GOVERNOR GENERAL BECOMES CNIS PATRON

On May 4, 2006, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean was very pleased to accept the invitation to become Patron of the Canadian Network for International Surgery. The Governor General is happy to lend her general endorsement, and in a letter to the CNIS, she conveys her best wishes for the continuing success of the CNIS.

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean was born on September 6, 1957 in Port au Prince, Haïti. She was appointed by Queen Elizabeth the Second to succeed Adrienne Clarkson, becoming the 27th Governor General of Canada. Prior to Ms. Jean, Roméo LeBlanc, who was Governor General from 1995-1999, was patron of the CNIS. Mr. LeBlanc had a long and distinguished career in public service.

HAPPY 10TH B-DAY ICCU!!!

The Injury Control Center Uganda was established in 1996. The establishment of the Center was increasingly important to expose and address the injury pandemic in Uganda. Over the 10 years injury has gone from an unrecognized problem to a priority. The ICCU has taken initiatives to achieve numerous objectives: being involved in injury surveillance at health institutions, publishing scientific (in international, regional and national journals) and local articles, conducting community surveys in urban, rural, refugee, and war torn zones, and establishing school programs (traffic for Kampala and Peacebuilding for Gulu). Not only is the ICCU home for Safe Kids Uganda, and the secretariat of the Injury Prevention Initiative for Africa, but it is also a World Health Organization collaborating centre. The essence of the founding directors Dr. Olive Kobusingye and Dr. Ronald Lett, who were presented with plaques was to accomplish something that will benefit human kind. INDEED THEY HAVE!!!- - - - The eventful 10 years full of achievements speak for themselves.

CNIS DONORS: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Wild Rose Foundation, Harbinger Foundation, Donner Canadian Foundation, Organizational Members, Individual Members and donations.

Your Contributions are much appreciated!
CNIS AFRICAN INJURY RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

Matt Smith, a UBC genetics student and Dr. Ronald Lett will organize an injury research student group to collect all the published and unpublished literature pertaining to the injury pandemic in Africa for the last 20 years. This will facilitate the process of locating references for injury researchers and students who work in Africa. In the long run, this will help improve their work and dissertations. One Canadian student and one African student will be recruited for each of the 54 members of the African Union. At UBC, a meeting took place to recruit students for the consortium. To alert Africans about the consortium, a poster was displayed during African awareness week at the 8th Global meeting on Safety Promotion and Injury Control in Durbin. For those who are interested to be part of the consortium, please visit our web site at www.cnis.ca, and register soon!

Kidist Bartolomieosk (WHO Mozambique) in front of a CNIS poster in Durbin

GLOBAL MEETING ON SAFETY AND INJURY CONTROL

Injury Experts from all over the world attended the bi-annual meeting of the 8th Global Meeting on Safety and Injury Control which was held for the first time in Durbin. At the meeting there were both oral and visual presentations, as well as numerous pre conference and intra conference meetings. From March 30 to April 1, Dr. Ronald Lett taught at 3 one day pre conference workshops in Africa: Trauma Care (in French), Injury Surveillance, and Trauma Team Training (in English). Wilson Odero, who is the secretary general of IPIFA chaired the African regional Meeting which was open to all those working in Africa. One of the major outcomes of this meeting is that Francophone Africans expressed satisfaction with the progress of IPIFA by supporting and joining IPIFA, which without a doubt is a major step forward for IPIFA. Milton Muto, Catherine Nansamba, Alice Nganwa, and Mable Nakitto from the ICCU made oral presentations. Mable, Milton, and Catherine attended the Safe Communities Meeting in Durbin the following week. Their participation in South Africa was supported by the Swedish SIDA.

