The CNIS is pleased to announce that the retired General Romeo Dallaire has agreed to be the guest speaker at a special event, which will be held in conjunction with the University of Toronto Centre for International Health and Office for International Surgery on Friday, October 13th. The event will take place in The Great Hall, Hart House, located in the University of Toronto, starting at 7:00 pm; the CNIS hopes that it will provide both an opportunity to hear General Dallaire speak and a chance to raise the profile of the CNIS. If you wish to attend, visit uofttix.ca or call (416) 978-8849. Admission is forty dollars for regular tickets, twenty dollars for students, and one hundred dollars for CNIS patrons. A welcoming reception will precede the evening program. The CNIS certainly hopes to see you there!

The CNIS would like to say how much it appreciates its members all across the country. Thank you very much for your ongoing support, which invariably helps us carry out our work in Africa. At this current time, however, the CNIS would ask you to consider renewing your individual, student, or organizational membership, for we are in between projects and not receiving core funding from CIDA at the moment. We are in the midst of working toward applying for new grants and funds, so we ask for your help in keeping our vital programs running. Once again, the CNIS greatly appreciates your support.

As of June 30th, the CNIS has completed its latest African Development Project, which began two years ago with the goal of controlling injury and improving surgical care in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi, and Mozambique. Over the course of this project, students and clinicians were not only provided with ESS training, but capacity was also built by training health professionals in the teaching of ESS skills to their own students. In addition, workshops were put on specifically for the training of hernia repair, which constitutes up to 50% of surgical emergencies in those countries. Currently in production are ESS student manuals and DVDs, with the video footage taken in actual learning centers in Africa. On the injury control front, the CNIS launched an injury prevention program for schools in Kawempe that included such things as training teachers in first aid and improving the physical environment through low-cost modifications. A traffic safety program was also implemented, which promoted sensitization to traffic wardens and established zebra crossings and speed bumps. TTT (Trauma Team Training) instructors’ and providers’ courses were also conducted in Ethiopia and Tanzania. Of particular significance to this project was the advent of Tanzania’s first Injury Control Center office (ICCT), which has been established and since made fully-functional.
GULU PEACEBUILDING PROJECT COMPLETED!

The CNIS has also completed its Gulu Peacebuilding Project, which has worked to promote non-violent conflict resolution in schools where the students have only known war and conflict. The project accomplished a number of things, including equipping 50 schools with first aid kits, providing 180 teachers with first aid training, providing 100 teachers with trauma counseling training, and revising the school curriculum to teach non-violent conflict resolution. The curriculum has been implemented in 50 schools, attended by approximately 60,000 students. Public engagement was also an important part of this project: in Uganda, public dialogues were held to sensitize local leaders and the general public to the project’s aims and in Vancouver, the CNIS put on a workshop entitled “Teaching teachers to teach International Development”. The hope is that advocates of peacebuilding, whether they be teachers or policymakers, might be inspired to continue where the project has left off.

INNOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

As part of the Innovation Project, the CNIS’s long-term goal is to set up surgical learning centers at six universities in Ethiopia, which are located in Addis Ababa, Gondor, Jimma, Alemaya, Mekele, and Debub University at Awassa. Renovations on Addis Ababa University’s learning center have recently been completed, and renovations are about to start on Jimma University’s learning center. In August, Dr. Ronald Lett will be traveling to Harar, Ethiopia, to conduct an ESS workshop for Alemaya University, and over the subsequent few months (October to December, 2006), the CNIS has a number of things planned, which include conducting an ESS workshop in Mekele, furnishing the lab in Jimma, and renovating Gondor University’s surgical learning center.

Ehh, What’s up Doc?

Dr. Robert Taylor has just returned after spending one year in Sri Lanka working with the International Red Cross. He is again involved in public engagement for the CNIS.

In Vancouver, the African languages club has started to meet once a week, with Amharic & Swahili groups meeting on alternate Thursday evenings. These meetings are open to African language speakers and to those interested in learning either Amharic or Swahili.

Dr. Gwen Hollaar, Dr. Ronald Lett, and Dr. Robert Taylor will be participating in the 2006 Canadian Surgery Forum, which will be held September 7-10 in Calgary. They will present on various aspects of International Surgery.

Dr. Tarek Razek has just returned from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania after conducting an ESS Instructors’ Workshop. The workshop, which ran from July 19-21 was well received. (Left: Dr. Tarek Razek and the Tanzanian colleagues who took the Instructors’ course)

Please Note that the Operative Report will be available to you by email.

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