



FALL 2009

CNIS RETURNS TO GUYANA

CNIS has been supporting Canadian Association of General Surgeons project in Guyana since October 2006 with the introduction of Trauma Team Training. Three years later, TTT courses were conducted at Georgetown Public Hospital to maintain this program in Guyana. Dr. Ronald Lett conducted an Instructors Refresher Course for 11 and an Instructors Course for 7 surgeons, giving Guyana 18 certified instructors for the next 3 years. The newly certified instructors implemented a Provider Course to 9 women and 13 men in multi-disciplinary emergency department teams from Georgetown, Linden, New Amsterdam, West Demerara and Suddie, thus providing TTT throughout Guyana.

A formal course evaluation is being conducted by Julie Pemberton from McMaster University to determine the reliability of the measurement instruments used and the intermediate impact of the course on knowledge, technical skills and team management. This will require a follow-up evaluation of the trained Guyanese teams, as well as untrained controls in November.

Previously known as British Guiana, Guyana is the third-smallest independent state in South America with a population of 770,000. It is the only English speaking country in South America. In 2008, life expectancy at birth was estimated at 63/66 years, infant mortality rate was 31.35 and maternal mortality rates estimated at 9.33/10000.

Right: Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, the Hon. Minister of Health presents Trauma Team Training Providers certificate to Orthopaedic Technician Kevita Coates in Georgetown, Guyana.



© Ronald Lett

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO THE HEALTH OF AFRICANS

A message from CNIS President Dr. Ronald Lett

Over the last 3 years in 7 African countries thousands of Surgical and Obstetrical skills were taught, hundreds of Injury Control Initiatives implemented, hundreds of thousands of books distributed and tens of thousands of surgical information internet "hits" occurred because of the work of CNIS employees, volunteers and partners in Canada and Africa. By December 31st when the current agreement ends, CIDA will have contributed \$2 million and CNIS will have matched this contribution with another \$2 million.

What has been the source of the CNIS contributions. CNIS has had the support of 4 foundations, our volunteer surgeons and obstetricians in addition to contributing time contribute money, CNIS board members, senior employees and members have been generous. Raising funds is not easy. This year the reduced investment income of philanthropic foundations and the Alberta Government's decision to close the Wild Rose Foundation has had a negative impact. Consequently the work of CNIS is more dependent on your donation than in the past.

We need your membership and donations. As a member you support the objective of safer surgery, obstetrics and communities in Africa.

Understanding the importance of this objective is not limited to health professional and membership is open to all. About half of our members are not health professionals. So please, renew or take out a membership this fall. Your help now will be increased 10 times, as the next 25,000 dollars in donations received will support the sending of a container with \$250 000 worth of new surgical and obstetrical books to Uganda.

How are your memberships and donations meaningful? You can participate in our various Canadian public engagement activities, receive the newsletter, serve on the board, but most importantly as a member you are part of the successful skills training, injury control and information initiatives of the past present and future. Your donation this fall will put needed current surgical and obstetrical books into the hands of Ugandans who take care of patients and will also help us meet our financial commitment to CIDA. Please help CNIS continue to make a difference to the health of Africans even during this time of recession by being a member and making a one time, or even better a monthly donation.

ETHIOPIA PILOTS 'FIRST' PEACE BUILDING INSTRUCTOR COURSE

The Fundamental Interventions, Referral and Safe Transfer (FIRST) course was piloted in Awassa in August. Content and organization were changed and re-tested in Jimma in September. 22 Health-officers trainees (18 men, 4 women) took the course in Awassa and 24 (16 men, 4 women) took the Jimma course. Designed to improve community level surgical and obstetrical care, FIRST is given to Health Officers, the first health professionals to see the patient, even in serious cases. CNIS focuses on this issue as too many low risk cases are being referred, while high-risk conditions are being delayed or not transferred safely to referral centers. CNIS has yet another course to improve surgery and obstetrics in African communities.



Teachers at Peace Building Instructors Workshop, Gulu, Uganda

© R. Lett



Health Officer student practices CPR at FIRST course

© R. Lett

CNIS has been working in Northern Uganda for 10 years now. A highlight of this activity has been developing its Peace Building Curriculum. The objective of the curriculum is to promote non-violent conflict resolution, thus reducing injury in post war schools, helping children develop skills that will be useful throughout their life. The curriculum has been accepted by the Ugandan Ministry of Education, but the acceptance did not include the training of teachers. Therefore, the curriculum has only been implemented correctly by teachers trained by CNIS and the Injury Control Center - Uganda. In August, Mable Nakitto (ICCU director), Jenaro Okot (ICCU Peace Building Project Coordinator) and Ronald Lett conducted a 3 day Instructors Course for 36 teachers. Over the last two years the Peace Building project has been replicated in Northern Ethiopia. In September 48 teachers in Axum Ethiopia took a similar Instructors Course, conducted by the Axum Peace Building coordinator Ato Zenabe Asgood and Dr. Lett. The course has been reinvigorated in Gulu Municipality and expanded to 5 schools in Axum. The course is expected to continue to expand in both Northern Uganda and Northern Ethiopia.



