

**MCMASTER DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
INTERNATIONAL SURGERY DESK
ANNUAL REPORT – 2011**

The inaugural vision of the ISD is *“To facilitate international surgery activity within the Department, including an educational component in all projects, and collaborate with like-minded disciplines and colleagues within the McMaster University and Canadian surgical communities.”*
The International Surgery Desk pursues activities in Development, Education, Service, and Knowledge.

DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS:

The McMaster ISD is a member of the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS - www.cnis.ca/) and is represented on the CAGS International Surgery Committee and the CAPS Global Committee.

1. GUYANA.

a. In May, the ISD organized a 2 day CIHR-funded research planning workshop at McMaster. Faculty included **Dr. Mohit Bhandari**, **Dr. Deepak Dath**, and **Dr. Mehran Anvari**. Two surgical residents (**Dr. Sara Kalechstein** and **Dr. Patricia Larouche**) and three BHSc students participated. The two themes were ‘High Fidelity Simulation in Trauma and Critical Care Education’ and ‘Outcome evaluation of CNIS Courses’. Postgraduate program director **Dr. Madan Rambaran**, trauma director **Dr. Navin Rambaran**, and emergency medicine resident **Dr. Ahiliyia Permual** attended from Guyana. Outcomes of the workshop have included presentations at the Bethune Round Table on International Surgery, development and evaluation of a Trauma Update course in Guyana, ongoing collaboration in high fidelity simulation, and a 7 minute video: <http://youtu.be/m6xJUZVVOKY>

b. In November a McMaster surgical team visited Guyana for 3 weeks to teach pediatric surgery, run 5 days of CNIS trauma and surgical skills courses, provide surgical care for over 50 children, and presented papers at the annual Scientific Conference. Team members included **Dr. John Miller**, **Dr. Manoj Sayal**, **Dr. Karen Bailey**, OR Nurse **Pat Leclair**, Research Coordinator **Julia Pemberton**, BHSc student **Sheiry Dhillon**, **Dr. Patricia Larouche**, **Dr. Brian Cameron** and **Dr. Narayanan Nandagopal**. The CNIS Courses were partially funded through a Surgical Associates Education Grant. (report attached)

c. Other initiatives underway include plans to sponsor Guyana postgraduate trainees for clinical electives at McMaster in general surgery, pediatric surgery, and thoracic surgery; collaboration in Pediatrics and Anesthesia postgraduate training; external review of pathology slides; medical student electives in Guyana; research collaborations; and support to improve the pediatrics ward working with the charity ‘Guyana Help the Kids’.

2. HAITI

Haitian surgeon **Dr. Myriam Larsen Gousse** met with surgical and nursing leaders in Hamilton emergency departments in June sponsored by the ISD grant from the Canada-Haiti Academic Projects Scholarship program to boost surgical capacity at the Hopital la Paix in Port-au-Prince. **Dr. Brad Petrisor**

**MCMASTER DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
INTERNATIONAL SURGERY DESK
ANNUAL REPORT – 2011**

continues to lead the McMaster surgical Haiti connection, working with the St. Joseph's International Outreach Program (SJIOP).

3. UGANDA

a. **Dr. Peter Lovrics** and **Dr. Brian Cameron** joined the SJIOP team in Uganda for 2 weeks in January to teach and assess the potential for developing a surgical partnership that would include hosting a Ugandan surgical resident in Hamilton for 3 months. They visited the surgical department at Mulago Hospital and Makerere University in Kampala, attended the graduation ceremony for the 2nd medical school class at Gulu University in northern Uganda (Kony's former territory), visited the Lacor Hospital famously served by Canadian surgeon Dr. Lucille Teasdale, and collaborated in surgical teaching with colleagues at Mbarara's university hospital.

b. **Dr. Sam Kaggwa**, Head of Surgery at Mulago Hospital, visited St. Joseph's Hospital in April and met with Dr. Susan Reid, Dr. Mark Walton, and Dr. Andrea Baumann to discuss collaboration in surgical training. McMaster hopes to host a Ugandan surgical resident for an elective within the coming year.

c. The SJIOP is organizing an international conference, '**Side By Side**', the 3rd annual **Conference on Healthcare Collaboration in Uganda from October 18-20th**. The ISD has been asked to be a sponsor and support the travel costs of a Uganda surgeon to attend the conference (\$4000).

