

OPERATIVE REPORT

SUMMER /FALL 2012



What is CNIS? It is the 11% Solution



CNIS © 2012

Canadian Network for International Surgery

CNIS has been part of the reduced maternal mortality that has resulted in the eradication of the unlucky 13.

1 in 13 women no longer die from maternal related deaths, while 13% of the African population is no longer affected by an injury related death. The current rates in Africa are still high. CNIS is about surgery, which involves surgeons, obstetricians, anesthetists, non-physician clinicians and nurses working together within operating rooms, outpatient departments, case rooms, recovery rooms and health centers to save lives. In this horizontal strategy which incorporates prevention, pre-hospital and hospital care, CNIS contributes to overcoming obstetrical and traumatic morbidity and mortality in the world's poorest nations.

Eleven per cent of the disease burden requires surgery (Debas H, Gosselin R, et al in Disease control priorities in developing countries, NY 2006). To provide the 11% solution, CNIS educates professionals and provides infrastructure of high quality. CNIS has taken the position that if progress is to be made we must work with the health professionals in Africa and the Caribbean to improve everything. Our strategy is largely educational. What is CNIS? CNIS is a group of committed health professionals who understand that we offer a solution to 11 percent of the disease burden. If you can help the CNIS come up with a simplification of these complex issues we would appreciate it as we do need to market our cause and get the support of the community outside of the realm of health professionals.

Injury Control in Tanzania (TZ) Brain and C-Spine Course Pilot

Controlling injury is not a simple concept. ICCT with the support of CNIS conducts Trauma Team Training courses, First Aid courses and the emergency treatment of brain and spine injuries. The ICCT does surveillance of injury in 5 rural and one urban location in Tanzania. Information on injury is collected at places like Kigoma city on the shores of Tanzania.

Dr. Boniface the Director of ICCT is leading an occupational injury study in the mines of Tanzania, near Mt. Kilimanjaro. He collects data from the police reports and the doctors who treat the injuries. Injury control is conducted by clinicians in the operating room, teachers in the classroom and the data collectors both in the hospitals and in the community including the Tanzanite mines near Arusha.



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Portrait of Dr Livingstone. Stanely Morton pronounced the famous Dr. Livingstone I presume? At Ujiji, Kigoma I presume? At Ujiji, Kigoma when they first met.



R. Lett © 2012

Tanzanite Miners at Mererani in a barrel, with no protective gear where they stay 12 hours at a time. Recently 6 miners were killed when the cable snapped.

TZ - ER Resident opening a sheep's skull during the Head & C-Spine Trauma course in May 2012 led by Dr. Othman Wanini under the auspices of ICCT



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SORT (Safer Obstetrics in Rural Tanzania) Update

R. Fairfull-Smith © 2012



FIRST course skills session at Machame June 2012

The 3 year CIDA funded project Safer Obstetrics in Rural Tanzania (SORT) has now been conducted for 6 months. The lead target for this course are the Assistant Medical Officers (see page 2, FIRST Course which is also part of this project). In their two year program they will take ESS (Essential Surgical Skills), Emergency Obstetrics under the auspices of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (ALARM Course) and the CNIS Structured Operative Obstetrics. At this point ESS and ALARM have been taught to the first year AMO students in Moshi, Tanga and Mwanza. A total of 184 AMO

students have had their regular program augmented with the practical skills taught in the one week ESS and the one week ALARM course. The ESS and ALARM courses will be taught to 40 more students in Mbeya and then in the second year of their program these same students will receive the two week Structured Operative Obstetrics' course. The CNIS believes that by adding 3 weeks of CNIS structured skills training and one week of SOGC structured training to the AMO program, delivery will be safer in rural Tanzania.

