



Since 1995

OPERATIVE REPORT

Fall 2008



Depuis 1995

ESS INSTRUCTORS COURSES CONDUCTED IN ETHIOPIA, MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE AND UGANDA

To maintain standards and structure, as well as sustaining surgical education courses, the CNIS conducts Essential Surgical Skills (ESS) Instructors Courses. Since June, we have held ESS Instructors Courses in 4 of our partner countries; Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique and Uganda.

The one day ESS Review course is for specialists who have taken the course before. The 3 day ESS Instructors Course are for those who are new to the course. In particular, the 3 day course is needed when the course is being introduced to an area for the first time. Review courses have been held this year in both Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Mekele, Ethiopia. Full 3 day courses have recently been conducted in Gulu in Uganda, Awassa in Ethiopia, Maputo in Mozambique and in Blantyre in Malawi. Just under 100 instructors were certified or re-certified. One African surgeon, Naboth Mbembati, and Canadian surgeons Al Felix, Ronald Lett, Gwen Hollaar, Barbara Leblanc, Doug Johnson and Jon Just implemented these courses. The CNIS is most grateful to these surgeons and to the newly certified African specialists. The capacity to continue the ESS courses, which now have been taken by 7500 primary care practitioners, is being maintained.



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ADDIS WORKSHOPS

Surgical skills training is an active part of the new skills lab at the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. There are now 23 certified ESS instructors in Addis Ababa.

This fall, two ESS Provides Courses were conducted by newly certified ESS Instuctors, with a third course scheduled for October 27th. A Structured Hernia Repair Providers Workshop is booked for October 22-31. New courses in craniotomy and laparoscopic surgery are planned for November and December.

MEKELE WORKSHOPS

In June, 14 newly certified ESS instructors gave an ESS Providers Course to 19 medical students in Mekele, Ethiopia. Dr Mekonen is the Director for the ESS programs in Mekele.

CNIS aims at having Canadian Departments of Surgery support specific partners in Africa. Memorial University in St. Johns, Newfoundland is the partner for Mekele. Dr. Al Felix was the first instructor from Memorial to teach in Mekele. We hope he will be back this winter!

CNIS DONORS: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Wild Rose Foundation, Harbinger Foundation, Donner Canadian Foundation, ENAHPA, University Of Ottawa, McGill University, CNIS Organizational Members and Individual Members. Your contributions are much needed and appreciated!

ICCT MAKES IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS IN SHORT TIME



A First Aid Skills demonstration for police in the Iringa region on how to apply pressure bandages.



Dr Respicious Boniface, the ICCT Director, demonstrates CPR to participants of a TTT course in Iringa.



A facilitator demonstrates practical examples to delegates on how to do venous cut down.

The Injury Control Centre (ICCT) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, has been a legal entity since January 2008. Under the direction of Dr. Respicious Boniface and the Chairmanship of Dr. Lawrence Museru, the new centre has been very active. Injury surveillance is underway in two rural and one urban hospital. The hospitals are Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute, Mkuranga District Hospital and Iringa Regional Hospital.

With assistance of Tanzania Red Cross facilitators, ICCT has conducted six first-aid trainings for

school teachers, as well as eight Trauma Team Trainings (TTT) for various medical professionals in rural hospitals. These trainings are expected to equip the participants with substantial knowledge and skills in managing trauma patients. A questionnaire was assessed to provide an indication of the impact.

Police officers are also given basic trauma training by ICCT, as they are often the first ones to arrive at scenes of injury.

The Trauma Team is looking

forward to organizing similar training sessions in 'high risk' towns in different regions

The ICCT is presently producing a scientific paper on injury priorities in Dar es Salaam. The priorities are traffic injuries, falls from coconut trees and domestic violence. A three year strategic plan is being completed and a financial audit has been initiated.

The ICCT is an important new initiative of the CNIS and we are pleased with its rapid progress.



Photo by: Barbara Leblanc

ESS IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Gulu in Northern Uganda has been a site of conflict for the past 20 years. Peace has been gradually building, and with it a Medical school, started in Partnership between Uganda and the University of Naples. Their first group of graduates were the target for the ESS course.

Newly certified ESS instructors taught the ESS Providers Course to 25 medical students (half the class). Student enthusiasm was high and they clearly expressed that this course is essential if they are to be effective doctors at graduation. CNIS is now searching for Canadian surgeons to help with the next ESS Providers Course in the Spring of 2009, when we hope to teach the remaining 26 graduating students.

AFRICAN MARKET DRAWS IN THE CROWDS



The CNIS hosted its annual African Market on Saturday, September 6, 2008. This year marked its biggest turnout ever with an attendance of about 250 people from the Vancouver community. Thirteen vendors sold African crafts, fashion, food and musical instruments, while Yoro Noukussi and Linoleum Blowpart drew in the crowds with their lively and contagious music.

