



## PHIL HASSEN APPOINTED CNIS PRESIDENT

Dr. Ronald Lett has been CNIS' President since its inception in 1995, during which time the organization's budget has increased 20 times and its outreach from 2 to 9 countries. In 2007, Ron moved to Ethiopia to be closer to the work at hand. The programs in Africa are progressing well due to this decision, but the organization needs leadership here in Canada.

As a result, the CNIS Board asked Phil Hassen to serve as the President effective 1 April 2010, while Ron continues as International Director. Phil has been a CNIS board member for a decade and volunteer vice-president for the last 2 years. He recently left the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, after a distinguished career in health service management and policy. He is presently President of the International Society of Quality and Safety and Board member of the Canadian Arthritis Network.



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Phil Hassen at Injury Control Centre - Uganda Strategic Meeting,

Phil has served as Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Health, CEO of Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, President and CEO of Providence Health Care in Vancouver and President of St. Joseph's Health Centre in London, Ontario. Phil is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Public Health, University of Alberta and the Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia. He is a Fellow of the Canadian College of Health Services Executives and holds a BSc. (Honours) in Unified Science from Wayne State University and a Masters of Public Health Administration from the University of Michigan. He is also a member of Mensa.

*"I look forward to the opportunity to lead CNIS dedicated team of staff and volunteers who have made the progress to date possible. I am most excited to have been given this opportunity and profoundly believe in the work of CNIS."*

CNIS envisions further growth and progress under Phil Hassen's leadership. He will work for CNIS on a half time basis. If you have any questions for him, you may reach him through our CNIS office (604-739-4708) or email PHassen@cnis.ca.

## BOOK CONTAINER REACHES UGANDA



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Sarah from ICC-U helps sort the \$ 435,424.45 worth of new surgical books that arrived in Kampala in March. Our sincere thanks go to the Sabre Foundation and CNIS supporters.

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## SKILLS LAB IN JIMMA HIGHLIGHTS CNIS ETHIOPIAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Surgical Skills Lab in **Jimma** was officially opened in January 2010. Jimma's ESS Patron, Dr. Samson Esseye was Master of Ceremonies. Guests included Dean of Medicine Dr. Andualem Mossie and University Vice President Dr. Abebaw Gashaw Kebede. Speakers including ESS Director Dr. Chuchu Girma and Dr. Ronald Lett. The lab has video Internet connection to the operating room, so surgical students at all levels will be able to practice skills, and observe live surgery from the laboratory. This is the 3rd fully inaugurated CNIS funded lab in Ethiopia.

In **Mekele**, Dr. Lett and Dr. Gashaw ESS Director from Gondar conducted an ESS instructors course. The ESS Patron in Mekele is Dr. Girmay Hagos and the Director is Dr. Mekonen Hagos.

In **Awassa**, a 3rd FIRST course for Generic Health officers and a 2nd ESS course were completed. This means that all students in the first 3 graduating medical students classes from Awassa have completed ESS and all Generic Health Officers graduates have completed FIRST. Dr. Aberra Gobeze is the ESS director in Awassa.



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At the Jimma lab opening, from left Drs. Samson Esseye, Chuchu Girma, Andualem Mossie and Abebaw Gashaw Kebede.

## SSAR COURSE IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

The 3-day course Surgical Skills for African Residents (SSAR) was conducted at the Department of Surgery in Dar es Salaam in December. The course was developed to help residents meet the requirements to become members of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa. The first two days cover open surgery, adapted by Dr. Robert Taylor from the technical skills section of the ESS course, with the addition of tendon repair, vascular anastomosis and emphasis on wound debridement. The third day on laparoscopic surgery was written by Dr. Robin Fairfull-Smith. Drs. Ronald Lett and Fairfull-Smith taught the course to 6 final year general surgery residents. The course was organized by ESS Patron Naboth Mbembati and ESS director Laurean Rwanyuma. This was the first time all 3 units of the course were taught. CNIS would like to thank Ethicon for providing the laparoscopic teaching boxes.

Left: Surgical residents practice laparoscopic surgery at SSAR course in Dar es Salaam.



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## IPIFA INJURY EPIDEMIOLOGY COURSE IN EGYPT

Under the auspices of the Injury Prevention Initiative for Africa (IPIFA) the 7th Injury Epidemiology course was held in Ismalia, Egypt. Egypt is an important contributor to IPIFA. Dr. Hesham Fathey El-Sayed, head of Pediatrics Department at Suez Canal University and Vice President of IPIFA organized the course, which included instructors from the American University of Cairo, Egypt's Ministry of Health and CNIS (Ronald Lett). 31 health professionals participated in the course, giving them the initial skills and knowledge to address the injury pandemic which devastates Egypt.



