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OPERATIVE REPORT

Peace & Health—

Impacts of Small Arms, Violence and Injury on Health

DEC 2001



- Peace & Health* 1 It may at first seem odd that the CNIS is involved in peace initiatives, after all we are a surgical development organization.
- Peace & Health continued* 2 But it can't be denied that war and armed conflict impact greatly on the physical and mental health of individuals, as well as the social structures that exist in society (from family through to international institutions) to promote or maintain health.
- ESS Vancouver* 2 The CNIS has worked in Africa for seven years and has dealt with disruptions in its development activities due to armed conflicts and war. The CNIS has worked in areas to promote injury prevention initiatives in areas littered with landmines in order to reduce death and disability caused by landmine injuries. The CNIS has also been involved in injury surveillance related to small arms.
- WHO District Surgical Service* 2 The CNIS has worked in Africa for seven years and has dealt with disruptions in its development activities due to armed conflicts and war. The CNIS has worked in areas to promote injury prevention initiatives in areas littered with landmines in order to reduce death and disability caused by landmine injuries. The CNIS has also been involved in injury surveillance related to small arms.
- CNIS Board Retreat Results in 3-year Strategic Plan* 2 The CNIS has worked in Africa for seven years and has dealt with disruptions in its development activities due to armed conflicts and war. The CNIS has worked in areas to promote injury prevention initiatives in areas littered with landmines in order to reduce death and disability caused by landmine injuries. The CNIS has also been involved in injury surveillance related to small arms.
- ESS Malawi* 3 War and armed conflict disrupts our development work and increases the incidence of surgical disorders related to in-
- Dr. Olive Kobusingye gives Annual Lecture* 4

jury. By promoting peace and peace building initiatives, the CNIS is proactively working towards its mandate.

Recently, the first medical meeting on Small Arms and Injury was held in Helsinki from Sept. 28—30th. This was a meeting that brought medical activists and scientists together to consider the control of small arms and light weapons. This follows the UN process of July 2001 which has taken steps towards the control of illegal arms trade. Philosophically, the Helsinki meeting is a continuation of the process that led to the ban on anti-personal landmines. The CNIS and the ICC-U conducted the project entitled "A Response to the Health Consequences of Landmines" in northern Uganda from June 1999 to June 2001. In that project it was determined

That small arms was the leading cause of injury mortality in northern Uganda. Drs. Olive Kobusingye (Director—ICC-U) and Ronald Lett (International Director-CNIS) participated in the Helsinki meeting to inform others of the magnitude of the small arms problem in Uganda; to learn more about the issue and to seek resources to continue the work in Gulu. In addition to evaluating the problem, work has included; empowering the population with information and training in first aid, as well as advanced life support to casualty department teams. This work needs to continue and ICC-U and CNIS are optimistic that funding will be forthcoming. In Canada, the CNIS Canadian Coordinator, Raymond Leclair attended the Peace Through Health conference in Hamilton, Ontario. During this meeting, contacts were made and information was sought so that the CNIS could continue positioning itself as a recognized global player. The CNIS is also considering jointly administering a project with the ICC-U in Gulu district of northern Uganda. This project conceptualized by CNIS volunteers Shannon Tito of Langley and Carol Magambo of Vancouver is a project that works with elementary schools to promote the concept of non-violent conflict resolution in an area that has suffered the consequences of conflict for many years.

Essential Surgical Skills Course

Vancouver:

The CNIS conducts ESS courses in Canada either on a contract basis with Family Practice Residency Programs or to private practitioners who anticipate that



they will be volunteering to practice in a low income country. This past October, the ESS course was taught to the Rural Family Medicine Program by Dr. Ronald Lett. Teaching assistance was provided by Dr. Olive Kobusingye for the Gastrointestinal Emergency Unit and by Dr. Olga Von Lipinski on a daily basis.

