In May 2003, the CNIS signed a 5-year agreement with the Harbinger Foundation to support the Capacity Building and Exit Strategy for the Injury Control Center in Uganda (ICC-U). After discussions that took place over the first 6 months of the year, the CNIS, the Harbinger Foundation and the ICC-U came up with and agreed on a strategy that will allow the ICC-U to become a self-sufficient and independent NGO by the end of the agreement. During the 5 years, building the capacity of the ICC-U will include the upgrading of organizational governance and the financial systems, by increasing the scientific capacity and the logistic capacity, by establishing a digitally-based resource centre and by making the surveillance system national, all within the context of a progress proactive monitoring strategy. In the first year, as part of the Harbinger agreement, two CNIS board members will volunteer their time and share their expertise with the ICC-U. Mr. Phil Hassen, deputy minister of health in Ontario and past chair of the CNIS will go to Uganda to work on the governance of the ICC-U. Mr. Doug Wallis, C.A will work with the ICC-U to help upgrade their financial systems. We would like to thank the Harbinger Foundation, and in particular Gwyn Wansbrough, the Executive Director, for their continued support.

A New Executive for IPIFA

On July 16th, at the 2003 Annual General Meeting, IPIFA - The Injury Prevention Initiative for Africa-elected a new executive. To ensure a smooth transition to a new executive, IPIFA used a strategy of continuity with the former executive, using the strength of the steering committee but also including new participants. Former treasurer Fatma Hassan (Egypt) was elected president, long standing steering committee member Wilson Odero (Kenya), was elected as Secretary General and the newest country representative Babatunde Solagberu (Nigeria) was elected as treasurer. The secretariat of IPIFA remains located at the Injury Control Center Uganda. This succession was an important step in the sustainability of this 6 year-old organization. The continental mandate that IPIFA assumes required expansion to West Africa which after 6 years, has been achieved with the addition of Nigeria. The steering committee now includes representatives from 9 African countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) which together, with one representative for associate members, brings the total number to 10.
A structured clinical hernia course was developed and piloted in Kampala Uganda last July. This June the course was conducted in Mbarara in Western Uganda and Jinja in Eastern Uganda. The 5 day course has one day of lectures, one day of stimulated surgical experience followed by 3 days of supervised surgery on actual patients. The course participants are interns who when posted to district hospitals will be expected to perform this surgery. The evaluations of the course demonstrated it to be highly effective. We therefore expect that the participants who completed the course will be able to appropriately choose hernia cases to perform and to competently repair small and moderate hernias. The course is cost shared by CIDA and the Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta. Gwen Hollaar of Calgary is the Alberta representative for the Wild Rose funding. Patrick Kyamanywa and Philip Anyama organized the courses in Mbarara and Jinja respectfully. The next course will be conducted in Mbarara in January with Uganda surgeons from Kampala, Jinja as well as Mbarara.

ESS was developed in Jimma, Ethiopia in 1994 before the 1995 inauguration of the CNIS. Therefore, Ethiopia is the country with which CNIS has its longest standing partnership. Each year all 160 graduates of the three medical schools (Addis Ababa, Gondor and Jimma) take the ESS course. The program is conducted in Addis by Dr. Mulat, in Gondor by Dr. Mensur and in Jimma by Dr. Abraham. In addition to the substantive output of ESS in Ethiopia there are several other collaborative activities. Drs Mulat and Mensur have completed an evaluation of small arms injury in Addis and Gondor as part of a multi-country study. Dr. Firdwasa Mohammed is doing a study of the barriers for women in surgery in Ethiopia and Dr. Girmaye Tamrat is doing a study of the barriers to surgical care for patients at St Paul’s Hospital in Addis and in Gondor. The constructive partnerships with Ethiopia are leading to improved surgical capacity in this country as well as an improved understanding of the complexities of the causes and management of surgical disorders in a low income country.
The CNIS African Market Dinner and Dance event was held May 4th, 2003 at the Heritage Hall on Main Street, in Vancouver. The Ethiopian dinner was catered by Fassil Restaurant and the music was performed by Doundounba, a West African Drum and Dance ensemble. During the evening a silent auction of African arts and crafts took place, and a number of CNIS volunteers received certificates of recognition for their valuable contribution and support to the organization. The CNIS would like to thank all the volunteers who helped organize the event and who worked very hard that night...you made it a success! Thank you!

Kwasi, selling African drums and other percussion instruments.

Rekiya (below), from Fassil Ethiopian Restaurant, performed a traditional coffee ceremony.

Aboubacar Camara the lead signer of Doundounba, played the balafon and gave a good dance performance.

Carol Magambo (above), a CNIS professional volunteer, gave a presentation on her work in Gulu, a war-torn district of Uganda. Carol also received a certificate of recognition for her involvement and support of the CNIS.

Doug Wallis, the CNIS Finance and Fundraising committee chair presented certificates of recognition to CNIS volunteers.

Dr. Henry Litherland (right) and his team, received a certificate for their involvement in the Surgical Equipment and supplies project.

Elizabeth Schaefer, (left) the CNIS administrative Assistant was very busy welcoming guests and selling tickets at the door.
Public Engagement Workshop & Banquet in Montreal

“The Place of Surgery in International Development”
On Saturday November 1st 2003, at the Hotel OMNI Mont-Royal in Montreal, the CNIS will be holding its second Public Engagement workshop. The objective of the workshop it to gain a better understanding of international development with a focus on international surgery. The workshop, which is free of charge, is open to anyone interested in development issues and international surgery. Places are limited, so call soon to reserve a spot. In the evening the CNIS will be holding its Annual Banquet. Come and join us. Learn more about Africa through the eyes of a surgeon. For more information on these events or to reserve a place/purchase tickets, please contact Geneviève at the CNIS office at (604) 739-4708 or via email at coordinator@cnis.ca

**ANNOUNCEMENT - CNIS AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of the CNIS will be held on Sunday November 2nd, 2003 starting at 9:00 am at the Hotel OMNI Mont-Royal in Montreal, Quebec. All CNIS members are invited to attend.

Dr. Olive Kobusingye, who has been the director of the ICC-U for over five years, has recently accepted a position as the Regional Advisor on Disability, Injury, Prevention and Rehabilitation at AFRO, the WHO Reg. Office for Africa in Brazzaville. Dr. Kobusingye was also the first Secretary General of IPIFA. The CNIS wishes her all the best and much success in her new role. She will be truly missed. Good Luck! Dr. Kobusingye's successor takes office October 1st.

On July 15th, Dr. Vic Neufeld represented the CNIS at a meeting between the Canadian Government and NGOs to discuss the Canadian response around the crisis in Northern Uganda and to identify policy options for the Canadian Government as well as a plan of action for Canadian NGOs.

The CNIS has invited two new members to join its Committees. Andrew Howard, a general practitioner at the Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto will join the CNIS Program Committee and Deborah Folka a PR and Communications specialist will join the Finance and Fundraising Committee to help the CNIS with its fundraising and Public engagement activities.

**JOIN THE CNIS or RENEW MEMBERSHIP**

Individual Memberships: $50.00
Student Memberships: $25.00
Organizational Membership: $500.00
DONATE
To the ESS, INJURY CONTROL or SCHOOL PROJECTS online or by post. All donations and memberships are matched by CIDA and are tax deductible.