

**MCMASTER DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY  
INTERNATIONAL SURGERY DESK  
ANNUAL REPORT – 2012**

The 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 primarily with collaborations in low- and middle-income countries.

**DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS:**

The McMaster ISD is a member of the **Canadian Network for International Surgery** and is represented on the **CAGS International Surgery Committee** and the **CAPS Global Committee**.

**1. GUYANA.**

a. In November, **Dr. Karen Bailey** and research coordinator **Julia Pemberton** presented courses on Simulation and Evidence-Based Medicine at the annual Guyana Medical Scientific Conference. The ISD sponsored courses were funded by a \$15,000 Education Grant from McMaster Surgical Associates.

b. In June and November, **Dr. Cameron** operated and consulted with Guyanese colleagues, and met with the country’s Minister of Health and Postgraduate Education Committee to discuss ongoing collaborations.

c. In support of postgraduate surgical training in Guyana, McMaster visitors led tutorials and provide ongoing skype education sessions. McMaster alumnus **Dr. Nick Bauman** (Orillia) has taken over coordination of the CAGS-Guyana surgical education project. Two young Guyanese surgical registrars will do clinical fellowships at McMaster in 2013.

d. Five **McMaster medical students** completed clinical electives at the Georgetown Public Hospital.

e. Several challenging **surgical pathology cases** from Guyana were reviewed by McMaster faculty.

**2. UGANDA**

a. The ISD and the **Divisions of General Surgery and Orthopedics** each contributed \$2000 (total \$6000) to sponsor Ugandan surgeons to attend the October **‘Side By Side’ 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Conference on Healthcare Collaboration in Uganda** in Hamilton, organized by the St. Joseph’s International Outreach Program. Surgeons and anesthesiologists were introduced to the Centre for Simulation Based Learning, and an article and photo appeared in the Medical Staff Association newsletter.

b. **Dr. Brad Petrisor** and orthopedic resident **Dr. Rubini Pathy** visited Mulago Hospital in October to help teach Sawbones workshops and work alongside Ugandan residents and surgeons.

### **EDUCATION IN INTERNATIONAL SURGERY**

- a. **Dr. Dan Poenaru** spoke at the Surgical Chair's Rounds in June "Measuring the Burden of Surgical Disease" During the year he was an ISD Visiting Professor from Kenya and collaborated with the McMaster Pediatric Surgery Research Collaborative.
  
- b. **Dr. Samir Faidi, Dr. Alez Dauphin and Dr. Cameron** presented a seminar on Global Surgery to students in the MD and Global Health MSc program coordinated through the **McMaster Global Health Office**. Dr. Cameron also spoke at the resident's MAD day.
  
- c. Nigerian pediatric surgeon **Dr. Timothy Olajide** was an ISD Visiting Scholar at McMaster for 2 months, and was generously invited to attend local laparoscopic surgery and ATLS courses.
  
- d. Three applications were reviewed by a panel and the inaugural **ISD Scholarship** (\$2000) was awarded to **Dr. Rubini Pathy** (PGY3 Orthopedics) who did a clinical elective in Uganda.
  
- e. McMaster alumna **Dr. Jessica Westerholm** presented General Surgery Grand Rounds in November about her experience as a missionary surgeon in Nepal.
  
- f. Dr. Ian Davis did a Urology locum from October 2011 until April 2012 in Dunedin New Zealand associated with the **Otago School of Medicine**.

### **SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES**

- a. With Medical Missions International, **Dr. J. Harvey** and **Dr. G. Isaza** visited the Healthy Eyes clinic in Sucre, Bolivia, performing surgery for cataracts and strabismus.
  
- b. **Dr. Carolyn Levis** visited Guatemala in March with the Healing Hands Foundation plastic surgery team and saw 200 children (61 requiring surgery) with congenital hand anomalies, burns and upper limb injuries.
  
- c. After serving voluntarily for 2 weeks in a Misratah hospital during the Libyan conflict, **Dr. Samir Faidi** has returned regularly to **Libya** to offer clinical teaching as well as formal trauma care courses.

---

**KNOWLEDGE: RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION**

- a. The world-leading faculty in the Department of Orthopedics made global health research a focus of their annual Academic Day. **Dr. Michelle Ghert** coordinates an international RCT on prophylactic antibiotic regimens in tumor surgery (PARITY). **Dr. Mohit Bhandari** collaborates with Indian and other international colleagues on several orthopedic studies of fracture care, open wounds, hip implants, and intimate partner violence. Resident **Dr. C. J. Foote** (PGY3, Surgical Scientist Program, Orthopaedics) continues his M.Sc. research with **Dr. Mangesh Shende** and Dr. Bhandari's International Ortropaedic MUlticenter Study in Fracture Care (INORMUS) in India.
- b. **Dr. Achilleas Thoma**, the **SOURCE** group and McMaster alumnus **Dr. Khalid AlHarbi** presented an annual **Evidence Based Surgery Workshop** in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- c. McMaster was represented by **3 podium presentations and 5 posters** at the **Bethune Round Table** on International Surgery conference in Toronto. Presenting faculty and trainees included **Dr. Farrohkyar, J. Pemberton PhD (c), Dr. R. Pathy (PGY3), Dr. P. Larouche (PGY4), Sheiry Dhillon (MPSRC intern and Rhodes Scholar), Dr. Poenaru and Dr. Cameron.**
- d. Collaborating with the **Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR)**, the ISD co-sponsored the 2nd **McMaster-Brock Global Health Research Forum** at the Innovation Park.
- e. Dr. Dan Poenaru and the McMaster Pediatric Surgery Research Collaborative have presented initial results from their MSA funded research project "**Disability Averted by Pediatric Surgery**" including data from Kenya and Hamilton; and have abstracts accepted at two additional international meetings.
- f. 3 ISD newsletters were distributed to the Department.

**ISD Administrative structure**

The International Surgery Desk operates within the Office of Education and with the full support of the Chair **Dr. Susan Reid**. The ISD director met with the Resident Education Committee in September. **Terms of Reference** have been created and 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. **David Kanters** edits the newsletter and website. <http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/ISD.html>

**Our plans and ambitions for 2013-2016**

**Development of Sustainable Partnerships:**

- a. Educational and research collaborations with **Guyana** will continue, including annual Pediatric Surgery visits and Guyanese surgeons undertaking Clinical Fellowships at McMaster.
- b. With the St. Joseph's International Outreach Program, a plan will be developed to support the postgraduate surgical training programs in **Uganda** at Makerere and Gulu Universities.

**Education in International Surgery:**

- a. We will collaborate with other global health initiatives at McMaster including the **MSc program in Global Health**, and the development of **Pre-Departure Training** for students and residents going on international electives.
- b. The June **Surgical Chair Rounds** will be organized by the ISD every two years – next in 2014.
- c. The annual **ISD Scholarship** will continue for residents or fellows in the Department of Surgery planning an international elective.

**Service to those in need in low and middle income countries:**

- a. Stories from Department members who go on **international missions** will be shared with others who may want to do the same thing.
- b. Resources for surgeons planning international volunteer work will be made available to through the ISD website.

**Knowledge research and dissemination:**

- a. McMaster will host the **June 2014 annual Bethune Round Table on International Surgery**, and use the opportunity to collaborate with the disciplines of Anesthesia and Ob/Gyn.
- b. The ISD newsletter will be published three times annually, highlighting international surgery research and educational activities of Departmental members.

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