Photo of: Dr. Olga Von Lipinski who volunteered as a facilitator for the ESS course

Ethiopia:

The Essential Surgical Skills program has reached a milestone in Ethiopia. The course was reintroduced to Jimma University in August. Dr. Berhanemeskel and Dr. Fikre signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CNIS in October and they and the rest of the Jimma faculty conducted a second ESS workshop in November. The implementation of ESS at Jimma means that the CNIS now has MOUs with the three medical schools and that all medical students in Ethiopia now take the ESS course. The next African Canadian Committee for ESS (ACC-ESS) will be held in Addis Ababa in May 2002.



Photo of: ESS students examining an X-ray

WHO District Surgical Service

Drs. Shayna Watson and Ronald Lett continue to work on the WHO editorial board which is updating the three WHO books on Surgery, Anesthesia, Obstetrics and Orthopaedics into a one volume handbook. The editorial committee met in Durban, South Africa Sept. 17—19 to further this major task.

The American and Indian members of the committee were unable to attend this meeting because of the disruption of air travel following the events of Sept. 11, 2001 in the United States.

Photo of: WHO District Surgical Services



CNIS Board Retreat Results in 3-year Strategic Plan

On October 27 & 28, the CNIS held its Annual General Meeting and Board Retreat in Vancouver at the Pacific Palisades Hotel. The board retreat was an opportunity to further develop a core strategic plan for the next three years of organizational development. This document has been circulated to the board of direc-



tors for approval and implementation. Participants in the board retreat included board members: Phil Hassen (Chair), Gwen Hollaar (Vice Chair), Vic Neufeld, Mike Wansbrough, and Shannon Tito. Also participating was honorary life time member: Joan Jamieson, partner representative: Olive Kobusingye and staff members: Ronald Lett and Raymond Leclair.

Photo of: CNIS board director, Dr. Victor Neufeld facilitated the retreat.

ESS in Malawi—by Bob Taylor

The first ESS workshop (Instructors) was held in Malawi in the spring of 1999. Since then, five provider workshops have been conducted. Three of these took place at the College of Medicine in Blantyre where the course has now been incorporated into the curriculum, occurring just before beginning the senior year. For the third straight year the course received the highest evaluation by both students and faculty.

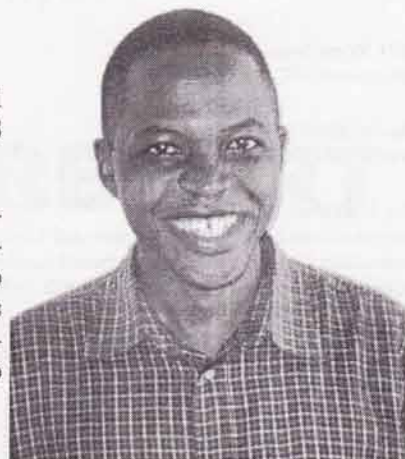
In 2000, the course was offered, for the first time at the College of Health Sciences in Blantyre for the experienced Medical Assistants who were upgrading to Clinical Officers. Because of the great enthusiasm shown, the course was held again this year and has now been incorporated in the curriculum at this college.

A request has been received this year that the course also be offered at the Lilongwe Campus for the other stream of training Clinical Officers. If this request is realized it will mean that all clinicians training in Malawi, by whatever educational system (medical or

clinical officer) will have taken the ESS course.

The country director, Dr. Devor Kumiponjera (in photo on the right) has embraced this position of leadership with enthusiasm.

