



SUMMER 2009

NURSING WORKSHOPS IN ADDIS



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Instructors Netsanet Sileshi (far left), Meskeram, Tezita, Yitanges and Genelle Leifso (Vancouver) presented workshop for 59 perioperative nurses at the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa.

CNIS first Safe Surgery Saves Lives Nursing Workshops were piloted at the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa April 13 -16. Working with the WHO SSSL check list, the workshop introduce perioperative nurse participants to the idea of a culture of safety in their operating rooms. CNIS recognized that the perioperative nurses working with our African surgical partners are often lacking comparable skills within their own profession. The course was organized by CNIS Addis office at the request of operating room nurses. Netsanet Sileshi, CNIS Administrative Assistant in Addis, was one of the nurse presenters, together with senior nursing staff at the Black Lion Hospital, Tezita Teju, Yitages Mengistu and Meskerem Bacha. Genelle Leifso, RN, MSN, CPN (C) was the Canadian course consultant. A total of 59 operating nurses and nurse anesthetists participated in one of two consecutive workshops. The participants were keen, expressing that it was the first continuing education and professional development they had received since completing their nursing education. With more trained perioperative nurses from Canada, the SSL nurse workshop can become means for CNIS to empower the nurses and build skilled capacity within the operating rooms.

485 PEACE BUILDERS IN AXUM

CNIS has been teaching Peacebuilding for Elementary schools since 2006 in Uganda and since 2008 in Ethiopia. 'I AM A PEACE BUILDER' buttons were distributed to 485 students and 22 teachers in two primary schools in Axum. Twenty-two teachers (17 male, 5 female) are involved in delivering the Peacebuilding program. The students presented songs, drama and poetry, which they had prepared as part of the course. It was agreed to plan a Peacebuilding Instructors Course for 4 additional primary schools in September 2009.

Right: Grade Five Pupil reads the poem she wrote as part of the Peacebuilding Course in Axum.

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1000% RETURN

CNIS offers 1000% return on your investment in our Uganda book project. The Sabre Foundation has donated \$250 000 worth of new surgical books. CNIS needs to raise \$25 000 to ship the books to Uganda. Give a donation of \$1000 and we will ship \$10,000 of books. Give a donation of \$500 and we will ship \$5,000 of books. You will rarely have a better return on your investment!



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ESS EASTERN AFRICA

The Essential Surgical Skills Program in Eastern Africa was very active during the last quarter, with 7 courses taught in March to May alone.

In Uganda, courses were conducted under the leadership of Dr. Tom Okello - Gulu, Dr. Grace Ruhinda - Mbarara and Dr. Timothy Kimuli - Kampala. The course in Gulu was implemented with the contribution of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons (CAGS). Dr. Ghee Hwang from Vernon, BC was volunteer surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital Lacor, as well as participated as Instructor in CNIS ESS Course in Gulu.



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Dr. Ghee Hwang teaches abdominal incision to medical students in Gulu, Uganda

In Ethiopia, Surgeons from Memorial University, Drs. Al Felix and Bill Pollett instructed ESS in Mekele. The ESS Patron in Mekele is Dr. Girmay Hagos and the ESS Director is Dr. Mekonen Hagos. This was the second ESS course in Mekele, which means that the complete first graduating class from the university has taken ESS. A study of the effectiveness of ESS, comparing the two groups of Mekele students (one after and one before ESS) is being conducted by a UK surgical resident Maisam Fazel.

An ESS course was also conducted in March in Dar Es Salaam (Dr. L. Rwanyuma, Director) while two consecutive courses were held in Gondar in May. (Dr. Gashaw, Director)

IPIFA MEETS IN KAMPALA, UGANDA



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The Injury Prevention Initiative for Africa steering Committee met for 2 days in Kampala. IPIFA members include representative from Eastern, West, North and Southern Africa, President, Vice President Technical, -Finance and Fundraising, as well as representative from the WHO HQ (Kidist Bartelomeos), WHO AFRO (Dieyanaba Diallo) and CNIS. Minutes of meetings from 2004 - 2008 were reviewed and a work-plan including communications, advocacy, research and training developed. A new Executive was elected. Dr. Babatunde Solagberu, Nigeria President, Dr. Robert Matonga, Zambia Vice-President Finance and Fundraising, and Dr. Hesham Elsayed, Egypt is VP Technical and Research. Mable Nakitto the ICCU Director was appointed Secretary General. A vote of thanks for outgoing president Wilson Odero of Kenya was unanimous, as was the decision to create a Position of Past president so that IPIFA could benefit from his experience. IPIFA will meet quarterly by telephone conference until its AGM, to be held at the Global meeting on Injury Prevention in London in 2010.

