

# OPERATIVE REPORT

## WINTER 2011



### DR. TAYLOR RECEIVES ORDER OF CANADA

On December 30, 2010, David Johnston, the Governor General of Canada, announced new appointments to the Order of Canada. The Order is one of our country's highest civilian honours and recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service to the nation.

Dr. Robert Taylor, CNIS Surgical Associate, was one of the 54 Canadians to receive this prestigious appointment. He was acknowledged for his contribution to improving medical services and surgical care in the world's underserved populations.

Dr. Taylor's involvement with CNIS dates back to 1989; he has been instrumental in developing curriculum, and revising and creating courses for CNIS. He is currently helping to develop a CNIS activity evaluation strategy. Dr. Taylor was founding chairman of the International Surgery Committee of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons.

CNIS is very proud of Dr. Robert Taylor and we congratulate him on his well-deserved appointment!

Right: Dr. Robert Taylor teaches amputation during an Essential Surgical Skills course in Mongu, Zambia in 2009.



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### GOVERNOR GENERAL BECOMES CNIS PATRON



His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada

Photo by: Sgt. Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall  
© Her Majesty The Queen in Right of Canada represented by the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General (2010)

We are pleased to announce that His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, has accepted the invitation to become the Patron of CNIS.

Mr. Johnston, the 28th governor general since Confederation, began his professional career at Queens University in 1966, moving to the Law Faculty at the University of Toronto in 1968. He became dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Western Ontario in 1974, principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University in 1979, and returned to the McGill Faculty of Law in 1994. In 1999, he became the fifth president of the University of Waterloo. Mr. Johnston has served on many provincial and federal task forces. He is author or co-author of two dozen books, holds honorary doctorates from a dozen universities, and has been awarded the Order of Canada. He holds an LL.B. from Queen's University (1966), an LL.B. from the University of Cambridge (1965), and an AB from Harvard University (1963).

**Mr. Johnston is the fourth Governor General to accept the post of Patron of the Canadian Network for International Surgery.** Previous Governors General

who were CNIS Patrons were **Michaëlle Jean, Roméo LeBlanc** and **Ramon Hnatyshyn**.

In his installation speech, Mr. Johnston referred to *Contemplanre Meliora* 'to envision a better world.' CNIS believes in sharing knowledge, expertise and experience to promote lasting and sustainable improvements in health and safety in the developing world.

### IN THIS ISSUE...

CNIS returns to teach in Zambia .....	2
Essential Surgical Skills - Gulu .....	2
Trauma Team Training - Guyana .....	2
Kampala Skills training continues .....	2
Courses this quarter .....	2
Celebrating our volunteers .....	3
Thank you, Sam Goheen! .....	3
CNIS Portrait: Dr. Gashaw Messele ...	3
Bethune Round Table 2011 .....	4
On the Cutting Edge .....	4
Staff listing .....	4
For more information: <a href="http://www.cnis.ca">www.cnis.ca</a>	

**SURGICAL SKILLS IN ZAMBIA**

CNIS Surgical Associate, Dr. Robert Taylor, and the Okanagan-Zambia Health Initiative (OkaZHI) taught Essential Surgical Skills (ESS) and Hernia Repair in Mongu, Zambia in November. The certified ESS instructors from OkaZHI included Drs. Bill Nelems, Gary O'Connor, Glynn Jones and Bryan Tighe. OkaZHI nurses and family doctors conducted concurrent nursing and medical courses.

This was the second ESS and the first Hernia Repair course to be taught in Zambia. Thirty-six doctors and clinical officers, representing 80% of the primary care professionals in Western Province, have now completed the ESS course. The Structured Hernia Repair course had seven candidates. The course was very well received and we were asked to offer it again, as there is a large demand for hernia repair training from the doctors in the area.

CNIS courses have strong support from the local administration at hospital, district and political levels. Our Zambian colleagues are open to more courses being delivered in the future. Dr. Taylor exclaimed upon his return: "This was one of the most enjoyable teaching trips because of the enthusiasm and commitment of the learners!"



Dr. Gary O'Connor and Dr. Robert Taylor in the ER room with hernia repair students at Lewanika General Hospital

© OkaZHI

**Essential Surgical Skills - Gulu**

The ESS course was introduced at the new Gulu University in 2008. Graduating classes of 2009 and 2010 all completed ESS. To date, half the class of 2011 has taken the course and the other half will take it in March, making a total of 160 ESS student participants. In February 2011, ten Gulu practitioners were certified and six more were re-certified as ESS instructors.

