



CNIS FRANCOPHONE COURSES EXPANDED



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Drs. Olivier Armstrong and Robert Taylor with the twenty four Haitian faculty members who became certified ESS instructors during the first CNIS *ESS instructors course* in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Essential Surgical Skills to Haiti

It has been over a year since the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti. The country's four medical schools lost their facilities and human resources, getting significantly behind in training the young doctors the country urgently needed. Canadians were requested to assist with surgical skills training, which was realized in April, as a collaboration between the Haitian medical schools, University of Sherbrooke doctors, the Canadian government, the University of Calgary and CNIS.

Twenty-four faculty members from Haiti's medical schools were selected by the deans to take the 3-day ESS Instructors course, taught by Dr. Robert Taylor of CNIS and French surgeon Dr. Olivier Armstrong. Students were enthusiastic and all expressed readiness to be involved as instructors for the providers courses to follow. The deans and faculty were deeply encouraged and look forward to ongoing collaboration.

The course was historic, as this was the first time the four medical schools have cooperated on any project. Let us celebrate with them and hope that the encouragement and cooperation will continue as this country moves forward in its recovery.

Injury Epidemiology to Bamako, Mali



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The Injury Prevention Initiative for Africa (IPIFA) *Injury Epidemiology Course* was taught for the first time in French at the National Health Directorate in Bamako in April. Dr. Pierre Maurice from the Institut national de santé publique du Québec supported Dr. Ronald Lett in conducting the workshop. Course leaders were Prof. G. Diallo from the Hôpital Gabriel Touré and Dr. Nazoum Diarra, Head of Non-Communicable Diseases with the Ministry of Health.

The seventeen participants included clinical, public health and

epidemiology experts from the Gendarmerie, Protection Civile, Mali national police, Road Traffic Commission and the Ministry of Health.

Course topics included the burden of disease, injury frameworks, injury measurement and research design, with emphasize on the African Injury pandemic.

The final day included site visits to women's groups, road safety authority, emergency response units and hospital emergency departments, for the purpose of addressing injury and developing a plan to encourage the Ministry of Health to establish a program of injury control.

LEFT:
IPIFA's *Injury Epidemiology course* participants at a site visit to an emergency ward in Bamako.

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Students during an *ESS Providers Course* in Bamako, Mali.

Essential Surgical Skills courses in Mali

The Essential Surgical Skills teaching cycle continues in Bamako, Mali with an ESS instructors and ESS providers course held in March. All the ESS course materials have been translated into French.

Canadian course instructors Drs. Ronald Lett and Vincent Echavé certified 19 instructors to teach ESS for the next three years. Prof. Gangaly Diallo and Nouhoum Ongioba led the ESS Providers Course which was taught by the newly certified instructors, as well as Dr. Genevieve Pap from Centre Medical Sillery in Quebec City.

The 31 participants included 28 first-year surgery residents and three general practitioners who are directors at the community health centres that are teaching centres for the Université de Sherbrooke Family Medicine Project (DECLIC).

CNIS and the leadership in Bamako have agreed to increase the ESS workshops to three per year, so that all first-year surgery residents in Bamako can benefit from this well-received course.

Perioperative Nursing in Gondar and Awassa

CNIS has identified the need to provide training for perioperative nurses as a priority. The two day *Safe Surgery Saves Lives nursing course* was first implemented by CNIS in 2007. The course is based on the WHO SSSL Checklist, which has been shown to decrease mortality and morbidity by 50% in low-income countries.

Genelle Leifso from BCIT Perioperative Specialty Nursing Faculty and Vickie Grandinetti with the Vancouver Coastal Health Perioperative Program brought CNIS nursing courses to Gondar and Awassa in February. Two providers courses were taught to 40 students at Gondar University Referral Hospital, and one course for 18 students at the Awassa University Referral Hospital.

Before each course, the instructors toured the ORs to observe current practice, assuring that the teaching would be within their context of care. Teaching each aspect of the SSSL Checklist and why it is important to safe patient care, the instructors were able to talk about practices they had observed and how they measured up to basic perioperative principles of asepsis and sterile technique. In suggesting practice improvements, they focused on low-cost or no-cost changes that will ensure the successful implementation of the new approach.

