



# OPERATIVE REPORT



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## CNIS MEETS MINISTER WHELAN

Dr. Ronald Lett, CNIS President and Dr. Vic Neufeld, CNIS Board Direct met with Susan Whelan, Minister for International Relations, at the CIDA Head Quarters on October 30, 2002. Dr. Lett had the opportunity to describe the CNIS ESS and Injury prevention programs including the Gulu School Project to the minis-

ter and the details of the partnerships developed with African colleagues over the last 7 years. Dr. Neufeld described how the CNIS as a learning organization was consistent with CIDA's new emphasis on its knowledge base. Minister Whelan was supportive of the good work of the CNIS, and asked questions about



*Ronald Lett, Minister Susan Whelan and Vic Neufeld at CIDA*

the current 3 year CNIS proposal. She learned about the imminent opportunities to sustain the CNIS work through the linkage of the ESS program to the College of Surgeons of East, Central Southern Africa and designation of the ICC-Uganda as a WHO collaborating Center.

Phil Hassen CNIS Chair and Ontario Deputy Minister of *Health and Long Term Care* spoke to the minister by phone following this meeting and noted that she was very supportive of the continuity of the work of the CNIS.

## PEACE BUILDING CURRICULUM FOR GULU SCHOOL CHILDREN

The CNIS together with the ICC-U has demonstrated that injury mortality is 700% higher in Gulu district than elsewhere in Uganda. Seventy five per cent of these injuries are intentional and almost 1/4 of injury deaths occur at schools. Not all of these deaths are children as schools are battle grounds between the rebels and the national army with children being a kidnapping target. The kidnapped children are used as porters, soldiers and sex slaves. There has been a lot of emphasis on the child soldier but little has been done for the average Gulu Child.

The CNIS has been funded by CIDA's peacebuilding Unit to evaluate a non-violent conflict resolution curriculum for children in primary 5. Our initial evaluation of these children is that they are all much more traumatized than expected and that all of the children of Gulu are war affected not just the child soldiers. This project will evaluate injury, violence and attitudes before and after the intervention. First aid kits and training will be provided for 6 schools. If this

curriculum proves successful a recommendation for implementation throughout Uganda is likely. In October a combined CNIS and ICC-U team initiated this project with Carol Magambo of Burnaby assessing the needs of the children by conducting focus group discussions with students, teachers and community leaders. Martin Ogwang and Milton Mutto are implementing the injury and violence surveillance as well as the first aid components of the program. Shannon Tito of Langley BC will be preparing the curriculum and implement the teacher training in March 2003.

The basic tenant of this work is that if the cycle of violence that has been going on in Gulu for 17 years is to stop an understanding that there are alternative to violence in resolution of conflict needs to be understood. It maybe too late to teach the present leadership in Uganda but we have hope that the next generation can learn this lesson and end the cycle. [See Gulu Pictures on page 4]

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

A bequest was received from the estate of Mrs. Dorothy C. Stuve (1912-1999) a long time member of the CNIS. A donation was made in the name of Mr. Stan Bradshaw (1923-2002) of Prince George BC also a supporter of the CNIS. The CNIS would like to publicly honor these individuals and appreciates the memorial gifts which will further our work

## TORONTO HOSTS CNIS AGM

The CNIS held its Annual General Meeting in Toronto on Sunday, November 3, 2002. On the Friday evening leading up to the AGM, the members of the CNIS Board of Directors had reception at the home of board member Mike Wansbrough.

On Saturday the CNIS Stakeholders and the CNIS Board of Directors had a workshop focused on the issues of surgical development, cross cutting themes, CIDA's new policy statement on Making a Difference in the World (particularly the focus on Africa), and CIDA's policy on Health and Nutrition (concerned especially with pandemic prevention concepts). This was a pilot of the material that will be used in upcoming CNIS public engagement activities.

At the Annual CNIS Banquet, which took place on Saturday evening, Phil Hassen, Chair of the CNIS Board of Directors, presented the CNIS Annual Lecture. Following this, Dr. Ronald Lett presented a talk on the CNIS/ICCU Gulu School Project.

The CNIS banquet was attended by 60 people and raised over 5000 dollars in ticket sales. Attendees included members of the Toronto Sick Kids, the Canadian Association of General Surgeons, the Royal College of Surgeons, the University of Toronto, numerous Ethiopian Professionals, Harbinger and Lawson Foundation and McMaster University.

At the AGM on Sunday, audited Financial Statements were reviewed by the board. Moreover, 4 board members were re-elected for 2 year terms (Vic Neufeld, Mike Wansbrough, Phil Hassen, Gwen Hollaar). Doug Wallis CA, who was appointed last year, was elected for his first 2 year term, and Antoine Loutfi from Montreal was elected for his first 2 year term. Laeora Berkson from Montreal stepped down after 4 years on the Board, and Shannon Tito of Langley, British Columbia, has a second year left in his term.

The CNIS AGM passed a bylaw which increases the flexibility of the Board. The CNIS is now required to have a Board of Directors with no fewer than 7 members and no more than 9, with a quorum of at least 50%. This allows the CNIS to increase the skill set of the board over the next year when opportunity presents.

Dr. J. Meakins, Head of Surgery at McGill, who has just been appointed head of Surgery at Oxford University was awarded CNIS Honorary Life membership.

## CANADIANS WHO MADE IT HAPPEN!!!



Suehila Elkateb CIDA Project Officer, CNIS Gulu Project; Dr. J. Meakins, Honorary Life Member; Dr. Laeora Berkson, 4-years Service.