The driving force behind the course in Gulu is Dr. Tom Okello, assisted by Mr. Okech, a senior anesthetic officer. CNIS conducts the Gulu courses with the support of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons (CAGS). We are grateful to Drs. Barb Leblanc, Bernard Lawlor and Ghee Hwang who have all taught ESS in Gulu on two occasions. The CAGS surgeons also assist with clinical work at St. Mary's Hospital Lacor in Gulu. Dr. Hwang is the coordinator of CAGS Gulu initiative and is also coordinating a CNIS members project to upgrade perioperative nursing.

ESS instructors courses are held at all centres every three years to maintain instructor numbers, review course updates and maintain course quality.

**Trauma Team Training - Guyana**

Almost 40 physicians, nurses and medical students used a computerized mannikin brought from McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, to practice and improve care of trauma patients at a Trauma Team Training (TTT) update course organized through the Institute for Health Science Education at the Georgetown Public Hospital in November 2010.

Simulation is being increasingly used in medical training. The TTT course was developed by CNIS to train health professionals working in emergency departments in developing countries. Injuries and road traffic collisions are the leading causes of death and disability in Guyana.

**In the past four years, 19 Guyanese TTT Instructors have trained 126 local medical personnel to save lives through better emergency care.**

**Kampala Skills Training Continues**

CNIS initiated Essential Surgical Skills training in Kampala in 1997. CNIS supports the ESS Program by training instructors, providing teaching material and supporting the purchase of consumables. All other costs are borne by the Department of Surgery at Makerere University.

CNIS promotes sustainability and we are proud that the skills training course continues to be taught in the Department of Surgery.

"We would like to extend our most sincere and heartfelt thanks for your support, which will go a long way to improve the standard of training of our undergraduate students. This training will improve the quality of young doctors that will be graduating from our school, thus benefitting patients and Ugandans on the whole."

**Mr. Sam Kaggwa, Head of Surgery at Makerere University**



Mr. Okech (left) and Dr. Okello directs the Essential Surgical Skills courses in Gulu, Uganda.

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**RECENT CNIS COURSES IN AFRICA:**

**ESS Providers courses:** Gondar (Ethiopia), Moshi and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Mongu (Zambia), Kampala, Mbarara and Gulu (Uganda) and Kigali (Rwanda). **ESS Instructors course:** Awassa (Ethiopia).

**SOO courses:** Kampala and Mbarara (Uganda). **FIRST course:** Gondar (Ethiopia). **Hernia Repair course:** Mongu (Zambia).

## Celebrating the Spirit of Volunteerism

On February 3, CNIS hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Night. CNIS president, Phil Hassen offered a heart felt THANK YOU to our volunteers for all they do for Africa, Africans and for CNIS. "Volunteers are not paid - not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

Dr. Wylam Faught, Head of the Obstetrics department at the University of Ottawa was given the 2010 Volunteer of the Year award for his contribution as an ESS instructor and for his help in establishing the obstetrics program and the surgical skills lab in Moshi, Tanzania. "On behalf of the Ottawa Chapter of CNIS, we wish to congratulate Wylam Faught for this well deserved recognition, and to once again welcome him into the Ottawa CNIS community," wrote Drs. Robin Fairfull-Smith, Paul Moroz, Hassan Shenassa and the other members of the Ottawa CNIS group.

The Volunteer Team Spirit Award was

presented for the first time. The CNIS sewing team, with Alida Fernhout, Deb Rudo, Milena Semproni and Vivian Ma, has dedicated endless hours sewing stacks of vinyl stomachs, cloth uteri and Velcro placentas for very last minute course requests. We would never be able to get the obstetrics supplies to Africa in time without the sewing team and cannot thank them enough.

CNIS has nearly 40 surgical volunteers and over 100 non-surgical volunteers donating thousands of hours annually to a plethora of volunteer tasks, such as manual editing, illustrations, web design, translations, event coordination, fundraising and many other vital roles. We are grateful for the help and devotion of ALL our skilled and diverse volunteers, without whom, our work would not be possible!



© R. Fairfull-Smith



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Upper: 2010 Volunteer of the year Dr. Wylam Faught in Moshi, Tanzania

Lower: Sewing volunteers Milena Semproni and Alida Fernhout with C-Section model at the CNIS office in Vancouver

## THANK YOU, SAM



© S. Goheen

Sam J. Goheen, BA, BEd, LL.B

CNIS would like to thank Sam Goheen for his kind help as CNIS volunteer legal advisor since 2009. As a lawyer for Lindsay Kenney LLP, Sam generously volunteered his time to advise on legal issues of interest to CNIS. He also arranged for the holding and updating of the CNIS Minute Book. CNIS wishes to acknowledge and thank Sam for his outstanding support.

