

# OPERATIVE REPORT



WINTER 2015

As of December 1st, our new address is:  
**Unit #26 1275 W 6th Ave. Vancouver, BC V6H 1A6**

## SUPPORT CNIS: SHARING SKILLS, SAVING LIVES

The holidays are approaching again as is the end of the taxation year. The celebrations cannot be assumed to be uniform in Canada. However the spirit of generosity which has no cultural or religious boundaries is still fostered by all every December. CNIS has submitted a large proposal to the Canadian government which would allow us to upscale our Tanzanian teaching in 2016. However for the

entirety of 2015 CNIS has proceeded with Surgical and Obstetrical Skills training in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda with no Canadian Government support. The substantive support of 3 family foundations, Bondi, Donner Canadian and Harbinger, the continued partnerships with Canadian Association of General Surgeons, McGill University and a new partnership with the American College of Obstetricians

and Gynecologists supplemented with the generosity of individual Canadians has been crucial in maintaining activities. The CNIS continues to promise that donors will get value in terms of surgical and obstetrical skills delivered in Africa. This December, please continue donating to CNIS so that the sharing of skills in order to save lives flourishes.

## OCTOBER 8 - 9: 21ST AGM, AWARDS AND PLANNING SESSIONS

### AGM

The 21st Annual General Meeting was held in Vancouver to elect the board members and appoint officers. Dr. Jan Christilaw stepped down from the board but is not going far as she will be on staff as the Obstetrical Associate. New members were added from opposite coasts: Dr. Angela Enright OC, an anesthesiologist from Victoria, and Dr. Marius Hoogerboord, a general surgeon from Dalhousie. Dr. Wylam Faught of Ottawa was reappointed as CNIS board chair and Dr. Andrew Howard from Toronto was appointed as Vice Chair. The other 7 members of the board remain unchanged.

### AWARDS

The CNIS work depends on volunteers, partners and staff. The Volunteer of the Year award for 2015 is shared by Lorelie Robinson, volunteer seamstress, and Dr. Jim Campbell, general surgeon. Lorelie has tirelessly assembled obstetrical training models for more than 3 years. Dr. Campbell has taken time from his busy practice in Ontario to teach Essential Surgical

Skills in both Tanga and Mbeya, Tanzania. This year, the CNIS is recognizing the contribution of an international partner and this will become an annual award. It is being awarded to Dr. Tom Okello who has been the ESS patron in Gulu, Uganda for more than a decade. He has also sustained the Hernia Repair course in the same location. Elizabeth Schaeffer, who has previously been recognized as a CNIS honorary life member, is retiring as office manager. The membership thanked for her years of service and in recognition presented a gift.



Dr. Tom Okello, Surgeon Gulu, Uganda, and Dr. James Campbell, Surgeon Orillia, Ontario



AGM in Progress. Left to right: Andrew Howard, Heather Scott, Wylam Faught, Jan Christilaw, Suzanne Roberge, Angela Enright, Lorne Braun, Hassan Shenaza, Lory Woolford, (Apologies to the right side of the room and proxies)

**PLANNING SESSIONS HIGHLIGHTS**

Three planning sessions were held. These were: a) surgical, b) obstetrical and gynecological, and c) organizational.

Although the surgeons and O&G specialists had separate sessions, their conclusions were similar. These include: the need to maintain and update the structured curriculum, to support our partners so that they can continue the course, and to explore an expansion beyond essential skills training to include the emerging challenges of malignancies. The likely priority identified by the gynecologists is cervical cancer while the surgeons focused on breast cancer.



**TRAUMA TEAM TRAINING INSTRUCTORS WORKSHOP DAR ES SALAAM**

A one day TTT instructors course was conducted under the auspices of the Injury Control Center Tanzania with the support of McGill University on September 28th. Certification for CNIS instructors courses expires after 3 years and an instructors course was long overdue in Tanzania. For

the 60% of the participants who had previously taught TTT it was an opportunity to be updated on the 2014 edition of the course. The total of 12 instructors will provide Dr. Respicious Boniface with a full faculty so that the providers course can be implemented throughout Tanzania.



Above: Structured Operative Obstetrics uses simulation to teach skills like post delivery repair of lacerations of the uterine cervix.

Top right: 12 Dar es Salaam Specialists updated as TTT Instructors. Right: SOO Kampala. Dr. Judith Ajeni Course Leader beside Jan Christilaw CNIS. Owen Montgomery Drexel University Back Row and ACOG Representative Vanetta Gupta front left.



**STRUCTURED OPERATIVE OBSTETRICS IN UGANDA**

CNIS has entered into a 3-year agreement with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist (ACOG) to have Drexel University, led by Dr. Owen Montgomery, teach its SOO course in Kampala and Mbarara, Uganda. On November 9 and 16th Dr. Jan Christilaw, CNIS Obstetrical Associate, and Dr. Ronald Lett, CNIS CEO, conducted Instructors Courses

and, together with the Americans and Ugandans, conducted SOO provider courses in both Kampala and Mbarara. Now, for the next 3 years, Drexel will implement SOO in Uganda. This is a new business model for CNIS but is consistent with the objectives to have surgical and obstetrical skills taught in Africa and appreciate the financial support that ACOG has provided.





Top: Mekele Ethiopia craniotomy on biological model.  
 Left: Dr. Japhet Nagera discussing operative planning for craniotomy.  
 Bottom: Dr. Redekop teaching TBSI in Northern Ethiopia.