Change of ESS Leadership - Dar es Salaam

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The new leadership in Dar es Salaam: Patron, Dr. Mabula Mchembe (far right), Director, Dr. Ally Mwanga (centre), Co-director, Dr. Larry Akoko (left)

When CNIS introduced Essential Surgical Skills in Dar in 2001, the program targeted the training of medical interns. Professor Naboth Mbembati was ESS director and later ESS Patron, a role he continued until 2011. Dr. Othman who became the ESS director, was succeeded for the past 8 years, Dr. Laurean Rwanyuma. This year the program will be integrated into the final year of medical school, transferring the program to Muhimbili Medical College. CNIS is grateful for the contributions of Drs. Mbembati, Othman and Rwanyuma to the ESS program. We are pleased that these surgeons will help CNIS teach three other structured surgical courses, and that our programs will benefit from their expertise.

With the move of ESS from the hospital to the medical college the leadership in Dar has also been changed. Surgical Head of Department Dr. Mabula Mchembe will be Patron. Dr. Ally Mwanga will be ESS director and Dr. Larry Akoko will be co-director. We welcome this new team. In May the CNIS conducted two ESS instructors courses a one day refresher for previous instructors and a three day course for new instructors. The CNIS has also signed a new memorandum of agreement. We expect that the ESS course which began more than a decade ago can continue with the new leadership with the strength of 25 certified instructors.

FIRST Course Conducted in Machame & Kibaha - Tanzania

Machame Hospital is one of the six clinical officer training schools in Tanzania. CNIS FIRST - Fundamental Interventions, Referral and Safe Transfer - course gives students basic skills in assessing patients, evaluating severity of illness, arranging for treatment or safe transfer.

In June 2012, CNIS ran the one-day instructor workshop for the local faculty, followed by a student workshop to a total of 41 students. The response was overwhelmingly positive and everyone felt that FIRST should be a permanent part of the curriculum. As one student said, "I graduate in three months. I now feel that I am ready to go out and use these skills with my patients."

In July a FIRST instructor's course was held in Kibaha followed by two courses for a total of 36 students. These students will be deployed as early as November to health centers throughout Tanzania where they will use their newly acquired skills. The CNIS has conducted evaluations of the student skills both before and after the courses and the results were very encouraging. The FIRST course program for clinical officers is part of the CIDA sponsored Safer Obstetrics in Rural Tanzania.

EOS Pilot

L. Woolford © 2012



Dr. Atuhairwe leads a skills session group - EOS Kampala April 2012

On April 2, 2012, CNIS launched the Essential Obstetric Skills course (EOS) at Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda with 5th year medical students. These students are in their last year of medical school before internship. The course was led by Dr. Lorraine Woolford (CNIS Obstetrical Associate) and Dr. Susan Obore (Structured Operative Obstetrics Course Director at Mulago Hospital). The one day course has been developed from the 4th day of the revised Essential Surgical Skills (ESS) Course.

Topics included normal delivery, vacuum-assisted deliveries, C/Section and management of miscarriage. The 24 students were divided into 4 groups of 6 each; they worked with an instructor on one topic at a time. The students were pleased with their experience; they hope, as we do, that there will be more EOS courses for medical students in the future.

BETHUNE ROUND TABLE 2012

We are proud to announce that the 12th annual Bethune Round table conference that was hosted by the Office of International Surgery in Toronto this year was a huge success. There were many international surgeons and trainees from countries around the world, including Nigeria, Ethiopia, Sudan, Guyana, Zambia, Rwanda, US and Canada.

The Bethune conference began with a special appearance by Dr. Louis Francescutti, President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. It covered a wide variety of topics relating to international surgery in developing and developed countries and the efforts made by the surgeons involved in Global Health Initiatives.

There were also scholarships awarded to 15 individuals who had exceptional abstract submissions. We look forward to seeing you at next year's 2013 Bethune Round table Conference hosted by CNIS in Vancouver!



