

**MCMASTER DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
INTERNATIONAL SURGERY DESK
ANNUAL REPORT – 2014**

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. In June the **14th BETHUNE ROUND TABLE** conference at McMaster attracted 150 participants from 17 countries representing 49 organizations including universities, professional societies and NGOs. The conference theme “Improving Global Outcomes Through Safer Surgery” was addressed by 5 keynote speakers, 27 podium presentations and 21 poster presentations. The high quality of the presentations, opportunities for networking, and friendships nurtured will support the ongoing collaborations of Canadian surgeons, anesthesiologists and obstetricians with colleagues working to improve surgical care in low-resource settings. Post-conference courses were fully subscribed, including the CNIS Trauma Team Training Instructor Course, Regional Blocks for Trauma course, and a Getting Started in Health Research course. The conference was highlighted in the summer Letter from Dean Kelton: *“Surgeons share vision for global health”*
http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/main/documents/deans_newsletter_2014_summer.pdf
2. The **2014 McMaster International Compendium** includes 22 international research and education initiatives listed from Department of Surgery members!
<http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/globalhealthoffice/documents/InternationalCompendiumMcMaster2014FinalSeptember2014.pdf>
3. Adjunct faculty member **Dr. Dan Poenaru** was awarded the prestigious 2014 Teasdale-Corti Humanitarian Award by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Dr. Poenaru recently collaborated on an MSA funded research study on Disability Averted by Pediatric Surgery, resulting in several publications including an abstract in the **Lancet**.
http://www.royalcollege.ca/portal/page/portal/rc/common/documents/news/2014/teasdale-corti_2014_award_winner_e.pdf
4. **Julia Pemberton** PhD (c) was awarded the CIHR Douglas Kinsella Doctoral Award for Research in Bioethics. Her thesis will focus on global health research governance. <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48434.html>

DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS:

GUYANA:

- a. **Dr. Cheetanand Mahadeo** from Guyana began a full Thoracic Surgery Fellowship at St. Joseph’s Hospital in July 2014. Thanks to all faculty in that Division including emeritus Professor John Miller for supporting the Fellowship. Dr. Mahadeo returns to Guyana in July 2015 prepared to set up the first Thoracic Surgery service in the country.
- b. **Dr. Carlos Martin** did a General Surgery rotation at the Juravinski Hospital and CMAS course as part of a six month elective in Hamilton and Guelph facilitated through the McMaster PG office. Dr. Martin will complete his specialty DM degree through the University of the West Indies in 2016 and return to Guyana as a future surgical leader.
- c. **Dr. Brian Cameron** presented a paper at the annual Guyana Medical Scientific Conference in November 2014, and published a Commentary in the Canadian Journal of Surgery in February 2015 about the Guyana program.
- d. McMaster MSc student **Anupa Prashad** completed her thesis on retention of surgical graduates in Guyana.

UGANDA:

- a. In June, **Dr. Olivia Kituuka** from Makerere University visited McMaster as an ISD Visiting Scholar, spending several weeks with surgeons at the Juravinski Hospital and participating in a CMAS course. She presented Surgical Chair Rounds in June, speaking about their new surgical skills training centre.
- b. The MacOrtho group led by **Dr. Brad Petrisor** continues to collaborate with Ugandan colleagues and plans a next visit in April 2015.

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EDUCATION IN INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

1. The 2014 ISD Resident Scholarship was awarded to **Dr. Elena Parvez** (PGY3 GenSurg) who did her elective in Gulu, Uganda. She assisted delivering CNIS course in Essential Surgical Skills and Hernia Repair, and has had an abstract about the Hernia Course accepted for the **2015 World Congress of Surgery** in Thailand.
2. **Dr. Vasudha Gupta** (PGY3 Ophthalmology) had ISD support for her elective in February with **Dr. John Harvey** and Medical Ministry International in Bolivia.
3. Contributions to the **MSc Global Health program** included supervision of a student thesis and a lecture on Global Surgery.

SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES

A number of Department members and residents volunteered their time to support or participate in overseas medical missions with **Operation Rainbow Canada**, **Guyana Help the Kids** and the **St. Joseph's International Outreach Program**. Some of their stories are reported in the ISD website and newsletters. <http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/isd/index.html>

KNOWLEDGE: RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION

- a. MacOrtho has a new webpage about their Global Outreach, highlighting faculty research and education activities, including **Dr. Michelle Ghert**, **Dr. Mohit Bhandari**, **Dr. Olufemi Ayeni**, **Dr. Brad Petrisor**, **Dr. Desmond Kwok**, **Dr. Brad Weening**, and **Dr. Carolyn Levis** (Plastic Surgery).
http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/macortho/our_global_outreach.html
- b. McMaster was represented at the June **Bethune Round Table** conference with 2 podium presentations by: **Julia Pemberton PhD (c)**, **Dr. Mike Livingston** (SSP) and 4 posters: **Cecily Bos** (MD2015), **Alison Culp** (MD2014), and **Elizabeth Lymburner** (MSc Global Health 2014). All abstracts were published in the Canadian Journal of Surgery:
<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/23d190ec#/23d190ec/1>
- c. Other ISD research was published in the **World Journal of Surgery**, **Journal of Pediatric Surgery**, and **African Journal of Pediatric Surgery**.

FUTURE PLANS: Activities for 2015 include:

- a. Participation in the Bethune Round Table conference – one podium presentation accepted.
- b. Chair of Surgery Dr. Susan Reid is visiting Uganda in May to meet surgical leaders and discuss ongoing potential collaborations in surgical training.
- c. Others planning to visit Uganda this year: Dr. Brad Petrisor, Dr. Matt Macleod (PGY4 Ortho) and team will be teaching in Kampala (April); Dr. Mike Marcaccio, Dr. Margherita Cadeddu and Dr. Cameron (September) will attend the Global Partners in Anesthesia and Surgery (GPAS) conference and assist in surgical training workshops.

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