CNIS REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Dr. Paul Moroz supervised yet another very successful ESS course at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) in Moshi, Tanzania. Dr. Moroz has been teaching in Moshi for the last 3 years. After the course, he joined an Ottawa group organized through Algonquin College in Ottawa for a 9-day trip to climb to the top of the highest mountain in Africa, Mt. Kilimanjaro. In fact, most climbers who get into real trouble with altitude sickness on Kilimanjaro are taken to KCMC for treatment. Paul is happy to report that all 19 in their group made the summit safely, a rare event indeed, since usually 30 – 40% of climbers are turned back from the summit because of altitude sickness.

Following the Kilimanjaro trek, Dr. Moroz flew to Nairobi, Kenya at the request of a surgeon colleague at the Aga Khan University Hospital who requested his help to operate on the congenital hips of a three year old Kenyan child. The surgery was successful and the Aga Khan University staff were very interested in the possibility of partnering with CNIS after hearing about the ESS course.

Left: Dr. Paul Moroz and his wife, Dr. Clare Schnurr look tired but satisfied after summiting the 19,380 foot high Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Dr. Moroz shows the Unlucky 13 button. CNIS' aim is to reverse the fact that 13% of native Africans still die from traumatic injury and 13% of African women die a maternal death.



© P. Moroz

INTERNATIONAL SURGERY SCHOLARSHIPS

Collaboration between the UBC Branch for International Surgery and CNIS continues. Through the assistance of CNIS' CIDA project, the Branch has been able to present 4 research scholarships. The 2009 recipients, all UBC residents, share a keen interest and commitment to better understanding the burden of unmet surgical care in developing countries. The scholarships will help cover their travel costs. Dr. Vanessa Fawcett is focusing on the heavy burden of injury and improving the Trauma Registry at a key hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. In India where the majority of the worlds 20 million correctable blind people live, Dr. Sonia Yeung is looking at improving Corneal Transplantation. Access to care issues in Uganda is the focus of Drs. Paul Mick and Damon Ramsey's research. Dr. Mick is Identifying Barriers to the Effective Treatment of Chronic Middle Ear Disease and Dr. Ramsey is focussing on the barriers to accessing pediatric surgery.

FROM PET CARRIER TO OBSTETRICS MODEL



© L. Woodford

CNIS Vancouver made obstetrics model was first used in an obstetrics course in Kigali, Rwanda

TOONIES FOR SURGICAL BOOKS



© G. Green

High school students Becca Nurvey, Alex Boates and Griffen Wright collect donations for the Uganda Book Project

When CNIS started teaching in Africa, there were no practice substitute for live patients. The commercial obstetrics models were expensive and heavy to bring to Africa. CNIS' surgeons have worked to create alternate simulators. Due to their innovation and thriftiness, we have now created a lighter obstetrics model from a simple pet carrier. Thanks to our volunteer props-builder and seamstress Danica West and Alida Fernhout, 6 prototypes were introduced in SOO courses in Kigali, Rwanda and Ottawa. The help of our non-surgical volunteers cannot be underestimated, as each model saves \$600, can be stacked for travel and weighs 1/10 of commercial types. The models allow students to practice C-section, retained placenta removal and cervical laceration repair.

CNIS AFRICAN MARKET BRINGS CROWDS

After a feature on Global TV news, more than 500 people came to visit the CNIS African Market, where hair braiding, face paint, Zambian wall murals, drumming and Nigerian dishes were on the agenda. This public engagement initiative allows African artisans, vendors and NGOs to display their work. CNIS would like to thank our valued volunteers, the participants and our wonderful performers; Pendomoja, Tara Lett and Mukutano Singing and Drumming Society for making it such a memorable day.



