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$230,000 FUNDED BY CIDA

CIDA Peacebuilding Unit approved a grant of Can $230,000. The grant will support the Peacebuilding curriculum implementation in Gulu, Uganda. The purpose of the project is to promote a non-violent attitude towards conflict resolution, reduce injury and violence in 50 schools, and continue to put non-violent conflict resolutions on the community agenda through public engagement activities. The Peacebuilding curriculum was shown to be effective in a 6 school pilot completed in May, 2004. Like the previous project, the implementing agency will be the Injury Control Center Uganda directed by Dr. A. Nganwa. Milton Mutto will lead the project with further contributions from Mable Nakitto and Catherine Nsamba. The CNIS and ICCU have been working in this war torn region since 1998.

ACC-ESS MEETING

Maputo, Mozambique

The purpose of the African Canadian Committee for ESS (ACC-ESS) is to oversee the Essential Surgical Skill (ESS), which was initiated by CNIS. The fifth annual ACC-ESS meeting was held on October 26 & 27, 2004 in Maputo Mozambique and hosted by Dr. Jose Langa, ESS Patron and Dr. Antoin Assis, ESS Director. The meeting shed light on numerous subjects and reviewed the operation of the ESS program. Dr. Mulat Taye reported that instructors are staff surgeons. A total number of 233 students and 14 new instructors have been trained. Dr. Schutgens reports that more than 80% of all medical care in Malawi is given by clinical officers. In Mozambique, there is plan to have a modified ESS courses for nurses practicing minor surgery. Dr. Patrick Kyamanywa reports that the second largest medical school in Uganda has ESS courses taught as part of the curriculum, and it continues to be a successful program. The ACC-ESS meeting also reviewed the issues of HIV and surgery, barriers to surgical care, and blood conservation were highlighted in a half day seminar.

Left to right: Dr. Jose Langa, Dr. Assis, Dr. P. Kyamanywa, Dr. M. Schutgens, Dr. G. Messele, Dr. M. Taye, Dr. A. Deneke, Dr. N. Mbemba and Dr. Berhanu.
The Volunteer and Donor Appreciation Night was held on January 13, 2005 to acknowledge all contributors and their contributions. The CNIS would not have the potential to function at this level, if it was not for the contribution of volunteers in Vancouver, across Canada and in Africa.

January 13th also marked the launching of the University-oriented, awareness geared contest: ‘STOP UNLUCKY 13’. 13% of Africans will die an injury death and the lifetime risk of a maternal death of an African woman is 1 in 13.

Damon Ramsey has been volunteering for CNIS since December 2002. His productivity, reliability, and diligence made him a popular choice for this year’s ‘Volunteer of the year’ award. In particular Damon is responsible for the revised and newly launched CNIS website. Please have a look at Damon’s work at www.cnis.ca

Left: Abeer Al-Sayyed (Public engagement assistant) and volunteer Elicia Salzberg (a UBC Commerce student) are working to promote the “STOP UNLUCKY 13” contest in all Canada.

Further details about the contest are available at www.cnis.ca

HERNIA INSTRUCTORS COURSE

The Hernia Instructor's Workshop was held on October 25th, 2004. The participants of the workshop include Dr. Gashaw Messele, Dr. Mulat Taye, Dr. Berhanu Kotisso, Dr. Patrick Kyanmanywa, Dr. Marcel Schutgens, Dr. Abraham Deneke, and Dr. Naborth A. A. Mbemba. In a district hospital, hernia represents 50% of surgical emergencies, and may become life threatening if left untreated. The hernia course has been successfully conducted among interns in Uganda. The course links lectures to practice on realistic manikins to supervised learning on informed patients. Holding the course in Mozambique means that this method of teaching has now been introduced to four more countries. The CNIS has applied for funding to continue the course in Uganda and initiating it are Ethiopia and Tanzania.