EDUCATION IN INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

a. **Dr. David Sigalet** from Calgary, vice-president of the World Federation of Association of Pediatric Surgeons, spoke at the International Surgery Surgical Chair's Rounds in June.

b. **Dr. Dan Poenaru** from Kenya has joined the ISD as a Visiting Professor and will be collaborating with global health initiatives at McMaster.

c. Surgical residents doing international electives this year included orthopedic residents **Dr. Rubini Pathy** (Uganda), **Dr. Patricia Larouche** (Guyana) and **Dr. C.J. Foote** (India).

d. **Dr. Jola Omole** won the prestigious 2-year Paul Farmer Global Surgery Fellowship, and will be developing surgical education programs in Rwanda working with faculty in Boston.

e. **Dr. John Miller** and **Dr. Brian Cameron** taught Essential Surgical Skills at a postgraduate Global Health course in Toronto. Dr. Cameron also taught locally at the International Pediatric Emergency Medicine Elective for international medical students.

f. Two ISD newsletters were distributed to the Department. (attached)

SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED

- a. **Dr. Samir Faidi** volunteered for 2 weeks in Misratah, Libya during the recent conflict.
- b. **Dr. John Harvey** visited Bolivia on a short term Ophthalmology missions with Medical Ministry International.
- c. **Dr. Carolyn Levis** visited Guatemala on a Plastic Surgery trip.
- d. Recent surgical graduate **Dr. Jessica Westerholm** has taken a 2 year surgical posting with the Tansen Mission Hospital in Nepal. Her blog is at: <http://drjessicainnepal.blogspot.ca/>

KNOWLEDGE: RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION

- a. The **McMaster-Brock Global Health Research Forum** in May was co-sponsored by the ISD, with keynotes by the university presidents.
- b. **Eleven McMaster faculty and trainees** participated in the **Bethune Round Table** on International Surgery in June in Montreal, with 3 podium presentations and 2 poster presentations.
- c. Orthopedic resident **Dr. C. J. Foote** (PGY3, Surgical Scientist Program, Orthopaedics) is doing his M.Sc. research project in India with **Dr. Mohit Bhandari**, initiating The International Ort hopaedic MULTicenter Study in Fracture Care (INORMUS).
- d. The ISD is a member of the **Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research** (CCGHR), and is developing further collaborations within the university through the **McMaster Global Health Office**.

ISD Administrative structure

The International Surgery Desk operates within the Office of Education and with the full support of the Associate Chair **Dr. Susan Reid**. The ISD director met with the Resident Education Committee in September. **Terms of Reference** have been created and are awaiting the Chair's approval (*attached*). An annual budget of \$10,000 has been granted. Administrative support is ably provided by **Kathy Wilson**, and **Julia Pemberton** is the ISD Research Coordinator. **Gillian Wood** has edited the newsletter and website (<http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/ISD.html>) but has recently retired.

Looking ahead to 2012 ... and the next 3 years

- a. Educational and research collaborations with Guyana will continue as detailed above.
- b. Surgical trainees from Uganda and Guyana will undertake short-term clinical electives in the Department of Surgery.
- c. One podium presentation and two posters have been accepted for the 2012 Bethune Round Table meeting in Toronto May 25-27th.
- d. The June 6th Surgical Chair Rounds speaker will be Dr. Dan Poenaru, with the topic “Measuring the Burden of Surgical Disease”.
- e. The ISD has been asked to collaborate with the SJIOP to coordinate the surgical theme of the Uganda ‘Side By Side’ conference in Hamilton in October.
- f. The ISD budget may be used to sponsor resident electives, deliver surgical skills courses to students going on overseas electives, and bring together faculty and residents for a social or journal club event.
- g. The ISD has been asked to consider hosting the Bethune Round Table meeting in spring 2014, which would be a big undertaking requiring administrative support.

respectfully submitted by,
Brian H. Cameron, MD, FRCSC, FACS
Professor, Division of Pediatric General Surgery
Director, International Surgery Desk
McMaster University