Wilson Odero, Secretary general, IPIFA

A TRIBUTE TO GLEN CHARLES LETT (1928–2006)


The CNIS is grateful for this designation and for the generous donations which will further the work of the CNIS in Africa. As for Glen Lett….. his memory will live on!
INNOVATION PROJECT: AWASSA ETHIOPIA, WASHINGTON, DC

As part of the Innovation Project, the CNIS initiated the ESS course in Awassa to provide obstetrical and ESS training, while assisting the safe motherhood project. This project is funded by CIDA and cost shared by the Ethiopian North American Health Professionals Association (ENAHPA). In Awassa, teachers were equipped with all teaching material necessary to successfully conduct ESS; in 3 days 13 instructors were certified. On April 29, Dr. Ronald Lett made a presentation at the evening banquet of the Annual General of ENAHPA about the work of the CNIS in Ethiopia, particularly of the progress of the jointly sponsored Innovation project in Awassa and Addis Ababa. The event was held in Silver Spring Maryland (a suburb of Washington DC). The following day the CNIS conducted “The Place of Surgery in International Development” workshop for ENAHPA at the same location. Discussions evolved around critical thinking and effective development program implementations. One of the participants invited Dr. Lett as a guest on WZHF 1390 am, an Ethiopian radio station that evening. These activities were conducted as part of the CNIS objective of engaging the Ethiopian North American community.

TEACHER’S WORKSHOP, VANCOUVER

On May 6, 2006, the CNIS organized the “Teaching teachers how to teach International Development” workshop which was held in the CNIS new office facility. The workshop attracted teachers, as well as other professionals who are eager to learn about international development. Mr. Shannon Tito, Ms. Carol Magambo, and Dr. Ronald Lett who were the presenters for the workshop, enlightened the audience with information, statistics as well as personal experiences through a power point presentation. Among topics discussed is the Peacebuilding program which is carried out in countries in Africa. The purpose of this project is to promote a non-violent attitude behavior towards conflict resolutions on community agenda. Being established in schools, the project aims at targeting the younger generation. Towards the end of the workshop, participants were given the opportunity to exercise their knowledge and skills by coming up with practical and feasible solutions for different case projects.

ESS INSTRUCTOR’S COURSE IN MALAWI

The CNIS conducted its 3rd ESS Instructors Course in Blantyre, Malawi. The primary purpose of the instructor’s course is to ensure that each specific university’s department of surgery has a sufficient number of faculty members who are trained to conduct the ESS Instructor’s Course. The second purpose of this course is to provide previous instructors with the latest information on the course content and methodologies. For more than 5 years, the ESS patron in Malawi has been Dr. Marcel Schutgens, a Dutch National. The CNIS is very grateful for the leadership and dedication of Dr. Schutgens who made considerable contributions to a country where there is a shortage of surgeons. Ten new instructors from both Blantyre and Lilongwe were certified. ESS which initiated in 1999 (in Malawi), is taught to both medical students and clinical officers within the country.
CNIS AFRICA NIGHT

On May 6, 2006, a large number of energetic and enthusiastic people joined in the celebration of the CNIS annual Africa Night. Channel M, a local Portuguese channel covered the event to present it on their channel. One of the highlights of the evening was the Angolan cuisine which was complemented by the majority of attendees. The outstanding performance by the Axe Copoeira, and FESO groups set the mood right for the rest of the night. The African rhythm made people dance! Many thanks to Fatima Pedrosa for putting endless effort in organizing this event.

COUNSELING GULU, UGANDA

Wars affect communities collectively and Uganda society has had a fair share of traumatic events and experiences. Due to the severity of the situation, individuals may fail to imagine personal survival because their ways do not survive. Therefore Counseling in war-torn areas becomes essential to reconnect individuals whose life has been interrupted by war, abduction, separation from families and friends/peers, displacement from familiar environment and those who are grieving/mourning the loss of loved ones and belonging. This year the Peacebuilding project in Gulu is drawing to a close. In the first phase of the project, the number of traumatized children was underestimated; all were severely traumatized. Due to this it was increasingly important to educate at least 2 teachers from each of the 50 schools where the Peacebuilding program is being piloted, to provide counseling. This second phase proved to be important, as it provided services previously unavailable. One of the primary schools used its own resources to build a counseling office so that these new services can be provided in privacy.

Please Note that the Operative Report will be available to you by email.

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