McMaster hosts 2 Surgical Fellows from Guyana

DR. RAVI MOTILALL, PEDIATRIC and GENERAL SURGERY:
Like so many meaningful things in life, my clinical fellowship has had its challenges but as many of my mentors in the past have said “Nothing good comes easy”. The pediatric general surgery service in Guyana consist of one pediatric surgeon and myself: a General Surgery registrar with a love for pediatric surgery/minimal invasive surgery. My first experiences in the pediatric surgery service here seemed overwhelming. What were considered routine orders, documentation and management was all new to me. The steepest of learning curves was access to patient information, the difference in reporting of laboratory results and note dictation. I learnt that what seem like redundancy leads to efficiency.

Learning about differences in management was my most import learning objective. The thorough investigation protocols, the use of intervention radiology and the multidisciplinary approach to patients are just a few. Surgical approaches took into consideration the outcome and the incision, minimal access surgery was almost routine and I loved it. I appreciated the meticulousness of each staff surgeon and the wealth of knowledge that led to good outcomes. In the end this short stint has left me wanting to learn more knowledge and skills from a great group of surgeons, and more experience in this awesome environment.

Dr. Motilall spent 3 months on Pediatric Surgery and is with Dr. Peter Willard in Welland until the end of March. Dr. Cheetanand Mahadeo will report on his Thoracic Surgery fellowship in the next newsletter.
You may have met some of the almost 100 Ugandan residents and clinical fellows who have trained in Hamilton over the past 20 years, most in Anesthesia, Ob/Gyn, Pediatrics, Medicine and Radiology. The Division of Orthopedics will welcome a trainee from Kampala this year through the efforts of Dr. Brad Petrisor. SEE THE ISD WEBSITE FOR DR. PETRISOR’S REPORT FROM HIS OCT 2013 VISIT.

ALSO Dr. Olivia Kituuka, a Makerere University General Surgeon will give Surgical Chair Rounds on June 4th and join us for a one-month observership at the Juravinski Hospital.

AND Dr. Silvia Awor (right) just arrived from Gulu, Uganda for an Ob/Gyn Fellowship. She is the only trained obstetrician in northern Uganda - please welcome her.

http://www.internationaloutreach.ca/

Congratulations to McMaster students presenting posters at 3 upcoming conferences:

Canadian Conference on Medical Education (Ottawa)
Joseph Margolick MD2014: “Incorporating procedural skills into pre-departure training for medical students participating in International electives”

Global Health and Innovation Conference (Yale)
Elizabeth Lymburner MSc: “Assessing knowledge dissemination from the annual Bethune Round Table on International Surgery conference.”

Consortium of Universities for Global Health (D.C.)
Claudia Frankfurter BHSc: “Understanding the burden of surgical congenital anomalies in Kenya: an international mixed-methods approach”

Anupa Prashad MSc(c): “Evaluating the Impact of a Post-Graduate Surgical Training Program in Guyana”

Congratulations to Dr. Dan Poenaru
(Assistant Clinical Professor, Adjunct, Department of Surgery, McMaster University) who was recently named the 2014 Teasdale-Corti Humanitarian Award recipient by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The Award acknowledges Canadian physicians who have gone beyond the accepted norms of routine practice - which may include exposure to personal risk - to provide health care or emergency medical services. Dr. Poenaru has been based at the Kijabe Hospital in Kenya for the past eight years where he serves as a consultant pediatric surgeon, clinical director of BethanyKids Africa and program director of East Africa’s first fellowship training program in pediatric surgery. Previous recipients of the Teasdale-Corti Award include McMaster faculty Dr. Steve Foster and Dr. Jean Chamberlain.

2014 ISD Resident Elective Scholarship
The International Surgery Desk is again offering one $2000 scholarship to support an international surgery clinical or research elective in a low resource region. All McMaster surgical residents are eligible.

Application Deadline: March 15, 2014

SEE THE ISD WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

For 20 years, the Canadian Network for International Surgery has been committed to empowering low-income countries to create an environment where the risk from injuries is minimal and all people receive adequate surgical care. CNIS believes in sharing knowledge, expertise and experience to promote lasting and sustainable improvements in health and safety in the developing world. The Mission of CNIS is to improve maternal health, increase safety and build capacity in low-income countries by developing surgical skills labs, offering training courses and promoting injury-prevention initiatives.

CNIS is the only registered Canadian charity with this mandate: DONATE TO CNIS at www.cnis.ca

The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery SEEKS INPUT: gscommission.com

THE LANCET has commissioned a group of experts in a variety of disciplines pertaining to Global Surgery to generate a comprehensive review of activities and priorities in this rapidly growing field.