© T. Marchant

Fay Salmon from Mukutano Singing and Drumming Society



© T. Marchant

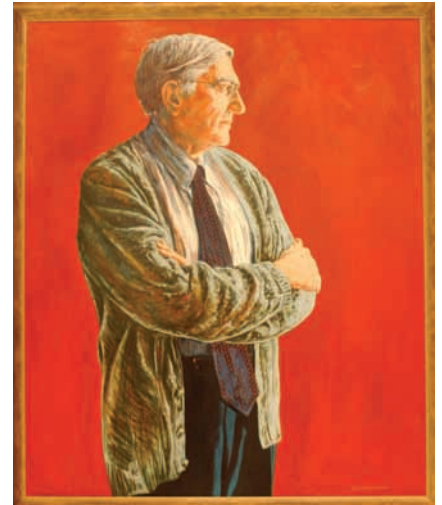
Shayo and Jet enjoy Zambian wall mural painting

IN MEMORY OF THE HON. ROMEO LEBLANC

A donation was made to CNIS in memory of CNIS former patron, the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, P.C., C.C., C.M.M., C.D. (1927 - 2009) LeBlanc will be remembered as the first Acadian and Atlantic Canadian to become Canada's Governor General. He is remembered for putting a compassionate face on the vice-regal position, opening the grounds of Rideau Hall to the public, creating an award for volunteerism and reaching out to the Francophone community. CNIS International Director and founder, Dr. Ronald Lett has fond memories of meeting the Governor General, when Roméo LeBlanc let Dr. Lett's daughter Robyn play Glen Gould's grand piano at Rideau Hall during their meeting.

Remember someone special by giving a gift in their memory or honor. CNIS will send a card, acknowledging your thoughtful donation to the person of your choice. In giving to CNIS, you help us continue our vital teaching programs in Africa.

Right: Roméo LeBlanc 1927- 2009. Part of the Crown Collection painted by Christan Nicholson (b.1948 in N.B.). Reproduced with the permission of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General.



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ON THE CUTTING EDGE

- **Surgical and Obstetrical Associates** - Dr. Robert Taylor has been appointed CNIS Surgical Associate and Dr. Lorraine Woolford has been appointed CNIS Obstetrical Associate. Both appointments are from July 1- Dec. 31 2009
- **Finance Committee** - Sylvie Ouellette, CA, Audit Project Leader for the Office of the Auditor General of Canada and James B. Flett, FCA, has joined the CNIS Finance Committee.
- **2009 AGM** - CNIS AGM will be held in Vancouver on Nov. 28 at 9 am, followed by a board meeting and strategic planning session in the afternoon and Nov. 29th.
- **Trauma Team Training** - A TTT Instructors Course will be held in Vancouver on November 27. Instructors include Tarek Razek, chief of Trauma Services at the Montreal General Hospital. www.cnis.ca
- **Okanagan Zambia Health Initiative** - CNIS thanks Dr. Dean Malish for his generous support, allowing the first ESS Course to be taught in Zambia in October.
- **COSECSA** - COSECSA fellow, Dr. Ronald Lett attended the Tanzanian regional scientific meeting of the College of East, Central and Southern Africa. He took the opportunity to plan upcoming ESS workshops with partners from Mozambique and Malawi, planned future work in Zambia and Kenya and conferred with Tanzanian and Uganda colleagues concerning ongoing activities.
- **In memory** - A donation was made to CNIS in the memory of Mr. Hugh Irving, Camrose, Alberta and Charlene Anne Howe, Delta, BC.
- **Colposcope** - Thank you Ron Kilius and Superior Medical for the colposcope and other much needed equipment donated for the hospital in Kigali, Rwanda.
- **Harbinger helps Book Project** - CNIS would like to acknowledge Clark and Joan Jamieson and the Harbinger Foundation for their generous support towards the Uganda book project.
- **Addis Lab Video Link** - Justin Iwasaki, a medical student from Utah, was in Addis Ababa for 2.5 weeks to establish a high quality video link between Operating Room 7 and the Surgical Skills Lab in Addis Ababa. Now both open- and laparoscopic surgery can be shown live, while procedures can be recorded, edited and stored on a peripheral hard drive. This equipment was all donated by the CNIS as part of its objective to make the Addis lab a regional center. Justin will be welcome back by the CNIS in his medical or public health capacity.
- **Monthly giving** - Give a medical student life-saving surgical skills for \$90 a month. Make a difference to the health of Africans by making a monthly donation.

CANADIAN NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

1985 W. Broadway, Suite 105
Vancouver BC V6J 4Y3 | Ph: 604-739-4708

JOIN CNIS OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

INDIVIDUALS: \$50 (Regular) | \$25 (Student)
ORGANIZATIONAL: \$500

CNIS IS A REGISTERED CHARITY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT

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CNIS DONORS: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Harbinger Foundation, Donner Canadian Foundation, Ethiopian North American Health Professionals Association, CNIS Organizational and Individual Members and Friends of CNIS.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS MUCH NEEDED & GREATLY APPRECIATED!