CNIS Board Development Workshop; (left) Phil Hassen, CNIS Chair & Ontario Deputy Minister of Health, delivers CNIS Annual Lecture



Yvonne Chin mobilizes the membership; Abeer Al-Sayyed assists Elizabeth Schaefer in the Vancouver Office; (Below) CNIS Banquet Toronto





## ESSENTIAL SURGICAL SKILLS UPDATE

The ESS program which began in Ethiopia in 1994 is now conducted by 7 surgical departments in 4 African countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda) with expansion plans for Tanzania. ESS is supported by the Canadian Network for International Surgery. The objectives are to teach management and technical skills to primary care practitioners. Management skills are taught with case based studies and the technical skills using manikins and animal material. More than 3000 students have taken ESS and 150 African specialists are qualified as instructors.

The African Canadian Committee for ESS (ACC-ESS) was initiated in Malawi (2000) and met again in Uganda (2001). ACC-ESS evaluates course content and sets management policies. One policy is that expansion will be within ASEA. The third meeting of ACC-ESS will be co-chaired by Drs. Lett and Derege and take place in Addis Ababa December 7th and 8th. A joint meeting of ACC-ESS and COSECSA is planned for December 7th to establish formal links between ACC-ESS and COSECSA.

If ESS is to be sustained, an African base is required. The President and Secretary of COSECSA and the co-Chairs of ACC-ESS have agreed to explore this possibility. The expectation is that the linkage will be mutually beneficial.

## GUEST EDITOR



Dan Kashagama is the General Secretary of the *African Unification Front* AUF, and Chair of the *African Canadian Association of British Columbia*. Kashagama is a former Executive Associate at the CNIS.

The AUF is a leading Pan African organization which promotes popular participation in unity efforts, policy coherence in international relations, and human & community rights in the **African Union**. The AUF is a major resource for international development efforts, and for Overseas Development Assistance ODA reforms. The AUF manages a network of websites, including the official AUF internet website: [www.africanfront.com](http://www.africanfront.com). Email [kashagama@yahoo.com](mailto:kashagama@yahoo.com)

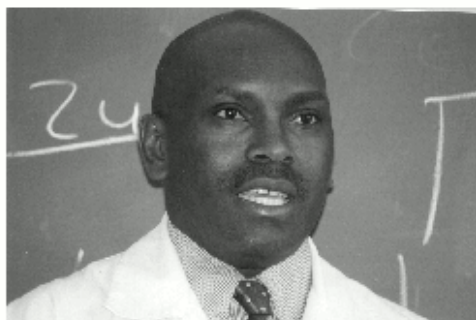
## TWO ESS WORKSHOPS IN MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

Two ESS workshops were held in Maputo in September. The first was an ESS instructors workshop. The last instructors workshop was held in Mozambique in 1998, therefore it was important to replenish and maintain the capacity for this program. The instructors workshop was conducted by Dr. Ronald Lett with the assistance of Mozambique ESS patron Dr. Jose Langa and Mozambique ESS director Dr. Antonio Assis. Ten instructors were certified which will assure the continuity of the program.

The following week in Maputo the newly qualified instructors under the direction of Dr. Assis conducted an ESS workshop for 40 final year medical students. The course was well received and appreciated by the students who practiced the 25 patient management exercises and 40 life saving skills. It has been gratifying for the CNIS to have worked with our colleagues in Mozambique for the last 4 years and the prospects for the future are bright.



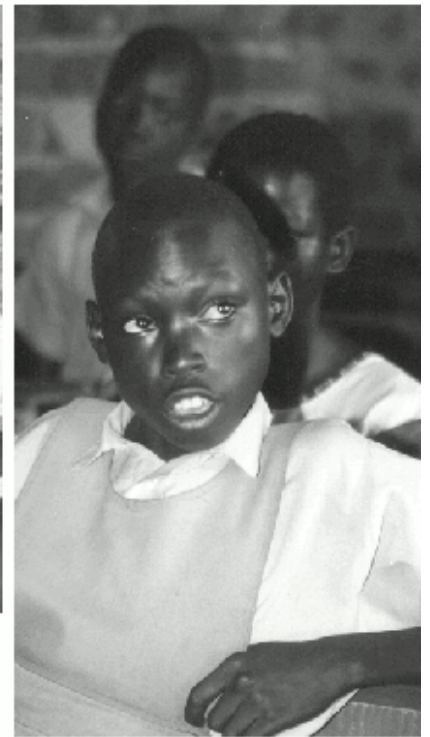
(above) ESS medical students Maputo; (left) Dr. Antonio Assis, ESS Director; (right) Dr. Vicente, Dr. Ernestina practice teaching instructors workshop



## PICTURES OF CNIS AND ICCU AT GULU



Sharon translates for Carol Magambo, [center left] CNIS Research Associate, at Lacor Primary School, as she learns about the experience of children in war-torn Gulu, in Uganda. [Right] Primary 5 girl at Kora School, Gulu, participates in Student Focus Group.



Parents and teachers of the Primary Five students [left] are contributing to the curriculum content through focus group discussions. Milton Mutto of ICCU and Dr. Martin Ogwang of Lacor Hospital [middle left] are responsible for the injury surveillance and First Aid components of the project. Headlines in Ugandan newspapers [right] in October 2002.



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Individual Memberships: 50 dollars  
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To the ESS, INJURY CONTROL or SCHOOL PROJECTS  
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CIDA and are tax deductible.