Canada-Guyana Surgical Research Workshop a Success

Four physicians from Guyana joined Canadian surgical colleagues for a CIHR sponsored 1½ day workshop May 30, 31st at McMaster University to learn more about research methods in surgical education and simulation. The purpose of the workshop organized by the ISD was to develop two collaborative research proposals, building on the previous Canada-Guyana work evaluating the CNIS Trauma Team Training (TTT) program.

McMaster surgical faculty Dr. Mohit Bhandari, Dr. Deepak Dath, and Dr. Mehran Anvari were keynote speakers. Other McMaster participants included two collaborative residents Dr. Sara Kalechstein and Dr. Patricia Larouche, Dr. Karen Bailey and Dr. Dave Musson. Dr. Vic Neufeld spoke for the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research. CNIS International Director Dr. Ron Lett participated, along with members of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons (CAGS) representing 5 Canadian medical schools. The two research themes identified are: the use of high-fidelity simulation in trauma training, and the impact of TTT on resuscitation practice in the emergency department. A TTT Update and follow-up visit by McMaster faculty to Guyana is planned for November of this year. A 7 minute video documenting the workshop can be seen at: http://youtu.be/m6xIuZVY0KY

Guyana straddles the Caribbean and South America cultures north of the Amazon. Basic surgical care is still difficult to access in many areas for its population of 750,000. The CAGS-Guyana partnership has trained 11 Guyanese surgeons. Research papers have been presented at surgical meetings in Canada and the Caribbean. The 3rd Annual Guyana Medical Scientific Conference will be held in November.

First ISD visiting professor

Dr. Dan Poenaru from Kijabe Kenya has joined the McMaster International Surgery Desk as an Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct) in the Department of Surgery. He will be co-principal investigator for a new research project entitled “Understanding and defining the Global Burden of Surgical Disease in Children Across the Globe through International Partnership”, funded by McMaster Surgical Associates.

Dr. Poenaru will also be involved in the educational activities of the Division of Pediatric Surgery, and will be at McMaster full-time between January and June of 2012. Welcome Dan!

Ethiopia

The spring CNIS newsletter reported that McMaster alumnus Dr. Ola Dunin-Bell was one of two female surgeons who taught ESS to final year medical students at Hawassa University with Dr. Aberra and his team. Twenty-four students benefited from this instruction. Dr. Aberra noted it is good to have women surgeons work with them in Ethiopia to encourage the female students who have few female role models in surgery.

CCME Conference 2012

The theme for the 2012 Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME) to be held in Banff, Alberta is “Global Health in Medical Education: Beyond Boundaries”. The call for abstracts is extended to students, residents, researchers and medical educators. Abstracts should be submitted to www.proreg.ca/events/ccme/2012/abstract/. Deadline for submissions: October 7th 2011
**Ugandan surgeon visits McMaster**

**Dr. Sam Kaggwa**, Head of Surgery at Mulago Hospital in Kampala Uganda (the country’s main teaching hospital) visited McMaster from April 6-8th.

**Dr. Peter Lovrics** coordinated a visit to St. Joseph’s Hospital including the Centre for Minimal Access Surgery, and discussed how McMaster might assist in development of a minimal access surgical program at Mulago Hospital. The St. Joseph’s International Outreach Program has a 15 year history of collaboration in Uganda, with surgical partnership a new priority.

Dr. Kaggwa met with **Dr. Susan Reid**, **Dr. Mark Walton**, and **Dr. Andrea Baumann** at the Global Health Office to discuss collaborations in surgical training.

**Visiting Professor: Dr. Dave Sigalet**

On June 8th **Dr. Dave Sigalet**, Pediatric Surgery Professor at the Alberta Children’s Hospital, presented the annual Chair Rounds on international surgery. As vice-president of the World Federation of Associations of Pediatric Surgeons, he spoke about the needs for surgical care in pediatric patients worldwide, and the changes projected in the next 25 years, as well as the principles of developing twinning relationships between north and south institutions.

Dr. Sigalet’s visit was co-sponsored with the Division of Pediatric Surgery and funded through the Royal College and CAPS.

**McMaster Brock Global Health Research Forum**

On May 5th and 6th 2011, McMaster University hosted the first McMaster Brock Global Health Research Forum, co-sponsored by the ISD. The Forum was geared towards faculty and graduate students who are interested in starting or furthering their involvement in global health research.

The Universities partnered with the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research to organize the two-day Forum which included symposiums, workshops, panel discussions and a guest lecture by **Dr. James Lavery** (Research Scientist at the Centre for Global Health, UofT).

Both university Presidents **Dr. Patrick Deane** (McMaster), and **Dr. Jack Lightstone** (Brock) spoke on their ideas for supporting global health research in light of the new Ontario strategy.

The symposiums focused on topics such as interdisciplinarity, and research for health in Latin America, as well as workshops dedicated to skills needed in global health research, which included mentorship and leadership, creating equitable research partnerships, knowledge translation, and accessing global health research databases.

For more information about McMaster Global Health research contact **Ms. Julia Pemberton**.

**McMaster at the Bethune Round Table**

There were **3 podium presentations and 2 posters** presented by the McMaster ISD group at the June 3-5th Bethune Round Table on International Surgery meeting in Montreal.

**Eleven McMaster surgical postgraduate trainees, undergraduates and faculty** joined the 100+ registrants from a dozen countries at what has become the premier international surgery meeting in the country.

Papers from McMaster included:
- “Strategies for developing breast screening guidelines in Nigeria” (**Dr. Jola Omoile**, PGY4 gensurg)
- “Perceived effectiveness of using high fidelity mannequin in trauma simulation in Guyana” (**Dr. Rob Gowing**, PGY7 vascular)
- “Randomized simulated comparison of two intrasosseous access devices” (**Dr. Sara Kalechstein**, PGY4 gensurg and **Julia Pemberton MSc**)
- “On-site production of a surgical skills training video in Guyana” (**Blair Cameron, MSc**)

**Dr. Brian Cameron** presented the CAGS-Guyana surgical training partnership, and **Dr. Vic Neufeld** spoke about for global surgical research opportunities.

**Nepal**

**Off to Nepal by Dr. Jessica Westerholm**

(New grad – General Surgery) [http://drijessicainnepal.blogspot.com](http://drijessicainnepal.blogspot.com)

On November 3, I will be leaving for Nepal, where I will spend the next 2 years working at a hospital called Tansen Mission Hospital ([http://www.tansenhospital.org.np](http://www.tansenhospital.org.np)). My responsibilities will include outpatient clinics, emergency surgical care, elective cases, call, as well as training the Nepali interns and residents that rotate through our service. In some ways, it will be similar to what a surgeon would do here, except that “General Surgery” will take on a whole new meaning over there!

I have been spending the last few months taking a crash course in orthopedics, as well as learning a bit of plastics, OB/GYN, urology, and ENT. Thankfully there are a couple of other experienced surgeons at the hospital who can help me out with difficult cases. For more information, or if you wish to receive e-mail updates, contact me at [westerji@gmail.com](mailto:westerji@gmail.com).