



# OPERATIVE REPORT

SPRING 1998

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## CNIS HAS A NEW HOME

January not only rings in a new year, but also the relocation of the CNIS to beautiful Vancouver. The Vancouver office officially opened on January 15, 1998. All of our coordinating and planning will take place in this office, but for legal practicality CNIS head office will remain in Prince George. With the opening of the Vancouver office, a new face has also joined our organization. We would like to welcome Karen Mundi, our new executive assistant. The office is up and running. The CNIS has started to network with various organizations including the Volunteer Vancouver Center and the Surrey Volunteer Center. Several new volunteers for our coin can collection have been recruited. Some old and new enthusiastic volunteers have started to drop by the office to learn about CNIS's work. We are confident that the move to Vancouver will bring promising and new opportunities for the growth of our organization. (Contact information on the last page)



CNIS New Location



Karen Mundi

## Joan VanDuzer Elected Chair for CNIS

At the December 9, 1997, Directors meeting of the board, Mrs. Joan VanDuzer was elected as our new Chair. The board reappointed Dr. Ronald Lett as President and Joan Jamieson has been reappointed as treasurer. Dr. Peter McLean was elected secretary and Dr. Phillip Cooper as vice president. The CNIS board has expanded to seven members and now represents all regions of Canada. Three Directors were elected for two year terms, Dr. Mary Van Wijngarden, Edmonton; Dr. Henry Muggah, Hamilton and Dr. Fikre Germa of Prince George. During the CNIS Annual General Meeting, the constitution amended to accommodate a new and improved organization.



Joan VanDuzer

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## ESSENTIAL SURGICAL SKILLS UPDATE

In the last week of October 1997, Dr. Peter McLean conducted the 8<sup>th</sup> CNIS workshop held in Ethiopia. CNIS's next workshop for the Rift Valley, Ethiopia was held in February. Dr. Cooper and Dr. Jamieson supported urological teaching and the surgical skills workshop.

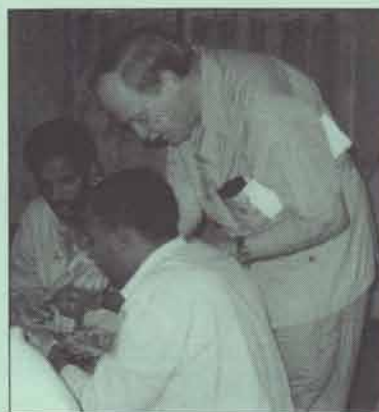
Our next Essential Surgical Skills course in Uganda is scheduled to coincide with the annual meeting of the Association of Surgeons of East and Southern Africa meeting. This will allow exposure of the curriculum to instructors from several African countries. This suggests a good future for ESS with interest in the course being already expressed from Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique. We hope that the course material can be translated into Portugese for use in Mozambique. Dr. Ricardo Barrades from Mozambique, and CNIS director Stephen Foster have expressed strong interest in this endeavor.



**Claude Romer**

MD, MPH, Chief of Injury and Violence Prevention

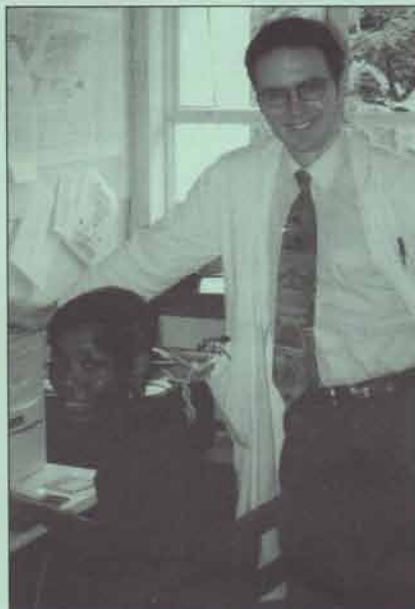
Dr. Claude Romer who spoke on the Global Importance of Injury on Nov. 10, 1997, at the Third Annual Ottawa Surgery Day is our contact person in the WHO. The CNIS and the ICC-U are developing formal links with the WHO and we expect by mid-year that both will be recognized as WHO collaborating centers.



Dr. Peter McLean teaching at Nazret

## Medical Student Scholarships

The CNIS is offering two scholarships for medical students to do a project at the ICC-Uganda. Our student representative Mr. Chris Andrews is advertising the Canadian Scholarship of 500 dollars over the internet; the ICC-U board is administering the Ugandan Scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded in April for use at the close of the academic year. Medical Students like Chris and Interns like Geraldine Owar have opportunities to learn at the ICC-U.



Chris Andrews and Dr. Geraldine Owar



Dr. Patricia Spittle

## CNIS Expanding Injury Prevention Activity

Our injury prevention program has been highly successful and is moving into new areas, such as injury prevention interventions and domestic violence. Dr. Patricia Spittal, anthropologist at McMaster University, is planning to do a pilot study of an anthropological evaluation of domestic violence in Uganda. CIDA has given CNIS 60% of the funding for the study. The CNIS will raise the other 40% of the funding.