## CNIS PORTRAIT

### Meet Dr. Gashaw Messele

Q: What is your title and occupation?

A: I am a practising general surgeon and urologist, and Medical Director and Associate Professor of the Gondar College of Medical Sciences in Gondar, Ethiopia.

Q: What is your role with CNIS?

A: I have been involved with CNIS since 2001 and am the CNIS Essential Surgical Skills Director for courses held at the Gondar College of Medical Sciences.

Q: How would you like to see CNIS evolve over the next years?

A: I would like to see CNIS make access of surgical and obstetric services more available to African people who are dying due to absence of surgical facilities and skilled people.

Q: What would you like people to know about CNIS?

A: CNIS is helping save the lives of many through skills education pertinent to surgery and obstetrics in the developing world and is acting as a bridge for Canadians to show solidarity with their African counterparts.



© R. Lett

Dr. Gashaw in Gondar, Ethiopia, December 2010

Q: Do you have advice for people interested in volunteering with CNIS?

A: When you volunteer with CNIS, you are helping to save lives. Trauma and preventable surgical diseases kill more people than HIV and malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa.

# CNIS | BETHUNE ROUND TABLE 2011



CNIS and the McGill University Health Centre are proud to host the 11th annual Bethune Round Table on Global Surgery in Montreal, June 3-5, 2011. The Round Table is a unique international conference devoted entirely to surgical issues in the developing world, held annually in Canada. The two-day conference brings together health care professionals from Canada and across the world who are involved in international surgery. This year's meeting will focus on three central

themes: augmenting global surgical capacity, global surgical education and disaster preparedness and response. You may register for the Conference on the CNIS website. Registration fees for participants arriving from under-resourced environments will be waived.

The CNIS board and executive help coordinate this annual meeting and CNIS also contributes through the scientific participation of its members and by supporting the travel costs of African surgeons so that the meeting is truly international.

For more information go to: <http://www.cnis.ca/what-we-do/public-engagement-in-canada/bethune-round-table/>

## ON THE CUTTING EDGE

- **Helping Ugandan mothers and Babies** – The BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre and the Jan Project donated \$25,000 for CNIS's work in Mbarara and Kampala, Uganda, allowing us to support the ever-expanding obstetrics component of CNIS.
- **Organizational Member** – The Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Newborn Care, University of Ottawa is now an organizational member of CNIS.
- **Tying the knot** – Congratulations to the newlyweds, Mrs. Maureen Bitariho and Dr. Deogratias Bitariho, Senior Lecturer, Surgery Department Mbarara University of Science & Technology, Uganda!
- **Online book reviews** – Dr. Brian Cameron's book review of *Global Surgery and Public Health: A New Paradigm* can be found on the CNIS blog. Dr. Ronald Lett has written nine African book reviews, and the most recent review is on honorary life member Dr. Olive Kobusingye's book: *The Correct Line: Uganda under Museveni*. <https://drgemini.wordpress.com/>
- **Ten Thousand Villages** – CNIS held a two-day fundraiser at Vancouver's Ten Thousand Villages store, where 10% of store sales were donated to CNIS. Thanks to Kirsten and the staff and the CNIS volunteers who baked and assisted us!
- **In memory** – A donation was made in memory of CNIS supporter Mrs. Marjorie Romaniuk of Ottawa, ON.
- **Epidemiology studies** – Dr. Respicious Boniface, Director of the Injury Control Centre - Tanzania, is completing his research project after his first year of his MSc in epidemiology at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.
- **Change of guard** – Dr. Mike Kaggwa served as SOO Director in Kampala for two years. We welcome Dr. Susan Obore as the new Director.
- **ESS manuals revision team** – Dr. Paul Moroz has edited the Orthopedic Section of the ESS manual. In addition, our volunteer translator and editing team of Maureen Olesen, Jessica Papillon-Smith, Ewan Wong, Eva van Emden, Judy Mo, Cécile Mulkens, James Stubbs and Dr. Josée Caron have helped produce the French versions of the manuals.
- **Madaktari supports Mwanza** – The Physicians Training Partnership DBA Madaktari has donated US\$10,000 towards Essential Surgical Skills courses in Mwanza, Tanzania, planned for May.

### CANADIAN NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

1985 W. Broadway, Suite 105  
Vancouver BC V6J 4Y3 | Ph: 604-739-4708

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

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT

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