WHO/CNIS TEACH INJURY EPIDEMIOLOGY

The 6th IPIFA Injury Epidemiology Course was conducted in Kampala March 6th and 7th. The instructors were Dr. Ronald Lett and Ms. Kidist Bartelomeos. Ms. Bartelomeos participation was an important contribution by the WHO, Geneva. Participants came from 6 Centers in Uganda; ICCU Staff, Mulago Hospital, Kampala, Mbale Hospital, Ft. Portal Hospital, Lacor Hospital, Gulu and Mbarara University of Science and Technology. In addition there was a representative from WHO AFRO office in Harare. Of the 17 participants 7 were female. This course follows the new strategy of developing capacity among multiple individuals at multiple centers in the same country. All the participants are involved in ICCU injury surveillance, so this was a strengthening of existing capacity. Participants from the same 6 centers also took the CNIS Trauma Team Training Instructors Course on March 30 in Kampala.



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Participant from Mbale group presents preventive dimensions of the Haddon Injury Matrix.

CNIS IN CANADA

19 INSTRUCTORS AT CALGARY ESS COURSE

Surgeons from Vancouver to St. Johns were certified as ESS Instructors after a 20-hours workshop held on March 6 - 7 at the General Hospital of Calgary. The course was facilitated by Drs. Gwen Hollaar and Ronald Lett and included an examination on pre-course material, presentations and practice teachings on the 5 units (Fundamentals, Anesthesia, Gastrointestinal, Obstetrical, Urology and Orthopedic emergencies), as well as a discussion on course implementations. The course was well received by the participants, most of whom expressed interest in teaching for CNIS in the future. Two participants went to Ethiopia to teach ESS right after the course. (Awassa + Mekele) A participant from Kelowna who described the course as "outstanding", went to Zambia in May to explore the implementation of ESS in Lusaka.

BETHUNE ROUND TABLE IN TORONTO

The 2009 Bethune Round Table on International Surgery was jointly presented by the Office of International Surgery at the University of Toronto and CNIS on May 21-23. The only meeting dedicated to addressing the problem of providing surgical care to patients in low income countries promised to be better than ever. CNIS Board member Dr. Andrew Howard chaired the meetings titled 'Clinical Care in Context'. Program highlights included; International Perspective on Patient Safety in Surgery, Global Burden of Surgical Disease, Scientific Program, Social Program and Debate.

Dr. Norman Bethune is known for his humanitarian efforts by hundreds of millions in China, yet most young Canadians don't know his name. Adrian Clarkson addressed the participants at the Bethune Round Table concerning her book Extraordinary Canadians, Norman Bethune. The book shows who he was, why he mattered, how he contributed to our Canada of today.

COURSES CENTRAL CANADA

Two courses were conducted in Montreal in May; Structured Operative Obstetrics Course taught by Drs. Jan Christilaw and Ronald Lett and Structured Hernia Repair Course taught by Drs. Gwen Hollaar and Ronald Lett.

Surviving and Succeeding at Surgery in Africa was held at McMaster, Hamilton and taught by Drs. Brian Cameron, R. Hutchinson, S. Haider, B. Leblanc, T. McDonald, A. Dauphin and O. Gharsaa.

A joint CNIS/OIS workshop on 'how to make a surgical video' was held in Toronto immediately following the Bethune Round Table. Dr. Geoffrey Blair, head of surgery at Vancouver's Children's Hospital and Damion Duffy taught the course on behalf of CNIS.