Alice Simniceanu © 2012

Dr. Massey Beveridge speaking at the Bethune 2012 Banquet Dinner hosted at Massey College at UOT. Dr. Beveridge founded the Bethune Round Table

Canadian Capacity to Teach FIRST Courses

The CNIS just started to train instructors for the FIRST course. Initially ESS certified instructors were providing this service however the target for first Non Physician Clinicians and the course objective in particular referral and transfer are different from ESS. Dr. Bill Pollett the very first Canadian to be certified to teach FIRST took the instructors course with the Ethiopian participants in Mekele. On the Sunday after the Bethune Round table, five Canadians and 3 Nigerians became certified FIRST instructors. Although 6 certified Canadian FIRST instructors is not sufficient to conduct this program which is very active in Ethiopia and Tanzania it is a major increase from the previous count of none and does complement the African total which is over 50.

CNIS Portrait

Place of Surgical Care in International Development in Kelowna, BC

This one-day CNIS workshop was hosted on June 16 by the Department of Surgery, UBC-Okanagan and facilitated by Dr. Robert Taylor, CNIS surgical associate. The 13 participants represented 10 different surgical care disciplines, which made for an exciting and dynamic workshop:

- General surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopedics
- Obstetrics
- Thoracic surgery
- Surgical nursing
- Family practice
- Anaesthesiology
- Medical student
- Bio-medical engineering

Of the participants, those who are also members of OkaZHI (Okanagan Zambia Health Initiative) were especially grateful for the concepts of development covered in the workshop, as they are preparing for their strategic planning meeting for future direction in Zambia.

Many thanks to Dr. Kim Lefevre, Head of the Dept. of Surgery in Kelowna, for all his efforts in support of the workshop.

Meet Dr. Bob Hutchison Associate Clinical Professor, McMaster University



B. Hutchison © B. 2010

Dr Hutchison awards obstetrics instructor certificate to Dr. Wasswa Ssalongo, Mbarara Uganda, 2010.

Q1: When and why did you get involved?

A: In 2008. I had already been involved with teaching in Uganda and Haiti. The CNIS Obstetrical program presented a tremendous opportunity to further that.

Q2: What is your role with CNIS?

A: I have assisted with Obstetric courses in Canada, and Mbarara, Uganda.

Q3: Your most rewarding CNIS moment?

A: Helping with a course in Mbarara in February 2012, I could see how far they had progressed in having it an integral part of their Obstetric training. It has been a key component of efforts to enable a significant improvement in maternal mortality at the Mbarara University teaching hospital over last couple of years.

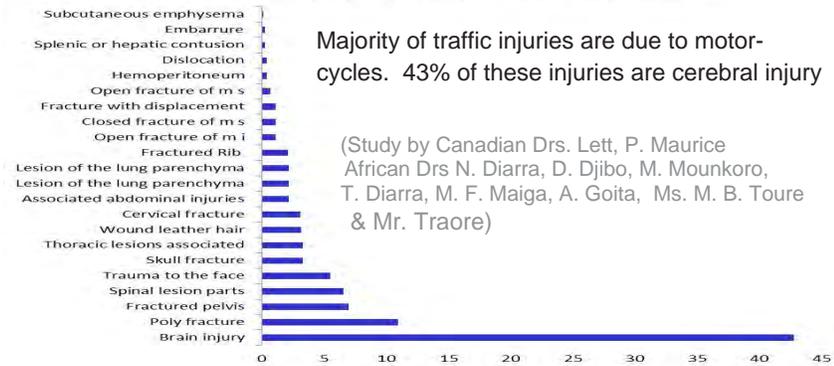
Q4: What should people know about us?

A: A great organization with a vision to increase Surgical/Obstetric capacity with host countries and teaching centres. There are still many countries worldwide with challenges in Surgical and Obstetric care. They have to be enabled and encouraged to carry on this work and assist their neighbours.

Q5: Do you have advice for others interested in volunteering with CNIS?

A: It's been a privilege to be involved in these opportunities which are clearly having an impact. The challenges and rewards can only enhance your career.

