

Message from Associate Chair, Education



For many years, the Department of Surgery has included among its faculty a number of individuals quietly dedicated to the pursuit of improving health care in the developing world, some on a full-time basis and others combining careers in Canada with international stints. There has also been a steady stream of residents and medical students into our Department who have demonstrated an ever-increasing presence in international activities, many of them bringing their pre-medical school experiences with them, all of which encourage and inspire us.

These activities are mirrored in other Departments such as Anesthesia, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Medicine and Pediatrics. As such, a more formalized group within the Department of Surgery will facilitate collaborative activities in the Faculty of Health Sciences and across the University.

The Department of Surgery, recognizing the incredible contributions and potential within its members, has sought to support the activities surrounding International Surgery by forming the International Surgery Desk under the office of Education. This has allowed for the placement of administrative assistance and a framework for coordinating, collating, and

encouraging Department member activities. The Department of Surgery is intent on assisting the International Surgery Desk in fulfilling its vision of coordinating the clinical, research and educational activities of its members and encouraging all Surgical Divisions to participate through the ISD Advisory Committee in addition to individual efforts.

We are delighted to have Dr. Brian Cameron appointed as the Director of the International Surgery Desk, supported by Ms. Kathy Wilson as his Administrative Assistant and Gillian Wood as editorial staff. The strong presence of the International Surgery Desk has already been felt within the Department, and is reflected by the myriad activities detailed in this newsletter. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Cameron.

Susan Reid, MD, FRCS(C),
Associate Professor, Associate Chair, Education.



Development
Education
Service
Knowledge Translation

Upcoming Events

- **October 14, 2010 at noon**
Pediatric Grand Rounds 4E20
- **October 19-20, 1-9 pm**
Course: From EBM to OR: A Roadmap for International Surgeons, MDCL 2233
- **October 19, 2010 at 7 pm**
International Surgery Journal Club
- **October 22-23, 2010**
CNIS Instructor Course:
Essential Surgical Skills, Ottawa
- **October 25, 2010 at 4:30 pm**
Global Health/ISD Seminar
MDCL 3020

UBC SURG 510 by Dr. Jola Omole, PGY4 (Gen Surg)

Access to basic health care interventions has increasingly been the focus of global health, but essential surgical services have not. However, in recent years surgery has been recognized as an indispensable of global health. This is mainly due to the inclusion of Surgeons, Anesthesiologists and other global health advocates in the prioritization of basic health care needs to address the global burden of surgical disease.

Indispensable to the shift in paradigm is educating future leaders in surgical care. SURG 510 offered by UBC Branch for International Surgery is an entirely online graduate level course that is a unique in Canada. It establishes an essential foundation to the emerging discipline of international surgery to future leaders in the field of international surgical care.

The 12-week curriculum was implemented using nine modules with three assignments for submission and review, as well as readings and exercises and online discussion. The online discussion was pivotal in the course as it aided in broaden our understanding of the concepts in the course material and it provided a forum in which to share experiences and generate new ideas that can be implemented in future endeavors.

In completion of the course I expanded my understanding of the global status of unmet surgical need and developed new perspectives on the continuum of involvement in international surgical care and the ethical issues that are inseparable from global surgical care.

Finally, it became evident that a commitment to delivery of basic health care that embraces surgical care in low and middle socio-economic countries is not

philanthropic idealism or an ethical rhetoric, but a legitimate international obligation and should be tenet in any international health policy.

Visiting scholar from Nigeria

Dr. Lukman Abdur-Rahman MPH, FWACS is a Senior Lecturer and Consultant Pediatric Surgeon at the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. He will be visiting McMaster's Division of Pediatric General Surgery for 2-3 months as a Visiting Scholar supported through a scholarship from the World Federation of Associations of Pediatric Surgeons.

Dr. Abdur-Rahman has over 35 publications on a range of topics including trauma, Hirschsprung's disease and imperforate anus. He will be delivering **Pediatric Grand Rounds on Thursday October 14th at 12 noon in 4E20** as the CAPS Visiting Professor. We welcome Dr. Abdur-Rahman to Hamilton.



Global Health Seminar:

Monday, October 25th 2010, 4:30—7:30 pm

On October 25th the McMaster Office of Global Health, in partnership with the International Surgery Desk will present **Surgical Training and Education in Africa**

One of the guest speakers, **Dr. Dan Poenaru**, (pictured) is a Canadian pediatric surgeon and missionary, Adjunct Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at Queen's University and Clinical Director of BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital, Kenya. This unit is dedicated to providing "healing and hope" for children with surgical conditions and disabilities in Africa. BethanyKids also operates mobile clinics at 15 sites across Kenya, including refugee camps near the borders of Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

Dr. Poenaru is also program director of East Africa's first accredited fellowship training program in pediatric surgery, in conjunction with



the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa and the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons

Also speaking at the seminar is **Dr. Stephen Foster**, Clinical Associate Professor with McMaster's Department of Surgery and 2010 recipient of the Royal College Teasdale-Corti Humanitarian Award. This award recognizes the efforts of a Canadian physician which go above and beyond the norm by exemplifying 'altruism and integrity,

courage and perseverance in the alleviation of human suffering".

Dr. Foster founded and currently serves as Medical Director of the 46-bed Centro Evangelico de Medicina do Lubango (Angola) which which opened in 2006 and serves an area of over one million.

The Global Health Seminar will be held in **MDCL 3020**. Please RSVP to leeminj@mcmaster.ca

Research

Pemberton J, Gordon M, Prashad C, Rambaran M, Cameron B. Evaluating the long term impact of the Trauma Team Training program in Guyana: A mixed methods approach. Canadian Surgery Forum. September 3, 2010, Quebec City, Quebec.

Note to all

We welcome your experiences in international surgery. Please share your stories with us!

Report from Haiti



In February a team organized by **St. Joseph's International Outreach Program (SJIOP)** visited Haiti for a couple of weeks. McMaster faculty **Dr. Brad Petrisor** (Orthopedics) and **Dr. Carolyn Levis** (Plastics - pictured) were joined by **Dr. Brad Weening** from Oakville (Mac Ortho

graduate).

The group were able to assist with organizing instruments, setting up a new sterilizer from SJIOP and operating on patients with neglected forearm and femur fractures. They collaborated with Korean, Cuban and American medical teams, but there wasn't much opportunity for teaching because of the loss of the training program infrastructure.

In October, Dr. Levis and Dr. Petrisor are returning to do surgery and teaching, with funding from the **Canada-Haiti Academic Projects Scholarship** program co-ordinated through **Dr. Alez Dauphin** (Anesthesia).

Later, 2 Haitian surgeons will visit Hamilton under the same project, a collaboration of the International Surgery Desk with the McMaster Office of Global Health.



The McMaster Department of Surgery is an Institutional Member of the Canadian Network for International Surgery.

The CNIS will be conducting a two-day Essential Surgical Skills (ESS) Instructors Course in Ottawa this October (22-23). The instruction this Course provides in basic surgical techniques has proven invaluable to many medical practitioners, including medical students, working in low-income countries.

Further information on the Course as well as the latest newsletter can be found at www.cnis.ca.



Visit www.inmed.us for course information on *Sustainable Healthcare For Those Most Poor* as well as other INMED resources including their newsletter.



The CASTED Emergency Department Orthopaedics course is being offered at North York General Hospital.

For more information follow this link: (http://www.emupdate.ca/emup_re_casted.aspx)

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