CNIS has expanded its reach to Francophone Africa. Mali, in West Africa, and Rwanda, in East Africa, are the most recent collaborators in the CNIS’ Essential Surgical Skills (ESS™) project. This expansion has been made possible because of the CIDA expanded funding and the participation of Francophone Quebec surgeons.

The Quebec doctors who have the language necessary for Mali and Rwanda like all other CNIS ESS™ volunteers take the ESS™ instructors course.

This recent development presents itself with various opportunities as well as challenges. The opportunity to involve both our official languages to help more people, exhibits how achieving our mandate is possible through adequate resources, innovation and dedication. The CNIS is now facing the challenge of getting all its ESS™ materials translated into French. This is not a trivial exercise as the issue is not French but medical French.

The program has been well received in both Mali and Rwanda. The CNIS looks forward to implementing this broader mandate in Africa with its partners in French Canada.

These partnerships means that CNIS is now a truly national organization.

CNIS’ peace-building program has been adopted by students and teachers in a creative and unexpected way. Song and drama are often used as venues for expression and are important instruments for communication and education in places where educational material is limited. With the help of their supportive teacher, students "PEACE IS FOR ALL" from Axum, Ethiopia have recently adopted the CNIS peace-building initiative and supplemented it with the power of song and drama. The talent and enthusiasm of the students has permitted the successful transmission of the peace-building concepts through a method that is accessible. The drama performance was entered in a regional competition and won them third place which awarded the unsuspecting group a thousand birr ($125).

Since the peace-building curriculum, which includes peace, conflict, conscience, empathy, anger management, self-control, fairness, kindness, problem-solving, nonviolence and reconciliation started last fall at the school, observers note the considerable difference in the behavior of the grade five class and an overall difference in the schools atmosphere: students are viewed as more peaceful. Overall, one could hardly think of a better interim result.

CNIS DONORS: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Wild Rose Foundation, Harbinger Foundation, Donner Canadian Foundation, ENAHPA, University of Ottawa, McGill University, Organizational Members & Individual Members. Your Contributions are much appreciated!
The CNIS was recently invited to introduce Essential Surgical Skills (ESS) at the medical school in Butare, Rwanda by the Head of Surgery Professor Ignatius Kakande, previously the Head of Surgery in Kampala, Uganda. Professor Kakande, who facilitated the introduction of ESS to Kampala, wanted to do the same for Rwanda.

With the assistance of Dr. Patrick Kyamanywa the ESS director in Mbarara, Uganda Dr. Lett conducted an ESS Instructors Course in January 2008. Twelve instructors, including Dr. Josee Caron of Thetford Mines, Quebec, were certified. Thirty-three residents participated in the ESS providers course the following week. The introduction to the course was conducted in both French and English while the working language for the skills sessions was French.

Photos (left to right): Five women interns at the ESS Workshop; ESS Instructors Course participant; Prof. Kakande and Dr. Caron; Groups practicing surgical skills; ESS providers course participants

**Testimonial from Rwanda**

Dear Prof. Kakande,

I'm GISAGARA Egide, one of the medical interns at KIBOGORA Hosp. in Surgery, I'm glad and grateful for the surgical skills that you equipped us with, especially that I feel at easy when in the operation room. The training that we undertook a week ago in Butare totally changed my attitude towards surgery, please don't hesitate to introduce to the same opportunities. Lastly we thank you for the handouts.

God bless you.

Sorry to delay to write, our internet room has been under repair.

GISAGARA

**Remembering Rwanda**

The Rwandan genocide that shocked the conscience of humanity is regarded as one of the worst atrocities of the 20th Century. In 1994, the Tutsi’s and sympathetic Hutu’s were systematically murdered by Hutu extremist militias. In only 100 hundred days, at least 500,000 Tutsis and thousands of Hutus were murdered. Tutsi rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front, which invaded from Uganda, were able to overthrow the Hutu regime, putting the country under their control and ending the genocide.

The unwillingness of the UN to commit needed forces and the incompetence of the existing forces left General Romeo Dallaire, Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda, unable to respond to the unfolding brutalities. The apathy and indifference of the international community have given Canadian General Dallaire a mission to recount his experiences to prevent similar tragedies from recurring.

Dallaire will be speaking in person on Friday, June 13th, 2008 at the Croatian Cultural Centre, in Vancouver.

**Tickets:**

Student Admission $26.25
General $47.25
V.I.P tickets $105.00
Croatian Cultural Centre
3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver
Time: 7:30pm
For tickets call Ticketmaster:
(604) 280-4444

Mass grave site at one of many Genocide memorial sites in Rwanda
The CNIS concluded 2007, the first year of its CIDA program, by introducing the Essential Surgical Skills (ESS™) project to the University of Bamako in Mali. Two Malian general surgeons, Professor Gangaly Diallo and Dr. Nouhoum Ongoiba, along with the Canadian team, which included Dr. Ronald Lett as well as Dr. Francoise Couturier, and Dr. Vincent Echave, from the University of Sherbrooke, collaborated on this project. The expertise of the two Quebecois in obstetrics and surgery, the French language, and knowledge of the area greatly contributed to the programs overall success.