Distribution of all Trauma Injuries in Mali



Majority of traffic injuries are due to motor-cycles. 43% of these injuries are cerebral injury

(Study by Canadian Drs. Lett, P. Maurice African Drs N. Diarra, D. Djibo, M. Mounkoro, T. Diarra, M. F. Maiga, A. Goita, Ms. M. B. Toure & Mr. Traore)



African youth model during the CNIS African Market 2012

M. Pierre © 2012

M. Li © 2012

CNIS African Market 2012 August 25, 2012



A snap shot of some of the activity at the CNIS African Market 2012

The annual CNIS African Market 2012 was yet another successful blend of cultures. An inclusive event for the entire family, there were a variety of activities on the go.

It was vibrant, energetic and representative of various regions of Africa (Clara Amaguru a vendor at the market). For over 10 years, CNIS has organized an annual African market to showcase African goods, culture/ art, and other NGOs that work in Africa. This year's annual market drew an estimated 500 attendees from all over the lower mainland. Silent auction items were donated by Margaret Acton (Makonde art work), Semperviva Yoga, Shoppers Drug Mart, Science World, Big Bus Tours, Steve Nash Fitness World among others.

\$2,400 funds raised from the African Market will go towards course activity in Ethiopia and Uganda. Silent auction items are available at the CNIS office; contact us for more information. As one participant well summarized it "awesome food, friendly people, good music, fun environment" you may want to plan to join our next year's annual market.

K. Caparas © 2012

On the Cutting Edge

- **Michael Tarbotton (November 2, 1946 - April 8, 2012)** It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of CNIS supporter and friend, Michael Tarbotton. Mike was a passionate engineer who founded and ran the Vancouver-based coastal engineering firm Triton Consultants Ltd. for 25 years. He was happiest in the outdoors, a devoted member of the St. Philips Choir and always ready for a spirited debate. Mike will be greatly missed by his family and community and always be remembered as a dear friend, respected mentor and generous soul. In lieu of flowers, donations were suggested for Mike's favorite charity, CNIS. Over 40 people made donations in his memory.
- **We're Twinning again!** - CNIS will once again 'twin' 8 Canadian elementary schools with 8 schools in Axum Ethiopia through the Canada/Ethiopia Twinning Project. The participants will start exchanging letters and drawings once school is back in the fall. For more information, please go to www.twinningproject.com. Or contact the Twinning Coordinator Lorne Braun at lbraun@cnis.ca
- **In memory** - Donations to CNIS were made by staff in memory of Ian Elkin, of Winnipeg, Manitoba. (1947-2012) Ian was the brother of CNIS accountant, Barry Elkin.
- **UBC Online Graduate surgical courses** - SURG 510 - Surgical Care in International Health and SURG 512 - Global Disability: a surgical care mandate. September 2012. For more details: www.internationalsurgery.ubc.ca
- **African Market Volunteers:** CNIS wishes to thank Caroline Pao, Oluwakemi Adebola Adekeye and all the volunteers for their dedication to the African Market 2012. It is the concerted effort of our volunteers that contribute to the lifesaving work that we do in Africa.
- **Citizenship Announcement:** Congratulations to CNIS Project Support Jackline Omondi and her family on becoming Canadian citizens, August 10th, 2012!
- **Wedding Announcement:** Bersumihret Taddese, Program Assistant at our Ethiopia office, will marry Zekarias Workalemahu on October 6, 2012. Best wishes and long lasting joy to the weds!

SUPPORT OUR ESSENTIAL SURGICAL SKILLS COURSE

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ORGANIZATIONAL: \$500
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT

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Project Support: Jackie Omondi MA
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CNIS BENEFIT

7.00 PM November 9, 2012
Science World, Vancouver, BC

CNIS AGM 2012 November 9-10, 2012 in Vancouver BC

CNIS donors: Canadian International Development Agency, Harbinger Foundation, Donner Canadian Foundation, Bob and Judy Hager Family Fund, The Rotary Clubs of Oakville Trafalgar ON and White Rock, BC, CNIS Organizational and Individual Members and Friends of CNIS.

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