

CNIS Operative Report

Volume 1 Number 2

May 1996

First-Quarter Board of Directors' Report

The Board of Directors of the CNIS has been meeting on a monthly basis since the annual meeting in November when Dr. Ronald Lett was elected President. Two other directors have been appointed to the executive — Dr. Peter McLean as Vice-President and Mrs. Joan VanDuzer as Secretary. As Vice-President, Dr. McLean will review all project proposals and is in charge of developing a strategic plan for the CNIS; Mrs. VanDuzer is in charge of communications and membership. Two members have also received appointments: Dr. F. Germa, CCFP of Vancouver, B.C., as the African Project Consultant and Dr. C. Jamieson, a Prince George, B.C. Urologist, as Treasurer. Mr. M. Brewer compiled a membership list and had a list of sur-

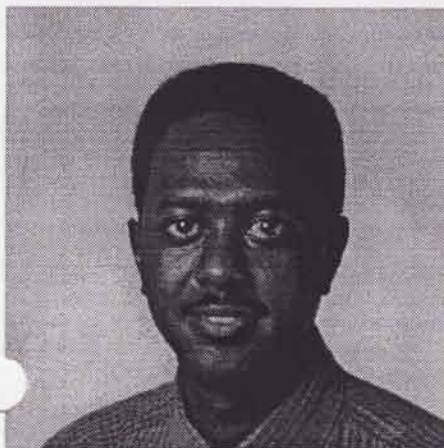
gical departments in all hospitals with more than 50 beds prepared as a mailing list for the next newsletter. Funds were obtained and dispersed for the Essential Surgical Skills Workshop held in Jimma, Ethiopia. A Urology Project prepared by Dr. C. Jamieson was endorsed, as well as an Injury Surveillance Project for Uganda proposed by Dr. Olive Kobusingye. The executive has taken preliminary steps to develop affiliations with obstetrics, orthopedics, and anesthesia societies, but has delayed formal discussions until our strategic plan is completed.

We are currently looking for sponsorship and endorsement from departments of surgery and individuals that will help increase our profile.

Revenue Canada Agrees To Give CNIS Number — But Slowly

The CNIS has yet to obtain official recognition as a charitable society by Revenue Canada; however, after rewriting the CNIS objectives to meet Revenue Canada's sensitivities, this recognition has been verbally assured.

Revenue Canada felt our documents of incorporation suggested our activities, rather than being charitable, were of a political nature. Clearly, this has never been the intent. With the help of our lawyer, Carol Brown, B. Comm. LLB, who is one of many who has donated her time freely to the establishment of the CNIS, we are removing words such as "advocates for essential surgery" or a "forum for discussion of international surgical issues." Now that we have received Revenue Canada's vetting of our documents of incorporation, we have to re-submit our documentation to Industry Canada. Hopefully, by the next newsletter issue we will be able to announce the completion of this process.



Dr. F. Germa

The *CNIS Operative Report* is circulated quarterly. Members are invited to use this newsletter to let others know what their international activities are and to bring forward ideas or comments. Written contributions are encouraged and can be forwarded to the CNIS Head Office at #310, 1669 Victoria Street, Prince George, BC, V2L 2L5; tel: (604) 561-1280, fax: (604) 561-1286, or e-mail lett@unbc.edu.



Promoting the delivery of essential surgical care to the underprivileged.
Pour la promotion des besoins chirurgicaux essentiels aux personnes démunies

Next Annual Meeting On Nov. 11

The second annual meeting of the CNIS will take place in Ottawa on Monday, November 11, 1996. It will take place at noon on the second day of the Canadian Conference on International Health. Holding the conference as part of the CSIH worked out well last year and Monday was convenient for the majority of attendees who travel from outside Ottawa's course. We expect to organize morning and afternoon sessions of specific interest to surgeons on that day. Details will be presented in the next issue of *CNIS Operative Report*. Ideas and suggestions are being solicited now.

Tri-University Surgical Skills Workshop Held In Jimma Ethiopia

A three-day workshop on the Essential Surgical Skills Curriculum was held in Jimma, Ethiopia. The workshop was conducted by Dr. R. Lett and attended by surgeons, gynecologists, and general practitioners from Addis Ababa University, Gondor Medical College, and the Jimma Institute of Health Sciences. Nine of the participants were from Jimma including all the Department of Surgery. The Jimma faculty now feels prepared to teach the essential skills as

an integral part of its curriculum. As the curriculum which teaches life saving skills was developed and tested in Jimma, they have all the equipment to implement the curriculum. The two surgeons from Addis Ababa wish to teach the curriculum to general practitioners at a Providers' Workshop in September; Dr. Lett will act as coordinator and come up with the funds for the mannikins. Sixty GP's will be invited to the one-week workshop. This confirms the high level of acceptance of this program.

