CIDA accepts proposal

CNIS will receive grant of $172,635

CNIS has a future! After scrambling for dollars for the last two years, we now are assured $172,635, which is 60 per cent of our proposed budget for 1997/98.

To be eligible for CIDA support, an organization has to show $50,000 for each of two years in receipted donations.

The grant is for the three projects in process now;
- Essential Surgical Skills, three per year in Ethiopia, and three in Uganda, reaching total of 300 general practitioners per year
- Injury Prevention in Uganda
- Continuing Education through the Library Project both in Ethiopia and Uganda.

The CIDA year is from July 1, '97. We are required to raise the remaining 40 per cent, $115,090.

So far we have raised about $48,000.

The CNIS proposal was an enormous labour resulting in a 52 page thoroughly researched document. Ron Lett says he could not have done it without the help of his assistant, Brooke Nelles.

Third Annual Ottawa Surgery Day
(in conjunction with the Canadian Conference on International Health Nov. 9-12, Hull, Que.)

Monday, November 10, 1997
a.m.-
Surgical Approaches to Reducing Maternal Mortality & Morbidity in Developing Countries
p.m.-
Violence & Injury Prevention

Eye:
Wine and Cheese reception: 6:30 p.m.
CNIS Memorial Lecture 7:00pm honouring Dr. Ray Lawson
Speaker - Dr. Claude Romer
"Global Importance of Injury"

For more information call
Canadian Society for Int'l. Health
613 241-5785

Guest Speaker

Dr. Claude Romer
MD MPH (injury)

WHO Chief Promotion & Injury Control Program will come from Geneva to be the first speaker at the CNIS Memorial Lecture. He spearheaded the involvement of WHO in investigating the relationship of violence and health.

Romer has a degree in law as well as a masters degree in basic science.

Scarce health dollars in developing countries are used up treating trauma.

(continues on page 4)
CNIS needs your imagination

 Almost $1,000 raised from loose change

 CNIS coin cans help relieve that extra weight in people’s pockets.
 One can per month yields about $30. Ten cans...twenty cans... The sky’s the limit.
 Ron Lett’s parents said, “we can...” and initiated the project 6 months ago.

 Now, they are rounding up retired school principals to collect cans once a month. The Toronto Ethiopian ‘Friends of CNIS’ are placing 100 cans.
 It’s easy — shoppers willingly put extra change in the cans at hospital counters, convenience and hardware stores.
 Volunteers can order cans from the CNIS office. When the cans are full, open the cans, count the change and send a cheque to CNIS. You get to keep the change!

 ‘Dress-down’ day benefits CNIS

 Moss Lawson & Co. Ltd. donates money collected on ‘casual dress’ day to a charity suggested by an employee.
 Last Spring, Pat Tyrrel, an investment dealer with the Toronto office, heard a presentation about CNIS and persuaded her fellow employees to support CNIS.
 Thank you, Pat, and Moss Lawson!

 You may be able to paddle your own canoe

 Amazing things are going on in Prince George. A canoe is being built for a raffle in December.
 Money was raised from the medical community for the materials last winter. Shipment to distant parts of Canada will not be part of the prize.

 Raffle at the PGX

 How many surgical sewing needles are needed to run one operating room in Ethiopia for 10 days?
 This was the question which raised $750 at the Prince George Ex.
 The raffle attracted passers-by to view a CNIS display.
 Thanks to all the volunteers who manned the booth and answered questions about CNIS - Robyn and Ryan Lett, Sarah Jamieson, Russel Hepburn, Robert Karanja and Kevin Hewitt.
 Answer, 107.

 Good junk at garage sales

 What may be junk to you may be a treasure to someone else - and money for CNIS.
 General Surgeon, Dr. Michelle Sutter, organized a garage sale.
 Neighbours and CNIS supporters donated goods and then — bought each others ‘stuff’.
 This trade resulted in more than $600 for CNIS and a heap of entertainment.
 They added to the offers of CNIS, someone we hope has reduced her taxes through a tax receipt, and everyone has clean cupboards.
 Now, that makes sense!

