

# OPERATIVE REPORT

SPRING 2018



## Highlights of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting

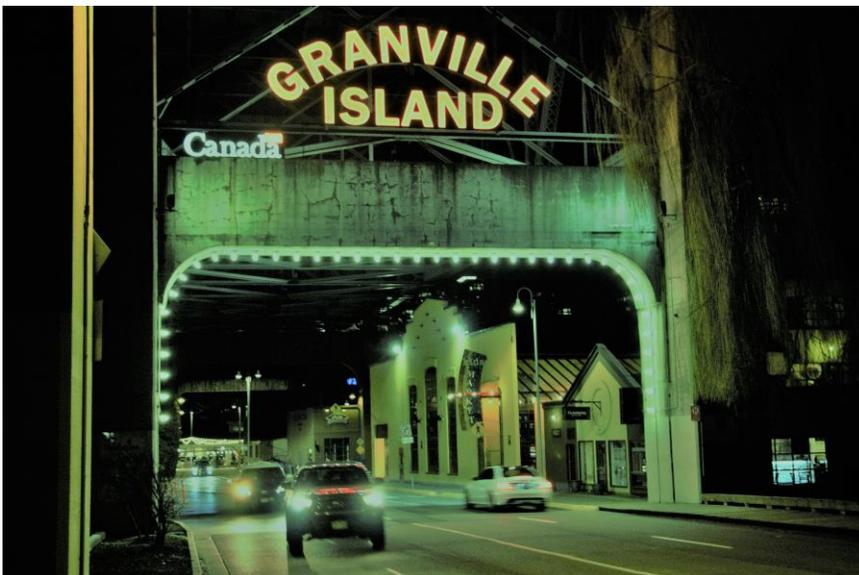
On November 10, 2017, CNIS held its 23<sup>rd</sup> AGM and Planning Session in Vancouver. The UBC Department of Surgery generously provided CNIS with a meeting space for the event at Vancouver General Hospital. Thanks to the facility's online video conferencing capabilities and the IT support of Albert Ho and Wahid Nabi, CNIS Board Chair Dr. Andrew Howard was able to preside over the proceedings remotely. Three board members also participated via the room's large screen, in addition to one participant by teleconference.

CNIS's 2018 budget was approved during the meetings, and Edmonton was selected as the site for the 2019 Bethune Round Table. CNIS also said a fond farewell to longstanding board member Dr. Angela Enright, who completed her final term as the representative from CASIEF (Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society International Education Foundation) and is now moving into retirement. Over her years with CNIS, Dr. Enright played an invaluable role in fostering connections with the anesthesiology community in Canada and overseas.

The afternoon's Strategic Planning Session focused on CNIS's roadmap for course digitization and on alternative funding sources in an era of declining federal support for international development. The session also included an enthusiastic discussion of the possibilities for more productive national-level coordination of global surgery initiatives, as well as the need to create and strengthen linkages between surgery, obstetrics, and anesthesia. Numerous attendees highlighted the important role of CNIS in this work.



Dr. Andrew Howard chairs the CNIS annual meeting in Vancouver by video conference from Toronto.



## New home on Granville Island

With multiple projects underway and an expanding staff, CNIS relocated early in 2018 to a larger office. Situated in a refurbished warehouse on Vancouver's Granville Island, the CNIS headquarters now boasts desk space for four regular staff members, two additional workstations, a large closet for equipment storage, and a multipurpose area for meetings, simulator sewing, and classroom teaching. The staff are enjoying getting to know their lively new neighbourhood and look forward to welcoming visitors.

*Join us for our open house on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, from 4-6pm.*

## “It’s Not Rocket Science... It’s Brain Surgery”

This past fall, more than 70 lively CNIS supporters attended “It’s Not Rocket Science... It’s Brain Surgery,” a fundraising dinner in support of CNIS’s Traumatic Brain and Spine Injury (TBSI) training program. Harambe Ethiopian Restaurant on Vancouver’s Commercial Drive provided a warm and cheerful venue for the event.