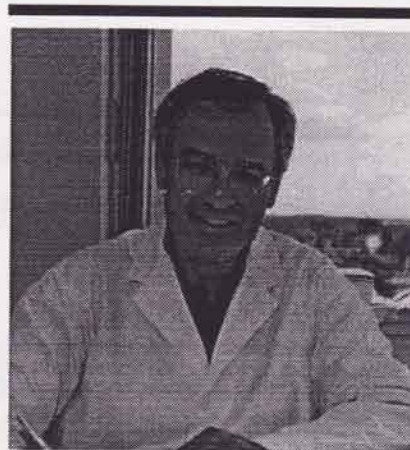
Profile of the Executive Committee

The President of the CNIS is Dr. Lett who is a General Surgeon and Epidemiologist. He now practices at the Prince George Regional Hospital, having recently escaped the closure of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Montreal. His development background includes work in Sudan, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Ethiopia. The Vice-President, Dr. Peter McLean, is a General Surgeon and Intensivist at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. He has worked in Pakistan and Ethiopia and speaks Spanish in addition to Canada's two official languages. Mrs. Joan VanDuzer has an M.Ed. and has

been very active in the foundation community as Past President of the Lawson Foundation and President of the Harbinger Foundation. She has been a strong supporter of the Essential Surgical Skills Curriculum. Dr. F. Germa is an Ethio-Canadian who completed his certificate in Family Medicine last year and is currently at St. Paul's Hospital obtaining certification as an Emergency Physician. He is the African Project Consultant and has been linking the CNIS with the Ethiopian communities of Vancouver and Toronto. Dr. Clark Jamieson is a Prince George Urologist. He has volunteered in Nepal and Zambia and has agreed to be the CNIS Treasurer.

CNIS Project Proposals

The potential for surgical projects is endless, but the funds are limited. The CNIS will review and endorse projects which address its objectives of delivering essential surgical care to the underprivileged of the developing world. The Essential Surgical Skills Curriculum Instructors' Workshop is the first project to be endorsed and funded by the CNIS. Two other projects have been endorsed, one is a Urology Project which will intro-



Dr. C. Jamieson

duce cystoscopy and urethral dilatation with filiforms to Jimma proposed by Dr. Jamieson. He expects to supply the equipment to set up an Outpatient Unit and then train GP's and medical students to correctly perform the procedures. Dr. Jamieson has volunteered to fund the project himself and it will com-

mence in January 1997. Dr. Olive Kobusingye has prepared a Comprehensive Injury Surveillance Program for Uganda. The first step in this project, which would be the first in Subsaharan Africa, is to set up a Trauma Registry. The CNIS has endorsed this project, but has no funds for it and Dr. Kobusingye has not been successful in obtaining funds from other sources. Other projects under review by Dr. McLean include the Essential Skills Providers' Workshop, a Teaching Operating Room Rehabilitation Project and a Health Officers Surgical Training Program.

- CIDA's "Strategy for Health — Draft for Discussion," released mid-May, includes recognition of the need for clinical care as part of total health care. It is an excellent, thoughtful document. Obtain your copy either through membership with CSIH or directly from CIDA.

T-Shirts Available

We now have T-Shirts available with the large CNIS logo on the front. The cost is \$25 + \$2.50 for shipping.

Dynamite T-Shirts!



Size L, Black With Red

To order, contact the Prince George office.



Dr. O. Kobusingye

Late-Breaking News

- Our Governor-General, Romeo LeBlanc, has graciously agreed to be our patron. We are encouraged by this high level of recognition of the importance and the effectiveness of this type of global aid.



Membership Application — CNIS

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

E-Mail:

Profession:

Membership Fee:

Student — \$25

Regular — \$50

Organization — \$500

Benefactor — \$1,000

Make cheques payable to the CNIS and forward to: #310, 1669 Victoria Street, Prince George, BC, V2L 2L5

Draft Strategic Plan For CNIS

Vision

- To facilitate, promote and sustain the health of people in developing countries through increased access to essential surgery available through regional doctors and health workers.

Outcomes

1. To establish an organization dedicated to the vision of CNIS, connected to existing medical and health organizations interested in international health.
 2. To raise funds to promote the work of CNIS.
 3. To assess the need for basic surgery services in a particular region.
 4. To improve or provide training in basic surgical techniques and in anaesthesia, and in teaching methods, to Canadian doctors interested in international health.
 5. To improve or provide training in basic surgical techniques and in anaesthesia to regional doctors and health workers.
 6. To teach regional doctors and health care workers to become teachers.
 7. To provide ongoing consultative support to the regional teachers.
 8. To build a resource bank of logistical and technical support.
 9. To provide financial support to projects of members and associates (when funds allow).
 10. To obtain financial support from CIDA (by 1998).
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Project '97

Our goal is to raise \$97,000 by the end of 1997 which will enable us to be involved in approximately four projects.

Funding Obtained

\$10,000 has been donated to help finance the Ugandan Trauma Registry Project. Under the direction of Dr. Olive Kobusingye. Completion of this registry will ensure that limited health dollars will be directed to the greatest needs.