 A few CNIS black T-shirts still available

 Size L, XL
 $20
 includes taxes and shipping
 Phone CNIS office
Summary of Progress

1994 Jimma, Ethiopia
Drs. Lett, M. Wansbrough, P. Seviour
Pilot - Essential Surgical Skills curriculum, 4 weeks, 60 4th year students
$25,000 included $17,000 from CIDA

1995 ESS integrated into Jimma Medical School curriculum - Lett
Condensed ESS to 5 day course for physicians
Addis Ababa, Black Lion Hospital - first course taught to physicians.
Surgical Society of Ethiopia formed.

CNIS formed, First Annual Meeting in Ottawa, 3 directors.

1996 Addis Ababa, taught 9 faculty who then taught 52 G.P.'s, with assistance of Lett, Wansbrough, Lee,
Evaluation by Dr. Laeora Bergson
Uganda Trauma Registry, begun in Feb., under Ugandan Dr. Olive Kobusingye,
Sept. - additional training of researchers - Lett, Wansbrough, Lee
Meeting with AMREF officials in Kenya - invitation to Dr. Kobusingye to present at NICLEN in Malaysia

Second Annual Meeting
charitable status achieved, charter Patron Romeo LeBlanc,
endorsement of RVH.
increased directors to 5.
64 members from 8 provinces
$65,000 raised

1997 Feb., Jimma, Ethiopia - Urology workshop - Dr. Jamieson
Library Project for Medical School Joan Jamieson
Feb. Presentation at NICLENs meeting in Petang, Malaysia on Prevention by
Drs. Kobusingye and Lett.
Uganda and Geneva - WHO meetings
June - Bahar Dar, Ethiopia
ESS, first community outreach Dr. Cooper

Oct. CIDA grant announced endorsement of Royal College

Oct. Dr. Lett to South Africa for Safe Communities Conf., to Uganda for WHO meeting to establish Injury Control Centre, and to Addis Ababa as consultant
Oct. 2nd community ESS taught by Dr. Tessema Eth. Surg. Soc. with Dr. Peter McLean

Endorsement by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons

Executive Director Dr. Hugh Scott said the board agreed enthusiastically to endorse the present projects of the CNIS with a review in five years.
CNIS Chair Dr. Peter Mclean says this is of major importance in our negotiations with other international medical organizations which are beginning to increase. On behalf of the board, he thanks the College.

‘Ethiopian Surgical Skills’ goes rural

adapted from an article by Phillip Cooper

Bahar Dar, is high in the hills about 12 bone-rattling hours from Addis Ababa, on the shores of Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile. Or, if a person can afford it, only one hour by plane.

Ron Lett and I met in Addis three days before the workshop and spent a day meeting with senior surgeons at the Black Lion Hospital for an update on the surgery courses being taught there.

We met also with the Canadian ambassador, the CIDA representative, and the WHO medical director.

The week-end was taken up with planning, collaboration, and acclimatisation to life at 8000 feet above sea level — which included some sight-seeing.

Six local surgeons, including Dr. Mulat, Secretary of the Surgical Society, worked with me to teach the course. Ron Lett acted as general trouble shooter and general factotum.

The intensive five day course in Essential Surgical Skills was positive for all 44 Ethiopian rural physicians (except perhaps the sheep who were sacrificed to provide subjects for chest drainage, bowel anastomosis and other surgical techniques.)

Any initial doubts about the usefulness of the course had disappeared by the end of the week.

Most encouraging was the excellent rapport that was developed between CNIS and the local surgeons. It was clear that this kind of teaching must be developed with the support of the local professionals and infrastructure — we were encouraged by the regional government providing the travel expenses of the participants.

Leaving Bahar Dar, we crossed wide plains of heavily grazed pastureland interspersed with arable fields, worked by ox-drawn plough. We crossed the Nile gorge, a sight arguably more spectacular than the Grand Canyon.

The plan is to offer three courses per year in various parts of the country. Initial arrangements have been made to teach in Nazret in the fall, and Awassa during the winter. In Jimma next spring, a further course will be held for general practitioners. Rumour has it that I will be in charge of the Ethiopian E.S.S. teaching.

Ron Lett estimates that about 200 general practitioners have now been trained in there basis surgical skills. In a country where there are only about 1000 G.P.'s, we are making headway. Retraining and updating will be needed in time but the level of surgical skill is steadily rising.