Two three day workshops were conducted entirely in French. The Canadian team, with the support of the three Malian specialists, conducted the first workshop for first year surgical residents. Twenty-two residents completed this providers course. The second workshop was lead by Dr. Ronald Lett and it targeted Malian professors. Twelve Malian Faculty members were certified as ESS instructors.

The CNIS donated all the equipment necessary to continue the course in the future. With the equipment and the new qualified team of instructors, ESS should be sustained in Mali. The plan is that the University of Sherbrooke will be the CNIS implementing agency for ESS in Mali.

**ESS ENTERS INTO MALI**

**REPUBLIC OF MALI: QUICK FACTS**
- Largest country in West Africa. Seventh largest in Africa
- Population: 11.9 million (91.5% Muslim)
- One of the world’s poorest countries
- Landlocked region bordering seven states
- June 20th 1960 (Independence from France)
- Relatively stable, democratic government
- Largely semi-arid or desert land—2% arable land

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**Educational burn course reaches Jimma, Ethiopia through the help of CNIS surgeons**

Subsequent to the needs assessment performed in Jimma, Ethiopia in 2005, Dr. Sarvesh Logsetty of Winnipeg returned to initiate a ‘Basic Burns Care Project’. The project activities, which are supported by the Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), are both educational and clinical.

The educational objective is to develop and test a multidisciplinary burn care course. The clinical objectives were to assist the Jimma surgeons in the care of burn patients and to explore future possibilities.

The Initial Trauma Care and the Burn Care lectures from the CNIS Trauma Team Training (TTT™) course were used as the introduction and then specific lecture materials prepared by Dr. Logsetty and Dr. Tim Sproule, a plastic surgeon in Scarborough Ontario were presented to the course participants. In addition to these lectures, the course included case studies and skills activities. The case studies centered around management of burn patients, skill activities included general trauma care as well as the application of burn dressings, skin grafts, escharotomy (division of circumferential limb burns) and taking splint thickness skin grafts. The curriculum is now being edited to become another CNIS publication which will be useful throughout Africa.

Dr. Samson and Chuchu have already requested that the burn course be held again next year and also would like the support of the CNIS in the development of a burn unit in Jimma.
JOIN THE CNIS or RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Individual Memberships: $50.00
Student Memberships: $25.00
Organizational Membership: $500.00

DONATE
Donations are matched by CIDA and are tax deductible.

BETHUNE ROUNDTABLE

May 9th and 10th in Vancouver. Co-sponsored by CNIS and BIS UBC.

The conference will address the global burden of surgical disease. It will appeal to surgeons, nurses, and NGOs who are interested in surgery for human development.

For more information and to register:
www.internationalsurgery.ubc.ca

SOO KAMPALA, UGANDA

In February 2008 in Kampala, Uganda, the CNIS conducted its second pilot of the Structured Operative Obstetrics Course (SOO). Dr. Jan Christilaw, from the Vancouver Women’s and Children’s Hospital, and Dr. Ronald Lett, who conducted the 1st SOO instructors course in Addis Ababa, presented the 2nd SOO instructors course. Lessons from the 1st course in Ethiopia were used to improve the course for Uganda. After certifying ten instructors in Uganda, Dr. Christilaw and Dr. Ellen Giesbrecht, Head of Obstetrics at Vancouver Women’s Hospital, conducted the ten day providers course. The SOO course includes three half days of lectures, three laboratory skills sessions and a one week supervised operative experience. The course was very well received in both Ethiopia and Uganda and is expected to be a regular part of teaching at both universities. The partnership between Vancouver Women’s Hospital and CNIS has been very constructive.

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WHAT'S UP DOC?

• CNIS’ Program Support Unit is now in Ethiopia – Run out of the Black Lion Hospital at Addis Ababa University Surgical Skills Lab, and headed by Dr. Lett with Lilly Kidane as the administrative assistant. A special thanks to Dean Milliard Debrew who supported the implementation and telecommunication capabilities of this office. Broadband is expected to be available shortly which will enable videoconferencing between Canada and Ethiopia.

• CNIS head office in Vancouver continues under the management of Elizabeth Schaefer. Dr. Lett’s administrative responsibilities as CNIS president are now being shared by Phil Hassen, CNIS Vice-President (volunteer).

CNIS PRE-BETHUNE

ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOPS

Essential Surgical Skills (ESS™)
Instructors Workshop (May 5-6th)
- Instructors: Drs Taylor & Lett

Structured Operative Obstetrics (SOO™) Workshop (May 6-7th)
- Instructors: Drs. Christilaw & Lett

Structured Hernia Repair Course
(May 7th)
- Instructors: Drs. Hollaar & Lett

Trauma Team Training (TTT™) Workshop (May 8th)
- Instructors: Drs. Razek & Lett

For workshop times and registration visit our website at www.cnis.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW.CNIS.CA