

**MCMASTER DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
INTERNATIONAL SURGERY DESK
ANNUAL REPORT – 2013**

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:

1. The McMaster **Global Health Office** published a Compendium of the University’s international activities, which included over 30 international projects involving the Department of Surgery. The Compendium is available through the ISD website:

2. The McMaster ISD is a member of the **Canadian Network for International Surgery** and the **Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research**. It is represented on the international surgery committees of the **Canadian Association for General Surgeons (CAGS)** and the **Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons (CAPS)**.

3. GUYANA.

a. In June, Dr. Cameron visited for clinical teaching, and in November to present a paper at the annual Guyana medical conference. The McMaster – Guyana partnership involves others in the Divisions of Pediatric Surgery (**Dr. Karen Bailey**), Thoracic Surgery (**Dr. Colin Schieman** and **Dr. John Miller**), General Surgery (**Dr. Peter Willard** in Welland), and the Departments of Pathology, Pediatrics and Anesthesia.

b. Two Guyanese surgical registrars completed 4-6 month clinical fellowships at McMaster: **Dr. Ravi Motilall** (pediatric surgery, and general surgery in Welland) and **Dr. Cheetanand Mahadeo** (thoracic surgery at St. Joseph’s Hospital). Their fellowships were supported by the Department through the ISD.

4. UGANDA

a. In October, a McMaster/Hamilton Health Sciences Orthopedic Surgery team led by **Dr. Brad Petrisor** visited Mulago Hospital in Kampala with members of CNIS and the Uganda Sustainable Trauma Orthopaedic Program (USTOP) from UBC. Other local team members included **Dr. Desmond Kwok**, **Franca Mossuto RN**, **Elizabeth Stec RN**. They taught a perioperative nursing course, 2 fracture fixation courses for residents, and clinical operative teaching.

b. Ugandan pediatric surgeon **Dr. John Sekabira** visited McMaster for a day in October, sponsored by the ISD and CAPS.

EDUCATION IN INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

1. Several students in the MD Program, Masters of Global Health and Masters of Health Sciences Education programs completed practicums and research projects in international surgery supervised through the ISD. Lectures on Global Surgery were given to the MSc Global Health students and residents in Family Medicine.

2. After review of applications by a selection committee, the annual **ISD Scholarship** (\$2000) was awarded to **Dr. Jorge Zequeira**, fellow in pediatric surgery. He accompanied Dr. Bailey on a 2 week teaching and clinical visit to Guyana in May 2014. **Dr. Vasudha Gupta**, resident in Ophthalmology, was granted \$1000 to support her clinical elective in Bolivia with **Dr. John Harvey**.

3. Recent McMaster general surgery graduates had opportunities to serve internationally. **Dr. Jola Omole** had a Paul Farmer Global Surgery fellowship to spend the year teaching and working in Rwanda. **Dr. Jessica Westerholm** is now working at a Mission Hospital in Nepal sponsored through Samaritan’s Purse, and she was visited by McMaster medical student **Cecily Bos** on a surgical elective.

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4. Attendees at the first Global Surgery Journal Club in November discussed “Ethical Issues - Renal Transplantation in Global Health Projects”. It was organized by general surgery resident **Dr. Kathryn Howe** and the discussants included **Dr. Bud Doobay** (vascular surgery) as well as Dr. Schwartz (ethics) and Dr. Ingram (nephrology).
5. The Surgical Outcomes Research Centre (SOURCE) organised a 3-day workshop in April in Saudi Arabia on Evidence Based Surgery (EBS) principles. The workshop was led by **Dr. Achilles Thoma**, Director of SOURCE and co-tutored by **Dr. Forough Farrokhvar**, **Dr. Charles Goldsmith** and **Dr. Luis Braga**.

SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES

1. A number of Department members and residents volunteered their time to participate in overseas medical missions, including **Dr. Kevin Cheung** (plastic surgery resident) who did an elective in Cambodia with **Operation Rainbow Canada**.
2. Some of the other medical mission NGO charities supported by Department members include **Guyana Help the Kids** and the **St. Joseph’s International Outreach Program**.

KNOWLEDGE: RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION

- a. World-leading faculty in the Department are involved in international collaborative research projects; many of these are listed in the 2013 McMaster International Compendium. The Division of Orthopedics is particularly active with **Dr. Michelle Ghert** (PARITY) and **Dr. Mohit Bhandari** (INORMUS) leading international trials that include sites in low and middle-income countries.
- b. McMaster was represented at the May **Bethune Round Table** on International Surgery conference in Vancouver by **Julia Pemberton PhD (c)** (McMaster Pediatric Surgery Research Collaborative) who presented her study “Quantification of Global Burden of Pediatric Surgical Disease Using Disability Weights: Implications for Priority Setting. This is one of several papers presented and published internationally from the Disability Averted by Pediatric Surgery (DAPS) project funded by McMaster Surgical Associates.

Future Plans: With CNIS, McMaster is hosting the 14th Bethune Round Table conference in June 2014. The support of the Anesthesia and Obstetrics/Gynecology Departments in addition to the Department of Surgery and McMaster Surgical Associates provides an opportunity to strengthen inter-departmental collaborations in international projects especially in Uganda. Ongoing resident exchanges and faculty development will continue in Guyana and Uganda, seeking financial support from NGO and research funding organizations.

ISD Administrative Support. Through the support of the Chair of Surgery Dr. Susan Reid, the ISD has an operating budget and a Director’s stipend. Administrative support including publication of a thrice-yearly newsletter is ably provided by **Kathy Wilson** and **Julia Smerelli**. **Julia Pemberton** is the ISD Research Coordinator. **David Kanters** assisted by student **Rima Nakrani** edited the newsletter and website. <http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/ISD.html>

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