With the help of a glass of 'tej' (the delightful honey wine), I came up with a possible motto for CNIS. "Venemus, Vidimus, Ticemus" - roughly translated as, "We came, We saw, We taught."

Ron was not impressed.
developed the first heat sensitive mammography device, useful in the detection of breast cancer tumours.

He made several expeditions to the North in his research into diet and cholesterol, finding that the Inuit diet, high in animal fat did not produce high cholesterol levels. He kept a high animal fat diet himself against the advice of well-meaning colleagues and lived to a ripe age of 82.

Lawson had a huge library. He thought you could learn anything if you had a book to teach you. He had a great sense of fun and his home with his first wife, the late Gertrude Evans, was the centre of parties — his wurlitzer organ made his house vibrate.

Lawson remarried colleague, Ann Richardson and retired to Cape Breton Island where he raised lobster, moored the old Greadwell Mission boat and entertained visitors who often arrived by small plane. He is the father of five children and 10 grandchildren.

He was celebrated in a Lives Lived column co-written by his former brother-in-law, Dr. John Evans.

Library Project

Medical schools are in great need of journals. If you want to make a donation directed towards this project, indicate on your cheque.

If you have a set of journals that you would be willing to send, or would like to help with postage ($65 per year) please call the CNIS office.

Postgraduate Medicine has offered a special rate of $65 (U.S.) for a one year subscription for Jimma Medical School. We are missing the following issues - if you have these, please phone the office to arrange for mailing - Journal of Trauma 1995 - Aug. 1994 - Jan, Feb, Apr, May 1993 need all 1992 need all 1991 Oct, Nov, Dec. 

Already sent: Canadian Journal of Surgery Patient Care Medicine North America Canadian Journal of Diagnosis Canadian Journal of Continuing Medical Education General Science Equinox and Canadian Geographic

CNIS Structure

President - Dr. Ron Lett, MD MSc. FRCS, General Surgeon and Epidemiologist. Founder of CNIS. Presidency is a salaried position, reporting to the board.

Executive Assistant - search in progress, budget provision

Treasurer - Joan Jamieson

African advisor - Fikre Germe

5 directors, elected for a two year term

Board of Directors - elected for a two year term to Nov. 1998

Peter McLean, MD FRCS FACS, Associate Prof. of Surgery, McGill, General Surgeon, Royal Victoria Hospital, extensive experience in Bangladesh and Ethiopia

Joan Van Duizer, M Ed., Director of The Lawson Foundation, President of The Harbinger Foundation

Stephen Foster, MD FRCS, extensive experience in Angola

Phillip Cooper, MB FRCS DRCOG LMCC, trained in London England, lives in Antigonish, N.S., experience in Australia, New Guinea, Scotland, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Cambodia, Sierra Leone

Mary van Wyngaarden (filled position vacated when Ron Lett became president, April, 1997) - see below

Changes in by-laws have allowed for 6 directors

Nominations for 1997-99

Mary van Wyngaarder - presently Assistant Clinical Professor, Dept. of Surgery, Division of Critical Care, U. of Alberta Hospitals

Mary runs the Alberta Trauma Registry, helped start the National Trauma Registry, and is a new member of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

She is a graduate of U.W.O. Meds. (Cum Laude), was awarded the A.W. Harrison Resident Teaching Award, FRCS, FACS, has had extensive experience on the faculties of Windsor, Western, and was Chief Resident at Sunnybrook Medical Centre, Toronto before pursuing additional training as a trauma/criticaL care fellow at Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

Her field experience includes Inuvik, The Ukraine, Iqaluit, St. Lucia

Henry Muggah - is an Obs. Gyn. in Hamilton, teaching at McMaster, clinical practice at St. Joseph’s, is in Russia with the Soros Foundation and is unavailable at time of going to press.

Fekre Germe - is a family practitioner in Prince George who was born in Nigeria and travelled extensively as a youth with his father who was with the U.N.

details provided at Ottawa meeting.

Membership

You will receive periodic newsletter and access to information and support as outlined in the CNIS pamphlet

Student $25

Regular $50

Organization $500

Benefactor $1000 or more

Send name and address to CNIS, #310, 1669 Victoria St.

Prince George, B.C. V2L 2L5