The evening began with an Order of Canada reception honouring CNIS members who have received the OC: Drs. Angela Enright, Jan Christilaw, Norgrove Penny, and Robert Taylor. Dr. Sam Bugis, CNIS Vice Chair, then spoke on his experiences as a professional volunteer for the organization. Dr. Gary Redekop, head of UBC’s Department of Surgery, received the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award for his contributions to the development and implementation of the TBSI course, and for his behind-the-scenes support of CNIS. Lorelei Robins, CNIS’s seamstress, was awarded an honorary life membership for the countless hours she has put into sewing simulation models for CNIS training. Guests contributed generously during a spirited live auction, and CNIS’s T-shirts sold in good numbers.



CNIS’s Order of Canada recipients (from left): Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Norgrove Penny, Dr. Angela Enright, and Dr. Jan Christilaw.



Guests from UBC’s Department of Surgery, including Dr. Gary Redekop (left) and Dr. Brian Westerberg (right), enjoy the CNIS fundraising dinner.



The Bondi and Harbinger foundations are supporting the completion of the TBSI module for CNIS’s Mobile Optimized Skills Training (MOST) program, while the Donner Canadian Foundation has provided new funds for Phase I of SOO module development.

### Three family foundations and St. Thomas Anglican Church support CNIS

Three family foundations have demonstrated their continuing support of CNIS in the form of new funding for digital projects. CNIS’s TBSI app has moved into its next phase of development thanks to the backing of the Bondi and Harbinger foundations, while the Donner Canadian Foundation has given CNIS the opportunity to begin phase I of obstetrical curriculum digitization.

Meanwhile, CNIS’s midwifery training in Tanga, Tanzania, has been sustained through new funding from Vancouver’s St. Thomas Anglican Church. CNIS may also have the opportunity to bring its obstetrical training and digitization work to Benue State, Nigeria, with new funding. More information about this project to come in the next newsletter.

## Rural Canadian doctors complete SOO Instructor course

In January 2018, Drs. Jan Christilaw and Rebeca Rivera conducted a Structured Operative Obstetrics Instructor’s course (SOO-I) in Banff, Alberta. The course took place during the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada meeting, and was an addendum to their Enhanced Surgical Skills course. Dr. Christilaw also gave a plenary talk to all 80 meeting attendees about CNIS’s history, mandate, and ongoing work.

The SOO-I class was full, with a total of eight students. The participants were rural doctors from Western Canada, representing four different provinces. It was a great day enjoyed by all, full of laughter and enthusiastic discussion. There is a natural affinity between CNIS and this group of highly motivated and passionate doctors, and we look forward to future opportunities to work together.

*By Dr. Jan Christilaw*



Dr. Jan Christilaw (left) and Dr. Rebeca Rivera (fourth from left) with their SOO-I students in Banff.



Hard at work in Banff.

## CNIS completes curriculum review for South Sudan

Over the winter months, CNIS technical experts completed a curriculum review for the Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM)’s Global Program, Strengthening Midwifery in South Sudan (Phase II). CNIS’s Director of Curriculum Development, Dr. Ronald Lett, and Director of Women’s Health, Dr. Jan Christilaw, developed a curriculum in emergency obstetrics and surgery for medical doctors, drawing on, enriching, and refining CNIS’s highly respected training materials in these areas.

The CAM work is part of a larger capacity building project, Strengthening Midwifery Services (SMS) (Phase 2), which is being led by the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) in partnership with South Sudan’s Ministry of Health. SMS is supported by Global Affairs Canada and the Swedish International Development Agency.

## African Partner of the Year

For his solid partnership in Tanzania over many years, Dr. Respicious Boniface has been awarded CNIS’s African Partner of the Year Award. Dr. Boniface has served as the longtime director of Injury Control Centre – Tanzania (ICC-T), playing an important role in making injury prevention a priority in the country. He has also organized numerous installments of CNIS’s Trauma Team Training (TTT) course for medical professionals in rural hospitals. Dr. Boniface is the current director of Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute in Dar es Salaam.