Dr. Geoffrey Blair (left) teaches video making to Drs. John Barnhill (St Johns) Gwen Hollaar (Calgary) Patrick Kyamanywa (Butare, Rwanda) and Abebe Bekele (Addis Ababa)

SALAMA SAFARI CONTINUES



CNIS virtual bike safari had its first trial run in the spring of 2009. The 84 students enjoyed the program, but felt that the material needed to be cut down considerably for the grade 6 + 7 classes to be able to complete the course in the 12 weeks they set out to do. CNIS plans to run a second pilot with 4 Vancouver Primary schools in the fall. The program is inviting both sponsors and schools to participate. For more information, please go to www.salamasafari.ca

CNIS IN QUEBEC

CNIS participated in the Francophone Injury Prevention Network meeting in Montreal on May 20 - 21. Dr. Tarek Razek, CNIS Board Chair, met with Dr. Pierre Maurice, the Director of the Quebec WHO Collaborating Center for Violence and Injury Prevention. The centre joined CNIS as an organizational member and will support CNIS' injury work in Mali. The Francophone Network and CNIS plans to collaborate in Senegal in 2010.

RCCI AU QUÉBEC

Le RCCI participa à une réunion avec le Réseau Francophone de la Prévention des Blessures à Montréal le 20 et 21 Mai, au cours de laquelle le Dr. Tarek Razek, président du Conseil d'Administration du CNIS, rencontra le Dr. Pierre Maurice, le directeur du Centre de Collaboration pour la Prévention de la Violence et des Blessures de l'OMS au Québec. Le Centre rejoignit le RCCI en tant que membre organisationnel et soutiendra le travail du RCCI sur les blessures au Mali. Le Réseau Francophone et le RCCI ont l'intention de collaborer au Sénégal en 2010.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

CNIS held 'A Night on the Savannah' fundraiser in Vancouver on May 14. Local film companies helped set the stage, while Tivoli Motion Picture Caterers cooked African inspired food for 160 people. Vancouver artists and businesses donated generously to the silent auction, where the bidding went to the last minute. The high point of the evening was the 3 Iranian Sopranos, who gave a world-class performance. Dr. Robert Taylor (surgeon), Dr. Jan Christilaw (Obstetrician) and Doug Wallis (accountant) spoke on behalf of CNIS. We would like to thank all sponsors, supporters, performers and helpers, including our 30 event volunteers, who contributed more than 500 hours! The Savannah night raised much needed funds and awareness for CNIS. We hope to see you all again next spring!



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Savannah Night performers: The 3 Iranian sopranos: Nasrin Asgari, Shirin Asgari and Kamelia Dara. Michael Kahr on piano and Ali Asgari on violin.

ON THE CUTTING EDGE

- **Rotary supports CNIS** - The Rotary Club of White Rock will continue their support to CNIS obstetrics program in Uganda. CNIS is most grateful for their continued vote of confidence and most needed support.
- **Spine Injury and Burn management** - The Head and C-spine Injury and Essential Burn Management manuals has been completed by Dr. Robert Taylor.
- **Montreal Surgical Course** - Thanks to Dr. Tarek Razek for organizing courses in Hernia Repair and SOO at the McGill Medical Simulation Centre in Montreal.
- **Congratulations, Dr. Christilaw** - CNIS board member, Dr. Jan Christilaw has become the President of BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre.
- **ICC-U WHO Initiative** - In May 2009, ICC-U was designated as an Affiliate Support Center for Safe Communities, a WHO Initiative in Sweden.
- **ICC-U Strategic meeting** - ICC-U had a strategic planning session March 21 - 24. The session was facilitated by CNIS Vice President Phil Hassen, who has been involved with governance of ICC-U for several year now.
- **CCIC Ethics Review Committee** - CNIS is a member of CCIC (Canadian Council for International Cooperation), the umbrella group for international humanitarian organizations in Canada. CNIS Program Associate Lorne Braun is a member of the CCIC Ethics Review Committee and was involved in the final review of the Code of Ethics, adopted at the CCIC annual general meeting in May.
- **Peacebuilding in Uganda** - CNIS and the teachers from the original Peacebuilding Course in Gulu Uganda in 2004 have agreed to concentrate on teacher instruction in the coming years. The head Instructor for the program is Mr. Jenaro Okot.
- **CNIS African Market August 29** - CNIS annual African Market will be held outside the Vancouver office on Saturday August 29. For information: www.cnis.ca
- **Donation in Memory** - A donation was made to CNIS in memory of Margaret Patricia Pautsch. (1944 - 2009), mother of former CNIS employee Jessica Pautsch.

CANADIAN NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

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Vancouver Office Assistant: Grace Green

Addis Administrative Assistant: Netsanet Sileshi

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YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS MUCH NEEDED & GREATLY APPRECIATED!