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Participants at the IPIFA Injury Epidemiology Course in Ismalia, Egypt, March 2010.

## ESS UPDATE - Moshi, Tanzania

An ESS course was held in Moshi Dec. 7-11. The 40+ participants was a challenge. Drs. Robin Fairfull-Smith and Wylam Faught, Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at U of O were instructors. This was Dr. Amaani K. Malima's last course as ESS Director. In February, Drs. Ronald Lett and Fairfull-Smith conducted an ESS instructor refresher course and a regular instructor course, resulting in the certification of 12 new and 7 recertified instructors. The following week, Drs. Fairfull-Smith and Hassan Shenassa worked with the new ESS director Dr. David Msuya and the ESS Patron Dr. Kondo Chilonga and trained 18 ESS Providers. Dr. Kondo has been patron of ESS in Moshi since it was established in 2005.

The shortage of surgical staff in Moshi makes the University of Ottawa's contribution to the ESS program critical. 4 Ottawa faculty and several residents have contributed to the ESS program in Moshi. Both CNIS and Moshi are grateful for Ottawa's contributions.

## MSc in EPIDEMIOLOGY

With financial support of the Donner Canadian Foundation, Dr. Respicious Boniface is enhancing his role as Director of the Injury Control Centre - Tanzania through a Masters program in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Donner Canadian Foundation has been cost sharing the support from CIDA for CNIS work in Tanzania since 2003.

## HONOURING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Though all our volunteers make a vital contribution to CNIS, every year we select one volunteer who has made a particular difference. The volunteer of the year award for 2009 went for the first time to a group: the Okanagan Zambia Health Initiative. In October 2009, three OkaZHI surgeons introduced CNIS surgical teachings to Zambia. CNIS looks forward to further collaboration with OkaZHI.

In addition to 20+ volunteer surgeons and obstetricians, CNIS has over 80 active non-surgical volunteers from all over the world, assisting with programming design, flash, editing, translations, sewing, model-construction, illustrating, office duties, events and more. CNIS appreciates and needs ALL our volunteers. Without their generous contribution of that most precious of commodities, TIME, and their personal skills, aptitudes and abilities, CNIS could not serve the people it serves. **THANK YOU!**



Drs. Linda Hawker and Gary O'Connor from Okanagan Zambia Health Initiative received the 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award.



Participants at the recent ESS Providers course in Bamako, Mali

## CNIS THIRD ESS COURSE IN BAMAKO, MALI

CNIS continues to work in Mali with a third ESS course conducted in February 2010. 28 junior residents and interns participated with enthusiasm. Dr. Gangaly Diallo is the ESS Patron and Dr. Nouhoum Ongoiba is the Director. CNIS expects to expand ESS training, and initiate FIRST, S00 and injury prevention programs in Mali with the support of organizational members from Quebec, including Sherbrooke University, McGill University and WHO Quebec Collaborating Center for Safety (CCOMS) with Quebec's Ministry of Health and Social Services.

## CNIS PORTRAITS

**Dr. Gwen Hollaar MD, FRCSC, MPH**  
General surgeon, Associate Professor  
at University of Calgary

**Q:** When did you get involved with CNIS?

**A:** I became involved about 10 years ago.

**Q:** What is your role with CNIS?

**A:** I am a Board member, including Board Chair for two years. I also teach surgical courses and have developed curriculum for CNIS.

**Q:** What is your most rewarding moment with CNIS?

**A:** I mostly enjoy working with and teaching the students. That is always very rewarding.

**Q:** What other international activities are you involved with?

**A:** I am involved with the University of Calgary's project in Lao PDR, developing post-graduate family medicine training.



Dr. Gwen Hollaar teaching in Rwanda.

**Q:** What would you like Canadians to know about CNIS?

**A:** I would like them to know that like infectious diseases, surgical problems are also widespread. Whether it be a mother who dies in labour or a child dying from appendicitis or a young man dying from an injury. These deaths can be prevented if people are trained in basic surgical skills and have access to basic surgical supplies. CNIS is trying to help in that process.

## JOIN US FOR 'A NIGHT ON THE NILE' and help us build a surgical skills lab in Moshi, Tanzania.

For the second year in a row, CNIS holds an evening fundraiser, dressed and supported by Vancouver film industry and local businesses. This year, we will take you on a 'cruise' down the Nile... Your \$75 ticket (& \$40 tax receipt) includes a 3-course gourmet dinner, live entertainment by Vancouver singer Jane Mortifee and belly dancers. The silent auction includes a signed limited edition lithograph by Robert Bateman, a July 1. cruise and a stone sculpture by Zimbabwean artist Daniel Chidoti.