Genelle and Vickie will teach an SSSL instructors course in Vancouver on June 18 to perioperative nurses wishing to learn and teach this content in the third world.



© L. Leifso

Vickie Grandinetti (far left) and Genelle Leifso (far right) with newly SSSL nursing providers in Gondar.

ACCESS in Ethiopia



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ACCESS Ethiopia participants. Back row: Dr. Girmay Hagos, Mr. Philip Hassen, Dr. Reye Esayas, Dr. Abera Gobeze, Dr. Yimam Adem, Mr. Lorne Braun. Front row: Dr. Gashaw Messele, Edom Dawit, Dr. Efreem Gebrehana and Sr. Nura Mohammed.

The 2011 African Canadian Committee for Essential Surgical Skills (ACCESS) Ethiopia meeting was held in Awassa in April. Meaghan Byers and Martha Gabre, CIDA officials from the Canadian Embassy in Addis Ababa, also joined the meeting. The agenda included a review of the CNIS Surgical Skills Courses, implications of the CIDA agreement, presentations by Ethiopian partners on ESS and FIRST in Awassa, Gondar and Mekele and a presentation on the SSSL course by Nura Mohammed from Gondar. CNIS President Phil Hassen and CNIS Pro-

gram Associate Lorne Braun presented on leadership, organizational management and program management. Outside of the meeting, new Memoranda of Understanding were negotiated with surgical partners in Gondar, Awassa, Jimma and Mekele.

The meeting was a good opportunity for the Vancouver participants to visit the CNIS Addis Ababa office and confer with CNIS International Director, Dr. Ronald Lett and Edom Dawit, CNIS Administrative Assistant.

A magical Night for West Africa

The CNIS annual fundraiser *A Night in Magical Timbuktu* was held in Vancouver on May 6 to raise funds to establish West Africa's first Injury Control Centre. One hundred guests, including the Mali ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Mamadou Bandiougou Diawara, 50 volunteers, countless local sponsors and a dozen performers helped make the night truly magical. Three-time Juno-Award winner AlphaYaya Diallo from Guinea with his group *Bafing* got the crowd dancing, and even some of our board members were seen on the dance floor! Jacky Essombe had everyone singing African songs, and did a superb dance performance.

The event raised almost \$18,000 in one night, nearly 1/5 of the funds needed to establish the centre. Since the event, another \$5300 has been donated, bringing us one step closer to our goal.

If you would like to support the Injury Control Centre in Bamako, Mali, please go to www.cnis.ca/how-to-help/buy-a-brick-2/



© S. Connor

Some of Canada's best African performers featured at *A Night in Magical Timbuktu*. From left: Jacky Essombe, Hassanatou Camara and AlphaYaya Diallo.

CNIS office visit from Uganda

CNIS had a surprise office visit from some of our African partners, when four Ugandan doctors attended the Conference on Surgery and Anesthesia in Uganda at the University of British Columbia in April.

From left: CNIS office manager Elizabeth Schaefer, Dr. Margaret Ajiko from Soroti Regional Referral Hospital, CNIS ESS Patron in Kampala Dr. Samuel Kaggwa, Head of Makerere University Department of Orthopedics Dr. Tito Beyeza, CNIS SOO Patron in Kampala Dr. Josaphat Byamugisha and Nathan O'Hara from UBC Department of Orthopedics.



© T. Beyeza

Halifax: Place of Surgery in International Development

Sixteen faculty and residents from the Department of Surgery at Dalhousie University Medical School in Nova Scotia participated in a *Place of Surgery in International Development* workshop in May. Participants came from a variety of surgical care disciplines, but shared the interest of further exploring the scope of involvement in international surgery. Dr. Robert Taylor, CNIS Surgical Associate, was the facilitator.

The Dalhousie Department of Anaesthesia is already strongly engaged in international activity and there is growing interest in establishing a platform of international surgery at Dalhousie from which faculty and trainees can become engaged.