The Market is held every fall to help promote and support the local African community by providing a venue for them to showcase their goods and talents. It also gives the CNIS a chance to connect and share its work with the public.

Thank you to all of the participants for helping to make this event a success. We hope to see you all again next year! Check out highlights and upcoming video clips of the market on our web site: www.cnis.ca.

SALAMA SAFARI TO CANADIAN SCHOOLS



The course aims to follow a Grade 6 curriculum, while adding new and exciting ways to learn about African culture, geography, ecology and global issues.

The Salama Safari (Salama means 'Peace' in Swahili) will launch in the Spring of 2009. Class progress through the Safari can be followed through an interactive map on the CNIS web site.

The goal of this multi-faceted program is to raise awareness and funds, activate students and teach them skills from the CNIS Peacebuilding Program.

The Salama Safari is a CNIS Pilot Program where Canadian school children engage in a virtual bike safari around the African continent.

For more information about the program, please contact karethe@cnis.ca.

CNIS CARBON NEUTRAL

Human induced global warming and climate change is one of the greatest environmental threats of this century. The CNIS is now addressing the climate change impact on our operations. We are doing so firstly, by reducing our GHG emissions wherever possible through conservation of energy and the use of renewable resources. Secondly we are offsetting our GHG emissions.

The Canadian Development Agency (CIDA) will remunerate 75% of the cost to offset our carbon expenditure. They agree that this is part of an environmental cross-cutting theme in all of their programs and that all CNIS international development projects must now be looked at from an environmental point of view.

This year, CNIS' carbon footprint was calculated to 97.5 tonnes, a 15% increase from last year. This is due to an increase in course activities and air travel to Africa. CNIS purchases carbon offsets from Ecosystem Restoration Associates which not only offsets our carbon emissions, but also assists communities by restoring degraded lands through ERA's ecosystem restoration programs.



TOM CANNING RETIRES FROM CNIS

After four years of excellent service, Tom Canning, CNIS' accountant, will be retiring from the CNIS to travel the world with his wife, Eppie.

Tom's primary roles at the CNIS were to provide monthly and quarterly statements. He ensured that all donations and directed gifts were used according to the donors' requests. He carefully monitored expenses for each project and was instrumental in facilitating good financial management in the organization. He always completed these tasks in a timely manner.

According to Phil Hassen, the CNIS Vice President (Volunteer), "Tom is



one of those unsung heroes who ensures that an organization keeps on a steady course and who is always there when you need him. One might say he is like a sea anchor in a storm. Tom is a classy, caring and committed human being. I am proud to have been associated with him."

Tom has been a dedicated and loyal CNIS employee. His diligence and meticulousness has helped to keep CNIS a credible organization. To take over accounting at CNIS, we welcome Doreen Grossman, CGA.

Thank you, Tom and best of luck. We will miss you!

What's Up Doc?

- **It's a Girl!** Lana Lett, daughter of Dr. Ronald Lett and his wife Elza, was born in Addis Abada, Ethiopia on July 12, 2008. The CNIS staff is hoping for a great surgeon in the making.
- **AGM in Ottawa** - The CNIS will be holding its Annual General Meeting in Ottawa on October 26th.
- **CNIS Open House** - Come to the Open House on November 6th from 5 to 7pm.
- **CNIS on the Morning News** - Tune in to Global TV at 7:50 AM on Thursday, November 6 for an interview with CNIS founder, Dr. Ronald Lett
- **Books and Supplies to Tanzania** - A shipment of surgical and medical books from the Sabre Foundation, funded by the Donner Foundation, has been approved and is on its way to Tanzania.
- **Award** - Dr. Ronald Lett received University of Alberta's Alumni Honor Award in recognition of his life-saving work in Africa.
- **Award** - CNIS Vice-Chair Dr. Tarek Razek, has received the 2008 Global Volunteer Award from Outpost Magazine.
- **SOGC** - The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) is now an organizational member of CNIS
- **SOO Course on Oct 28** - CNIS will be holding a Structured Operative Obstetrics (SOO) Course on October 28th at the University of Ottawa. For information, please email office@cnis.ca
- **SSS Course on Nov 7** - CNIS will be holding a Surviving and Succeeding at Surgery in Africa (SSS) Course in Vancouver on November 7th, from 8:30 - 4:30. For information, please email office@cnis.ca
- **Do you want to learn Swahili? Start on Nov 4 & 5** - Take conversational Swahili lessons at the CNIS office in Vancouver. The new term starts on November 4th and 5th. For information, please go to www.cnis.ca.



The CNIS Staff

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