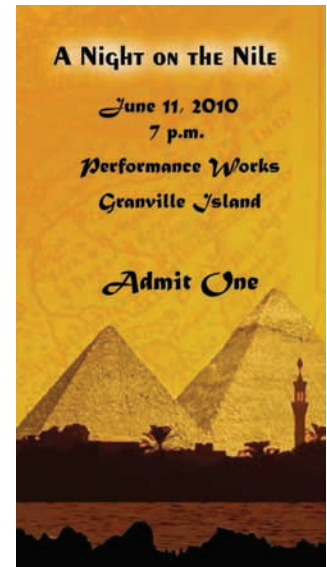
If you cannot make it, you can still help us, by buying a 'brick' for the teaching lab. It costs \$40,000 to build a lab, so we will be selling 400 bricks at \$100 each. The first 200 to buy a brick will receive an original mixed media on wood miniature art piece by Canadian artist Jon Izen.

Date: June 11, from 7 p.m. to midnight.

Where: Performance Works

2218 Cartwright Street, Granville Island, Vancouver

Tickets on sale now at [www.cnis.ca](http://www.cnis.ca)



## ON THE CUTTING EDGE

- **Hernia Repair Course** - On May 29th, CNIS will be holding a Structured Hernia Repair Instructors Course in Kelowna, BC. Information/registration: [office@cnis.ca](mailto:office@cnis.ca)
- **Bethune Round Table** -The 10th Annual Bethune Round Table on International Surgery will be held May 14-16 at the University of Calgary. For information or registration: [www.ucalgary.ca/ois](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ois)
- **ICC-U approval**- The Injury Control Centre - Uganda application for re-designation as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Violence and Injury Prevention & Control has been approved. ICC-U has been given an extension of 4 years. [www.iccu.or.ug](http://www.iccu.or.ug)
- **Safe motherhood** - CNIS has become an organizational member of the White Ribbon Alliance, an international coalition for safe motherhood. [www.whiteribbonalliance.org](http://www.whiteribbonalliance.org)
- **Learn Swahili** - Our next term of beginner and intermediate Swahili courses starts May 4 + 5. Cost \$70 (\$50 CNIS members) for 7 weeks. For information or registration, email [office@cnis.ca](mailto:office@cnis.ca) or call 604-739-4708.
- **In memory** - Donations were made to CNIS in memory of Helen J. Hassen, mother of Phil Hassen who passed away on February 22 at 87.
- **It's a Girl!** - CNIS congratulates our IT coordinator Tim Steeves and his wife Karen for the birth of their daughter, Hope at 8 lbs 7 oz on March 26.
- **Humanitarian Award** - Former CNIS board member (1997-2000) Dr. Stephen Foster has received the Teasdale-Corti award. Dr. Foster has devoted his life to improving health care in Angola, exemplifying perseverance in alleviation of human suffering.
- **Congratulations** - There has been two recent weddings in the CNIS 'family': ICC-U Director, Mable Nakitto and David Tomusange in Kampala, Uganda and CNIS board member Khwezi Mbolekwa and Mary Bridger in Harrison Mills, BC. Our best wishes!
- **George Povey 1927 - 2010** - CNIS is saddened by the passing of a great Canadian. Dr. Povey's teaching career spanned over 50 years across every continent and every level of education from traditional birth attendants in Mozambique to midwives, nurses and physicians. He attended CNIS events and helped with Portuguese translations for our work in Mozambique. Dr. Povey was a pioneer scholar in global health and passionate about promoting social justice in the world and was still teaching at 83!

### CANADIAN NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

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### JOIN CNIS OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

INDIVIDUALS: \$50 (Regular) | \$25 (Student)

ORGANIZATIONAL: \$500

CNIS IS A REGISTERED CHARITY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT

**Patron:** Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mich  elle Jean, Governor General of Canada

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**President:** Philip Hassen MPH

**International Director:** Dr. Ronald R. Lett

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**Public Engagement:** Karethe Linaae MFA

**Vancouver Office Assistant:** Grace Green



\$100 HELPS BUILD A LAB IN TANZANIA

**CNIS DONORS:** Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Harbinger Foundation, Donner Canadian Foundation, Ethiopian North American Health Professionals Association, CNIS Organizational and Individual Members and Friends of CNIS.

**YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS MUCH NEEDED & GREATLY APPRECIATED!**