The level of enthusiasm was high during the workshop and Dr. Taylor stated, "This was as satisfying a workshop as I have ever had the privilege of conducting. The participants from Dal were dynamic and thoughtful".

CNIS PORTRAIT

**Meet Mrs. Mable Nakitto Tomusange
Executive Director for the Injury Control
Centre-Uganda and Injury Prevention Expert**



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Q: When and why did you get involved with CNIS?

A: 2003, for the love of saving people's lives from injury.

Q: What is your role with the organization?

A: As Director of the Injury Control Centre – Uganda in Kampala, I manage the organization and execute all injury prevention activities.

Q: What is your most rewarding moment with CNIS?

A: When lives are saved through preventive measures.

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

A: I would like to see CNIS involve more volunteers, and spread its activities more in Africa.

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

A: CNIS cares for the betterment of safe surgery and safe communities around the world.

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

A: Get more engaged because this is a unique cause.

Vancouver elementary students send letters to peers in Ethiopia

Lord Tennyson Elementary School in Vancouver participated in the *Canada/Ethiopia Twinning Project* pilot.

Students from grades four through seven wrote letters to Axum, Ethiopia, telling students there about Canada and asking questions about what it is like growing up in Ethiopia.

"I'm really looking forward to this project and hope you are too! I can't believe I got this opportunity and really hope we can be great friends." wrote one student to her new friends in Ethiopia.

In the 2011 -2012 school year, over 2000 students from eight elementary schools in Axum will participate in the CNIS Peace Building course. We are hoping to find Canadian "twin schools" with whom they can share their stories and experiences.

Please contact CNIS if you are interested in participating in the Canada/Ethiopia Twinning Program at 604-739-4708 or email karethe@cnis.ca

Lord Tennyson students participating in the Twinning Project pilot this spring.



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ON THE CUTTING EDGE

- **Ethiopian obstetrics pilot** - Dr. Lorraine Woolford, CNIS Obstetrical Associate, conducted an S00 Instructors Course and an S00 Providers Course in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. Bahir Dar is the capital of the Amhara region, near the source of the Blue Nile, which Ethiopians know as the Abay. This pilot course targeted the M.Sc. health officer students who are the cadre of non-physicians expected to provide emergency obstetrical and surgical service in rural Ethiopia in the future. Many lessons were learned which will be applied as CNIS addresses the lack of obstetrical service in rural Africa.
- **CNIS signs Memoranda of Understanding with Mekele and Vancouver** - The Department of Surgery at the College of Health Sciences in Mekele, Ethiopia has signed a two-year MoU to continue ESS training with support of community surgeons in the capital city of Tigray Region. The ESS Patron is Dr. Girmay Hagos and the newly appointed Director is Reiyee Esayas. An MoU was also signed between CNIS and the UBC Branch for International Surgery in May.
- **Congratulations!** - Mable Nakitto Tomusange, Director of the Injury Control Centre - Uganda, delivered a baby girl in Kampala in May.
- **Female surgeons to Ethiopia** - Drs. Janet Edwards and Ola Dunin-Bell taught ESS to final year medical students at Hawassa University with Dr. Aberra and his team. Twenty-four students benefited from their presence. It is good to have women surgeons work with us in Ethiopia to encourage the female students who have few female role models in surgery.
- **Addis office** - Edom Dawit has been with CNIS for three months as our Administrative Assistant in Addis Ababa. We are pleased that she now has accepted a one year contract and welcome Edom to the CNIS team.
- **Mozambique project recognized** - CNIS is listed as a participant in surgical training in Mozambique in the highly recognized journal *Science*. (Science 3 Dec. 2010 Vol 330 Francis Collins et al.). The article discusses the Medical Education Partner Initiative (MEPI), a large American initiative for medical schools and medical training in several African countries. Mozambique is the only project with a surgical link, and the University of California, San Diego has invited CNIS to participate.
- **Funds for obstetrics** - The WINGS group in Montreal donated the funds raised in their May meeting on fistula to CNIS. Thank you for your kind support!
- **African Market August 27** - The CNIS annual African Market will be held in the courtyard outside our Vancouver office on Saturday August 27 from noon to 6 pm. Free admission and fun for the whole family.

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