs. Effer was the wife of long-time CNIS supporter Dr. Sidney Effer.
- **Dinners supporting CNIS** - Katherine Jong, an RN in the Operating Room at Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga, Ontario, invited friends to a fund raising dinner for CNIS in her home. Dr. Lorraine Woolford, CNIS Obstetrical Associate, also hosted a dinner for nurses and doctors from the Operating and Recovery Rooms at Credit Valley. The dinners raised \$1,000 for CNIS. Thank you to you both!
- **Award recipient completed research** - Award recipients through UBC Branch for International Surgery have completed their research projects. Dr. Vanessa Fawcett: Towards Comprehensive Injury Surveillance in Africa: The Cape Town Trauma Registry in South Africa. Dr. Paul Mick: Identifying Barrier Effective Treatments of Chronic Middle Ear Disease in Uganda. Dr. Sonia Yeung: Clinical and Microbiological Profile of Microbial Keratitis: Risk Factors Following Ocular Surgery in Southern India. The grants greatly facilitated their research in low income regions of the world.
- **Donner Foundation Support for Tanzania** - CNIS would like to thank the Canadian Donner Foundation for an additional grant of \$ 7500 for Controlling Injury and Improving Safety in Tanzania.
- **CNIS web visits** - CNIS web site gets between 2500-3000 visits per month, with the home page and Courses and Events and How to Help as the most frequently visited pages. Most of our visits come from Canada, followed by US, China and Japan. The highest number of hits from Africa comes from Ethiopia.
- **Global Network for International Surgery** - GNIS met by teleconference in November with participants from Canada, UK, Holland and Australia. An American and British member were added to the GNIS executive. Plans for a web site and support of WHO Global Initiative in Essential and Emergency Surgical Care were endorsed.
- **Vancouver fund raisers Nov 27 + Dec 3** - Join us at Broadway Ten Thousand Villages in Vancouver on Saturday November 27 (10 am- 6 pm) or Friday December 3 (3pm-8pm). 10 % of all sales will go to CNIS. Do your Christmas shopping, while helping to bring CNIS life-saving surgical courses to Africa.
- **Saving Mothers and Babies in Uganda** - Support the Jan Project's fund raiser in Port Moody, BC on November 27. Tickets are \$ 55 and include a tapas buffet, a Bhangra dance lesson and your tax receipt. Information: 604-875-2270. www.janproject.org

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

Chair: Dr. Tarek Razek

President: Philip Hassen MPH

International Director: Dr. Ronald R. Lett

Manager: Elizabeth Schaefer

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Program Associate: Lorne Braun MA

Surgical Associate: Dr. Robert Taylor

Obstetrical Associate: Dr. Lorraine Woolford

IT Coordinator: Timothy Steeves

Public Engagement: Karethe Linaae MFA

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DONATE IN THE NAME OF A LOVED ONE

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!