ESS Instructors workshop Mozambique

Mozambique had a workshop from October 19, 2004 to October 21, 2004. Participants included orthopedics, general surgeons, anesthetists, and obstetricians. As clearly noted in the left picture, 11 individuals are now ready to continue the ESS program in Maputo, Mozambique.
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP JANUARY 7TH
“Surviving and Succeeding at Surgery in Africa”

On January 7, 2005, the CNIS workshop of Surviving and Succeeding in Africa was held in Montreal. Participants came from University of Montreal, Mc Gill University, University of Ottawa, and University of Toronto. The objective of the workshop is for participants to learn about the wide range of surgery required when working in Africa, and to learn how to prepare for the personal health challenges they will face. In the workshop, they practiced the surgical skills under the supervision of experienced specialists using manikins. Injury, Social issues, and Urology were among the topics discussed during the event. Dr. Dickens St-Vil of St. Justine’s Hospital and Dr. Gilles Beauchamp, Head of Surgery at the University of Montreal coordinated the work on behalf of CNIS. CNIS members from Mc Gill University, Dr. Antoine Loufí (board member), Dr. Peter Mc Lean (honorary life member) and Dr. Tarek Razek (ESS instructor) participated in the workshop as did the Public Engagement Committee member Dr. Paul Moroz.

CNIS STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The Planning Session focused on challenges that CNIS faces. Some of these challenges include the nature of partnership, financial support, program direction, and the organization’s human resources. Numerous suggestions were put forth by the members; these included the strengthening of public engagement and creating a dynamic inventory of volunteers. Specific decisions were made to expand the CNIS over the next three years. It was felt by the participants that a second surgeon should be recruited in 2006 and that by 2008 the administrative capacity also be increased. The Strategic Planning Session was facilitated by outgoing board member Vic Neufeld.

CNIS ANNUAL LECTURE + AGM

On November 6, Dr. Shafique Pirani (right) gave a lecture on the Ponsetti method of management of the club foot. The Ponsetti method helps restructure deformed bones without the need of surgery. The CNIS salutes the work of Dr. Pirani. The following day, the CNIS AGM was held. Reports were distributed by President Ron Lett and Board Chair Gwen Hollaar. Manning Elliot, Phil, Hassen, and Antoine Loufí were appointed for another year. Vic Neufeld left and Gwen Hollaar, Doug Wallis, and Mike Wansborough were re-elected. Dr. Andrew Howard from Toronto Hospital for Sick Children was newly elected. The CNIS thanks Vic Neufeld for his services and welcomes Dr. Andrew Howard.
Dr. Ronald Lett has been conferred with Fellow of College Surgeons of Eastern and Central Southern Africa at its annual meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe. On November 12, he was also inducted into the wall of fame at the Camrose Composite High School where he graduated. (www.brrd.ab.ca/chhs/)

Left: Former ICCU Board member, Dr. Alice Nganwa was appointed as the new director of the Injury Control Center of Uganda (ICCU) by its board. Alice brings a wealth of experience from the Ugandan Ministry of Health. We wish her all the best!

Left: Milton Mutto is a graduate student at the Witswater University in South Africa. He is completing his masters in epidemiology funded by the Harbinger foundation through the CNIS. We look forward to Milton’s return to Uganda.

Dr. Robert Taylor is preparing to go to South Asia as a Red Cross volunteer to assist in the recovery from the consequences of the Tsunami that afflicted those living on the Indian Ocean. Dr. Tarek Razek is also on a waiting list for the Red Cross.

What’s life without a Challenge!!!!!!

Dr. Tarek Razek participated in ESS projects in Ethiopia and Tanzania through CNIS. This motivated him to volunteer for the International Committee for the Red Cross at Lokichokio hospital in Northern Kenya which serves refugees from the war in the Southern Sudan.

Antoine Loutfi CNIS Board Director has been appointed as the director of Cancer Care. Phil Hassen CNIS Past Chair has been appointed the CEO of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute.

Geoffrey Litherland, a Vancouver lawyer volunteers by contributing legal services. Recently, he drafted a contract between CNIS and the College of Surgeons of East South and Central Africa. Carol Browne of Prince George BC continues as our corporate lawyer also on a pro bono basis. The CNIS appreciates the contribution of both these lawyers’ legal services.

Left: Pedro Lourenco has been volunteering with the CNIS since November. Pedro contributes to CNIS by translating the ESS Instructors Posters into Portuguese for use in our program in Mozambique. Keep up the good work!

Volunteers who are interested to assist in the media blitz focusing on “STOP UNLUCKY 13” contest, please contact the CNIS office at (604) 739-4708.

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Join the CNIS or Renew Membership
Individual Memberships: $50.00
Student Memberships: $25.00
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Donate
To the ESS, Injury Control, or School Projects online or by post. All donations and memberships are matched by CIDA and are tax deductible.