Photo of: Devor Kumiponjera

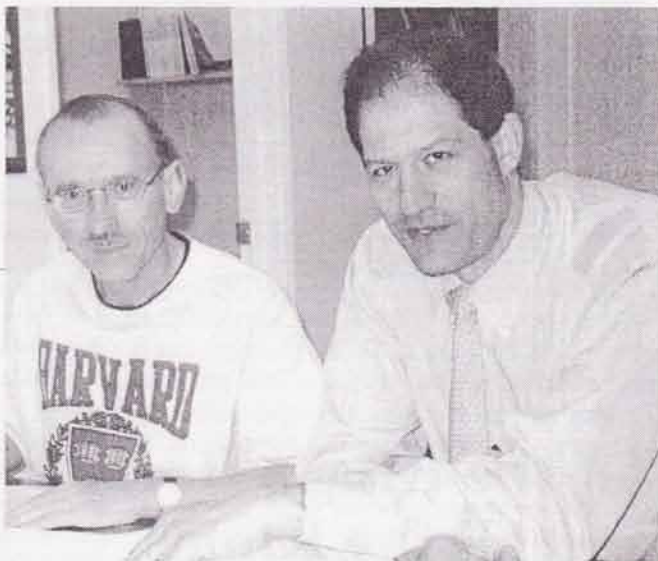


Rotary—Arbutus Club Supports Project in Uganda

The Rotary—Arbutus Club, Vancouver is supporting an injury prevention program with Rotary—Kampala Club in Uganda. The Rotary—Arbutus Club has committed

\$10,000 for this project. After matching from the district, Rotary International and CIDA, the total project will be worth more than \$40,000 and will focus on injury prevention awareness & children. The CNIS and the ICC-U are pleased to have the support of Rotary in Canada and in Uganda.

Photo of: John Stroud-Drinkwater and Boris Schafer of the Rotary—Arbutus Club in Vancouver



Injury Epidemiology —Alexandria, Egypt

The Injury Prevention Initiative for Africa (IPIFA) conducted its second Injury Epidemiology for Africa course in Alexandria, Egypt from October 9 through 12 inclusive. Seventeen professionals from Egypt, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Rwanda, Eritrea, Zimbabwe and Mozambique participated. This is the second course conducted by IPIFA in 2001. The purpose of the IPIFA course is to create injury prevention capacity in Africa and that capacity has increased by 35 this year. At its fifth annual meeting in 2002 the second level course is planned.

Photo: IPIFA's Injury Epidemiology Course participants



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Visit our website: www.cnis.ca



Special Recognition...

The CNIS Annual General Meeting moved to recognize two exceptional individuals for their contributions to the CNIS.

**Dr. Robert Taylor is being recognized as
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR—2001.**

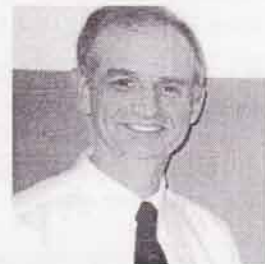
And

**Fiona Duguid is being recognized with a
'Special Vote of Thanks'
from the AGM.**

Thank you to both of you for your on-going commitment and support to the CNIS!!!



Fiona Duguid



Dr. Robert Taylor

All the King's Horses and all the King's Men

Olive Kobusingye gives CNIS Annual Lecture

Dr. Olive Kobusingye, Director, Injury Control Centre—Uganda (ICC-U) gave the CNIS Annual Lecture at the 'For the Life of Africa' Annual Fundraising Banquet on October 27, 2001 at the Pacific Palisades Hotel in Vancouver. There were approximately 65 people in the audience including the Hon. Dr. Hedy Fry and CTV News. Dr. Olive Kobusingye's talk included a description of the ICC-U, the work of the ICC-U and its collaborators, the challenges it faces nationally and internationally, and the partnership between the ICC-U and the CNIS. The ICC-U envisions itself as the lead agency in injury prevention and control, contributing to a major reduction of the injury burden nationally and internationally.

The lecture also discussed the differences in response to 'injury prevention' and other causes of illness or death. One related quote from the lecture was, "If Humpty Dumpty had drunk dirty water, and developed a runny stomach, the King's resources might have been able to get him back to good health." Dr. Kobusingye explained



that injury programs need to be resourced. Injury is a pandemic in Africa. The lecture also gave an analysis of ICC-U achievements and missed opportunities. The lecture was of great value, it was also an honor for CNIS to host Dr. Kobusingye during her visit to Vancouver.

Photo of: Dr. Olive Kobusingye at Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver.