SORT project launched in 4 Tanzania centres

CNIS has initiated the Safer Obstetrics in Rural Tanzania project in four Tanzanian institutions. Essential Surgical Skills (ESS) will be taught to Assistant Medical Officer (AMO) students in the first year of their two-year course. This program has now been taught to over 120 learners in Moshi, Mwanza and Tanga.

As small groups are necessary to assure hands-on-experience, two providers workshops were conducted at each centre. The courses in Moshi were implemented by Drs. Robin Fairfull-Smith (Ottawa) and Rogers Temu; in Mwanza by Drs. Mark Hardy (Montreal) and Alphonse Chandika; and in Tanga by Drs. Ronald Lett (Addis Ababa) and Amaani Malima (Dar es Salaam). CNIS also conducted ESS instructors in Mwanza and Tanga, augmenting the number of certified instructors in Mwanza and creating a faculty of 18 in Tanga.

The Fundamental Interventions, Referral and Safe Transfer (FIRST) course is taught to clinical officers, who are posted at the community level. FIRST is the CNIS initiative to assure timely recognition of critical surgical and obstetrical problems. A FIRST instructors course and two providers courses were taught in Sengerema, certifying 14 instructors and with 53 students completing the course. FIRST is planned for the other clinical officers training centres in the coming months.

Right: ESS instructors certified at the AMO Training Centre in Tanga, Tanzania.

CNIS teams up with CBM for osteomyelitis course

Drs. Norgrove Penny and Ronald Lett piloted the Essential Osteomyelitis Management (EOM) course under the auspices of the Injury Control Centre Tanzania in Dar es Salaam March 8-9, 2012. Fifteen general surgery and junior orthopedic residents completed the two-day course, which was held at the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute. The course included the management of both acute and chronic osteomyelitis and septic arthritis. Using models developed by the instructors for the course, simulated deep soft tissue and bone abscesses were drained and sequestrae were removed. Two X-ray reading sessions were highly popular with the participants.

The course was supported by the Canadian Blind Mission. CBM is one of the largest disability organizations working in low-income countries and CNIS is proud to collaborate with them. The successful treatment of osteomyelitis, which largely affects children, is one of the greatest orthopedic contributions to quality of life. We look forward to replicating this course with CBM in Dar es Salaam and other centres in Tanzania.

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BETHUNE ROUND TABLE 2012

May 25 - 27 in Toronto, ON.

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ACCESS 2012

The 2012 ACCESS meeting, held in Mbarara, Uganda on March 27 - 28 aimed to review, critique and update CNIS course curricula.

See page 2
Sengerema, Tanzania

CNIS SSSL nursing course returns to Ethiopia

Close to 1000 African health science students, non-physicians and medical clinicians in Ethiopia, Uganda, Mali, Rwanda and Tanzania benefited from CNIS courses under the Safer Surgery Obstetrics and Communities in Africa (SSOCA) project over the last six months. This includes five ESS courses, two FIRST courses, one SOO obstetrics instructor and one provider course in Jimma, Ethiopia; four ESS courses and one SSSL nursing course in Gondar, Ethiopia; one ESS course, a nursing course, a FIRST instructor and two FIRST provider courses in Mekele, Ethiopia; and two ESS courses in both Addis Ababa and Awassa, Ethiopia. In Kigali, Rwanda, we held two ESS courses, an S00 instructors and an S00 providers course. The ESS was also conducted in the integrated format in Kampala, Uganda and twice in Gulu and Mbarara, Uganda. ESS was conducted in French in Mali and for medical students in Moshi, Tanzania.

In addition to our African partners who are critical for these courses, Canadian participants who helped achieve these results included Professor François Cabana, Genelle Leifso, Audrey Hiebert and Drs. Lorraine Woolford, William Pollett, Robin Fairfull-Smith, Wylam Faught, Suzanne Roberg, Ghee Hwang, Bernard Lawlor, Barbara Leblanc, Anne Meziat Burdin and Ronald Lett.

The 2012 ACCESS meeting was held in Mbarara, hosted by Drs. Bitariho Deogratias and Deus Twesige. CNIS has five surgical partners, three obstetrical partners and two injury control partners in Rwanda and Uganda. The 14 African leaders from these institutions met with CNIS personnel, including Lorne Braun, Program Associate, Lorraine Woolford, Obstetrical Associate and Ronald Lett, International Director.

Presentations on surgical skills training in Gulu, Mbarara and Kampala, on obstetrical training at Mbarara, Makerere, Kigali and Butare, as well as from the Injury Control Centre - Uganda and the Injury Prevention Initiative for Africa were all of high caliber. The means of reporting and course conduct were evaluated and course curricula were critiqued, with constructive feedback from the participants.

© R. Lett

One instructors and two providers courses were held for 14 instructors and 53 students. Above: Dr. Isidor Ngayomela.

© R. Lett

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The 2012 ACCESS meeting was held in Mbarara, allowed health professionals from 11 different institutions to interact and learn from each other.

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Burn Management in Dar

Drs. Laurean Rwanyuma and Sarvesh Logsetty conducted the Essential Burn Management Course for 23 participants from the Muhimbili National Hospital adult and pediatric burn unit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in March.

© G. Leifso

Coaching in the OR after the SSSL nursing course in Mekele, Ethiopia in March.

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Join us at the 2012 Bethune Round Table in Toronto, May 25-27

The Bethune Round Table is a unique international conference devoted entirely to surgical issues in the developing world, held annually in Canada. CNIS and the University of Toronto Office of International Surgery are proud to host the 12th annual Bethune Round Table on International Surgery in Toronto, Ontario on May 25-27, 2012.

There are not enough surgeons in low-income countries to provide emergency and essential surgical care to the population. Addressing the global burden of disease due to surgery means filling this gap.

Honouring our Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart, soul and hard-working hands of CNIS. Every year CNIS presents an award to volunteers who have gone above and beyond in helping our organization.

The 2011 Volunteers of the Year award went to Dr. Ghee and Teresa Hwang from Vernon, BC. Ghee is a Malaysian-born general surgeon and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at UBC. He is Director of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons (CAGS) Lacor Uganda program and has taught numerous CNIS surgical skills courses in Gulu, Uganda. Ghee and Teresa also held an event, raising $14,000 for the work of CNIS in Gulu!

The recognition for Volunteer Team Spirit went to Mehdi Mahinpoor and Mitra Filsuofi, who run a Vancouver sewing shop. Mehdi and Mitra have helped CNIS with endless sewing, fixing, sourcing and picking up of material and are always willing to help.

In the past three years, CNIS has increased our number of volunteers more than tenfold. In addition to almost 40 surgeons, obstetricians and nurse instructors, we also have more than 300 non-surgical volunteers, ranging in age from 15-71. The volunteers help with tasks as diverse as applying snaps to vinyl bellies for obstetrics models to translating letters from Tigrinya to English. From July 1st 2010 to June 30th 2011, the non-surgical volunteers alone donated 5313 hours to CNIS, and community involvement is growing on all fronts!

CNIS is grateful and indebted to ALL our volunteers, without whom we could not continue and expand our life-saving work and mission!

Presentations this year include aspects of international surgery related to clinical care, education, research or infrastructure. All accepted abstracts will be published in the Canadian Journal of Surgery. Participants from low-income countries whose abstracts are accepted will be offered a scholarship to cover travel accommodation and registration.

Registration: please visit www.cnis.ca/store/products-page/events/
Questions: please contact ptolemy.info@utoronto.ca

CNIS PORTRAIT

Meet Dr. Sarvesh Logsetty

Q1: What is your title and occupation?
A: Trauma Burn Surgeon, Director Manitoba Firefighters Burn Unit, Associate Professor University of Manitoba.

Q2: When and why did you get involved with CNIS?
A: In 2002. To develop a way to improve burn care in underdeveloped parts of the world.

Q3: What is your role with CNIS?
A: Consulting surgeon and program developer for the CNIS Essential Burn Management (EBM) Course.

Q4: What is your most rewarding moment with CNIS?
A: When team members take the knowledge we bring to them and use it to help other people.

Q5: What would you like people to know about CNIS?
A: CNIS is doing great work internationally. Not only do they have a wide audience at all levels of care providers, they are also evaluating their efforts to ensure that they meet the needs of the participants, and are continuously being improved.

Q6: Do you have advice for others interested in volunteering with CNIS?
A: Volunteering with CNIS is an excellent opportunity. I highly recommend it!
ON THE CUTTING EDGE

- **Award to CNIS Surgical Associate** - CNIS congratulates Dr. Robert H. Taylor, the 2012 recipient of the Royal College's Teasdale-Corti Humanitarian Award, which recognizes physicians who go above and beyond the norms of practice in their provision of health care and medical services worldwide.

- **NJT equips CNIS** - The organization Not Just Tourists (Ottawa chapter) opened its warehouse doors with medical donations to CNIS. Drs. Hassan Shenassa and Robin Fairfull-Smith helped us pick out much-needed supplies.

- **University dorm fundraiser** - Thanks to Benjamin Alstad and fellow students at Memorial University Hatcher House Residence for a $200 donation to CNIS.

- **March 8** - Ten Thousand Villages partnered with CNIS to support maternal health on International Women's Day. Thank you to the stores and our volunteers.

- **Legal advice** - CNIS would like to thank Monique Shebbeare, lawyer and mediator of wills and estates at BC Heritage Law, for help with CNIS legacy giving.

- **Royal College Medalist** - Dr. Sonia Yeung, CNIS and UBC BIS scholarship recipient in 2009, won the Surgery Award for her Clinical and Microbiological Profile of Microbial Keratitis in India. Congratulations!

- **BC Women's support** - CNIS would like to thank the BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre and Dr. Jan Christilaw for the generous donation of $15,000 towards our obstetrics courses in Uganda.

- **Book review** - Dr. Gemini's African Book Reviews now includes the popular novel *Cutting for Stone* about an expatriate surgeon in Ethiopia. The review is written by Dr. Ronald Lett who has worked in Ethiopia for more than 25 years. Book reviews can be accessed through the CNIS home page. [www.cnis.ca](http://www.cnis.ca)

- **It’s a boy!** - Congratulations to CNIS IT Associate Andrew Arthur and his wife Melissa Fisler on the arrival of their second son, Aiden Joshua Arthur on March 27.

**News Alert**

Because of some health concerns, Mr. Philip Hassen has advised us that he regretfully needs to resign from CNIS as president effective this June. Dr. Ronald Lett will be resuming that position. A strategic planning meeting of senior staff will be held in Vancouver on May 31 and June 1 to review management options that will be discussed with the Board Executive. Results will be communicated to the membership. CNIS is grateful to Mr. Hassen for his two years as president as well as his 14 years of service in roles which also included vice president, board chair and chair of the finance committee.