Dr. Respicious Boniface

## CNIS welcomes new staff and board members

In support of its expanding mobile app development program, CNIS has hired a Chief Technology Officer, Mr. Gavin Thornton. Mr. Thornton comes to CNIS from Conquer Mobile, where he was involved in the initial development of CNIS's Traumatic Brain and Spine Injury (TBSI) training app. His role at CNIS will be to actively plan and implement the organization's technology initiative, which has expanded to include the digitization of its obstetrical curriculum in addition to the refinement and further development of the TBSI app. A full version of the digital TBSI course is expected in 2018 on mobile phones and tablets, followed closely by other CNIS courses.



New staff and board members (left to right):  
Mr. Gavin Thornton, Ms. Kathy O'Donoghue, and Dr. Lauren Zolpys

CNIS is also welcoming two new members to its board. Ms. Kathy O'Donoghue, who chairs CNIS's Digital Advisory Committee, brings her extensive expertise in IT project management to CNIS, and will play an important role in steering the technology initiative. Dr. Lauren Zolpys, an anesthesiologist with the Vancouver Island Health Authority and a clinical instructor in the UBC Department of Anesthesiology, comes to CNIS as the new representative for CASIEF (the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society International Education Foundation).

## Reminders

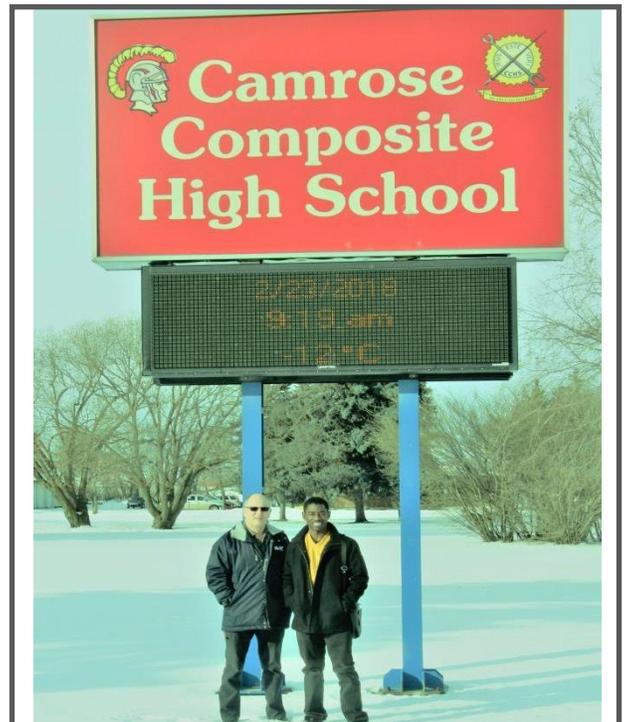
**Bethune Round Table with Post-Bethune Trauma Team Training Instructors (TTT-I) course**  
**DATE:** May 25 - 27, 2018, TTT-I workshop: May 27, 2018  
**LOCATION:** Toronto, Ontario

**JOIN THE CNIS or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**  
 Individual Memberships: \$100 (regular), \$50 (students & seniors)  
 Organizational Membership: \$1000  
 Membership payments can be made online at [www.cnis.ca/how-to-help/become-a-member](http://www.cnis.ca/how-to-help/become-a-member), or by mail: #212-1650 Duranleau Street, Vancouver, BC, V6H 3S4.

CNIS is a registered charity. Please donate.

**CANADIAN NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL SURGERY**

Phone: 604-739-4708  
 Email: office@cnis.ca  
 Website: www.cnis.ca  
 Chair: Dr. Andrew Howard  
 CEO: Dr. Ronald Lett  
 Director of Women's Health: Dr. Jan Christilaw  
 Chief Technology Officer: Gavin Thornton  
 Administrator: Maia Joseph  
 Accountant: Sung Yang  
 Web Admin: Adrian Soltani



Leroy Johnson and Roy Wallace pictured in Camrose, Alberta, at -12 degrees Centigrade. They have been working on the development of a joint initiative between CNIS and the Rotary Clubs of Camrose and Tanga, Tanzania, to build a surgical skills laboratory at the Assistant Medical Officers Training Centre in Tanga. The contrast in temperature could hardly be more dramatic as Tanga, on the Indian Ocean, frequently reaches 40 degrees Centigrade. CNIS appreciates the contribution and effort of the two Rotary Clubs in this endeavour.