The CNIS has also received 10,000 US\$ support from INCLEN to do an injury prevention workshop at the global meeting in Mexico City. In March, the CNIS is scheduled to hold a workshop to train the emergency department at Malago Hospital, in the team approach to the care of the injury victim.

## Linda Labronte

We just received our second installment cheque of 66,000 from CIDA.



Linda Labronte our Project Officer at CIDA

## Injury Prevention Uganda



ICC-U Board Dr. Wabire, Mr. Isaac Ezati, Dr. Olive Kobusingye and Dean N. Sewankambo

The work in injury Prevention based in Uganda has continued to be highly successful and influential. The hospital registries have expanded to a third hospital with minimal cost and the urban community, Kawempe, where the initial community survey was done has become very involved with injury prevention. The injury surveillance at the hospitals and communities are on going activities. In July, Dr. Kobusingye and Dr. Lett traveled to Geneva, where they developed an agreement between the Injury Control Center-Uganda and the WHO. The CNIS expects the ICC-U to become a WHO collaborating center after a one year of joint activities. The areas of joint activity are to be injury prevention in Africa with an emphasis on Road Traffic Injury, and secondly, the institution of the WHO policies on Violence and Health with an emphasis on baseline surveillance. This WHO involvement is felt to be crucial to the long term viability of injury prevention in Uganda, simultaneously, WHO benefits from the experience developed in Uganda.



Dr. Olive Kobusingye and Police Superintendent for Traffic in Kampala Grace Turyagumanawe

## Road Traffic Injury Prevention Initiative for Africa

In December, the Injury Control Center-Uganda hosted the joint ICC-U/WHO working group on Injury Prevention for Africa in Kampala. This three-day meeting was sponsored by the CNIS with participants from Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Sweden, Canada and the WHO in Geneva. All six African countries developed and adopted a plan of action, which was largely based on the injury surveillance model in Uganda. This three-day meeting was very beneficial for the Injury Control Center-Uganda as it brought all participants including the board together to accomplish this huge task. The work resulted in the ICC-U extending credibility and support in Uganda. Injury became a formal priority in Uganda and brought together other Ugandan stake holders like the police and transport people into play as allies. The success of this meeting assured Uganda's leadership role in injury prevention in Eastern Africa and further confirmed its expectation to become a WHO collaborating center. At the end of the meeting Dr. Kobusingye was elected the chair of the working group and Dr. Lett was elected secretary.



Participants at Road Traffic Initiative from Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and Canada

## Governor General Briefed

Ronald Lett met with his excellency, Romeo LeBlanc to brief him on the CNIS activities of Injury Prevention and Essential Surgical Skills. Dr. Lett, also proposed the idea of having a national Injury and Trauma Day declared every August 31. Below is a quotation taken from a letter sent by the Governor General dated January 13, 1998.

"Canada has a long tradition of humanitarian medicine and CNIS is helping to uphold that tradition. In our country, we are fortunate to have an excellent medical system and equally qualified physicians and health-care workers. I share your belief that we also have a responsibility to help bring that same level of care to disadvantaged people in the world, and I thank CNIS for its dedication to this cause."



Governor General, Romeo LeBlanc and Dr. Ronald Lett

### Medical Post Publishes Piece on Director

CNIS Director Stephen Foster is featured in the December 16, 1997 issue of the Medical Post. He describes the horrors of land mines in Angola and its impact on the victims and civilians. Dr. Foster also mentions the importance of CNIS's work in Africa and our commitment to training doctors in developing countries in emergency surgical procedures which will aid to save lives.

Dr. Foster has been a CNIS Director since November 1996. He is also the Canadian Director of African evangelical Fellowship. Dr. Foster has spent 17 years as a missionary surgeon in Angola. He is expecting to go to Ethiopia this June to participate in ESS workshop in preparation for the first CNIS ESS workshop being held in Mozambique. His ability to converse fluently in Portuguese will definitely come in use in Mozambique.

## CNIS UPCOMING EVENTS

### February

\*ESS Workshop in Rift Valley, Ethiopia Dr. Phillip Cooper & Dr. Clark Jamieson

### March

\*Clinical Workshop at Accident & Emergency Department at Malago Hospital, Mr. Isaac Ezati

\*ESS Workshop at Musaka Meeting at the Association of Surgeons of East Africa.

\* Injury Prevention Workshop at Global Meeting, Mexico

Drs. Ronald Lett & Olive Kobusingye. Funding provided by INCLLEN

\* Pilot Study of Domestic Violence, Uganda  
Anthropologist Patricia Spittle

### April

\* Ethiopian Friends of CNIS Fundraiser, Dr. Fikre Germa, Bayush Hagos, Dawit Shawil & Karen Mundi

\* CNIS Medical Student Scholarships awarded

### June

\* Interim meeting of ICC-U/WHO Working Group on Road Injury Prevention, Zimbabwe

**PROMOTING THE  
DELIVERY OF  
ESSENTIAL  
SURGICAL CARE  
TO THE  
UNDERPRIVILEGED**



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