The 14th Bethune Round Table conference in Hamilton attracted 150 participants from 17 countries representing 49 organizations including universities, professional societies and NGOs. The conference theme “Improving Global Outcomes Through Safer Surgery” was addressed by 5 keynote speakers, 27 podium presentations and 21 poster presentations. The high quality of the presentations, the rich discussion and opportunities for networking, and the friendships nurtured will support the ongoing collaborations of Canadian surgeons, anesthetists and obstetricians with colleagues working to improve surgical care in low-resource settings. Post-conference courses were fully subscribed, including the CNIS Trauma Team Training Instructor course, Regional Blocks for Trauma course, and a Getting Started in Health Research course. The BRT will be held in Calgary in 2015, and Halifax in 2016.

Videos and PowerPoint presentations from the conference are available on the website: http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/isd/brt2014.html

Thanks to everyone who attended and to everyone who worked so hard to make the 2014 BRT a smashing success!

The Summer ‘14 Letter from Dean and Vice-President John Kelton highlighted the successful BRT hosted at McMaster (“Surgeons share vision for global health”). See the letter here: http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/main/documents/deans_newsletter_2014_summer.pdf

The International Surgery Desk...

- Develops partnerships with colleagues in low- and middle-income countries.
- Fosters education initiatives including resident elective opportunities and visiting scholars.
- Recognizes the service of faculty who volunteer their time for humanitarian work.
- Knowledge generation and translation through global surgery research.

2015 ISD Resident Scholarship

Provides $2000 towards an international surgery elective. See ISD website for further details.

Deadline for applications has been extended to December 15, 2014.

Upcoming Events

November 2-4, 2014:
21st Annual Canadian Conference on Global Health (Canadian Society for International Health): November Westin Hotel, Ottawa, ON
For further details: http://www.ccgh-csih.ca/csih2014/

March 26-28, 2015:
CUGH Global Health Conference; Boston, MA (Abstract deadline October 15)

March 28-29, 2015:
Unite for Sight Global Health And Innovation Conference; Yale University, New Haven, CT (Abstract deadline September 30)

June 5-7, 2015:
Bethune Round Table 2015; University of Calgary
MED-P (Medical Equipment Donation Program) is a student-led initiative within the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine whose goal is to collect surplus usable surgical supplies from Hamilton hospitals and donate them to low-resource settings. After ensuring that they are needed, supplies are either taken directly to partner institutions by McMaster visitors, or sent to International Hope Canada Inc., in Winnipeg. IHC is a charitable, non-profit, all-volunteer organization that provides non-pharmaceutical medical supplies and equipment to impoverished countries where such items are in critically short supply.

If you are travelling to a remote area, please consider taking a Physician Travel Pack of essential medicines assembled by HealthPartners International of Canada.

### International Surgery Desk Contacts

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### Update on Academic Partnerships

**GUYANA**

Dr. Karen Bailey and pediatric surgery fellow Dr. Jorge Zequeira visited Georgetown Public Hospital in Guyana for two weeks in May to support clinical pediatric surgery and education. Dr. Brian Cameron will present a paper at the annual Guyana Medical Scientific Conference in November. Four Guyanese surgical graduates have visited Hamilton this year for conferences, electives or fellowships.

**UGANDA**

Dr. Olivia Kituuka was an ISD visiting scholar at the Juravinski Hospital in June, working with Dr. Michael Marcaccio and colleagues. Dr. Kituuka took part in the CMAS laparoscopic boot camp organized by Dr. Margherita Cadeddu, Dr. Dennis Hong, Dr. Scott Gmora and Dr. Nalin Amin. A full report of her visit is on the ISD website. Dr. Kituuka met with a number of surgical faculty and we hope to develop ongoing collaborations with her department. A McMaster visit to Makerere University is planned for April 2015 to assist with a laparoscopic skills course. Interested faculty should contact Dr. Brian Cameron.

Dr. Brad Petrisor’s team is planning their next MacOrtho visit to Uganda in January 2015.

**HAITI**

Dr. Brad Petrisor is working with the St. Joseph’s International Outreach Program, which has a new initiative in northern Haiti facilitated by Dr. Alez Dauphin, with a focus on orthopaedics, trauma and obstetrics.

Please share your international surgery experiences with your Departmental colleagues! Submission deadline for the next ISD newsletter is January 15th, 2015.