## TRAUMATIC BRAIN AND SPINE INJURY IN TANZANIA, ETHIOPIA & UGANDA

Head injury is a factor in 50% of injury mortality. Outside of African capital cities, craniotomies to remove blood clots compressing the brain are performed by general surgeons. The TBSI course uses lectures, case studies and skull simulators to teach craniotomy skills to general surgeons. TBSI has been popular with these surgeons who are anxious to improve their skills in this subspecialty. The course is led by different neurosurgeon volunteers in the 3 countries. In Arusha and Moshi Tanzania Dr. Japhet Ngerageza, who had recently completed his neurosurgical studies, taught TBSI. In Mekele and Gondor, Ethiopia Dr. Gary Redekop, the Head of Surgery at the University of British Columbia, contributed his long standing experience. In Uganda Dr. Hussein Ssenyonjo, a Neurosurgeon from Mulago Hospital in Kampala, came to Soroti in eastern Uganda. In addition to the skills, the funding from the Bondi foundation allowed CNIS to contribute Hudson Braces, perforator and burr drill bits, gigli saws and Philadelphia collars to these rural institutions. Together with the courses in 2014 more than 100 surgeons in East Africa have taken TBSI.

## ESSENTIAL SURGICAL SKILLS AND THE HERNIA COURSE IN GULU UGANDA

Two BC Surgeons, Dr. Ghee Hwang of Vernon and Dr. Michelle Sutter of Prince George were in Gulu Uganda to teach the Essential Surgical Skills Course to Medical Students. Dr.

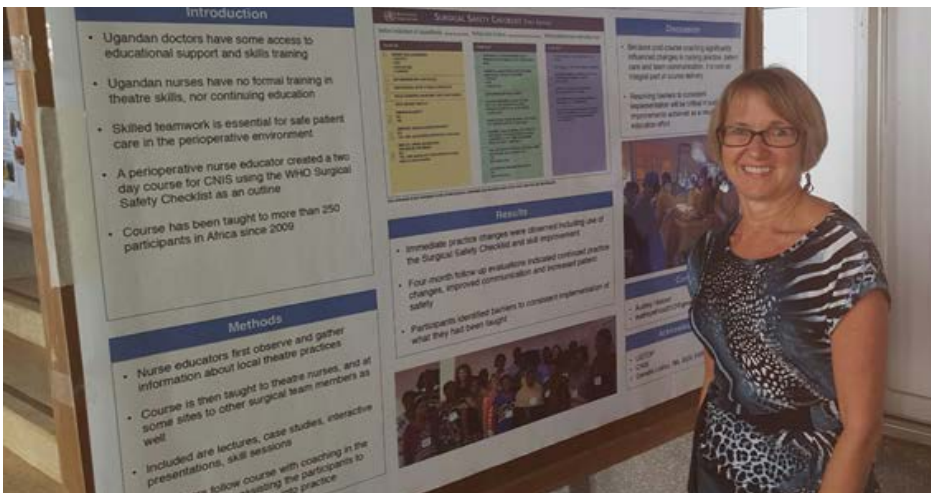
Hwang and Dr. Tom Okello conducted a Hernia Repair Instructors Course for 10 and then taught a providers course to 11 interns.



Dr. Michelle Sutter Prince George and Dr. Ghee Hwang Vernon



Above: Dr. Olive Kobusingye, co-Author of TTT 1st edition and Dr. Brian Cameron, the lead author on Trauma Team Training from Uganda to the World. Below: Audrey Hiebert presenting Knowledge for Ugandan Theatre Nurses



## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP IN ANESTHESIA AND SURGERY SEPTEMBER 25-26

A 2-day scientific meeting hosted in Entebbe Uganda by the University of California San Francisco included substantive CNIS and Canadian Participation. Dr. Brian Cameron presented a poster on the CNIS TTT Course and its global impact; Audrey Hiebert had poster and podium presentation on the CNIS Safe Surgery Saves Lives Perioperative Nursing Course. Dr. Norgrove Penny presented on the Club Foot project which he imple-

mented with Dr. Shafique Perani, also a BC Pediatric Orthopedic surgeon. The keynote address given by Prof. Nelson Sswenkambo highlighted 3 examples of sustainable surgical partnership, all of which were Canadian: the Club Foot Project, CNIS surgical skills training in particular the skills Lab and Hamilton St. Joseph's Hospital Project.

## ESSENTIAL SURGICAL SKILLS COURSE EDMONTON

An ESS Instructors Course was held in November at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. This was truly a cross Canada event with clinicians from Newfoundland to British Columbia attending. The course was hosted by Jessica Hogan of the U of A's Centre for Global Surgery with support from Mary Stephens (GS – Edmonton), the research skills lab and its staff.

The course was conducted by Robert Taylor (ESS Senior Instructor – Vancouver), assisted by Sam Bugis (GS – Vancouver). The enthusiastic participants included Mary Wells (GS – St. Johns), Eric Lenczner (Ortho – Montreal), Xing Zeng (OB/GYN – Montreal), Richard Sims (OB/GYN – Toronto), Randal Friesen (GS – Prince Albert), Greg O'Connor (Ortho – Edmonton), Tamara Kuzma (GS – Edmonton), Wally Yakimets (GS – Edmonton). The post course evaluation was very positive and participants expressed much interest in being involved facilitating ESS Providers courses globally. Thanks to our colleagues at U of A for hosting this course.

### THE CANADIAN NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

Our new address:  
Unit #26 (3rd floor)  
1275 W 6th Ave  
Vancouver, BC V6H 1A6  
Phone: 604-739-4708  
Email: office@cnis.ca

**Patron:** His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada  
**Chair:** Dr. Wylam Faught  
**CEO:** Dr. Ronald Lett  
**Accountant:** Moya Wagner  
**Program Associate:** Lorne Braun  
**Administrative Assistant:** Umera Quereshi  
**Newsletter Editor:** Jerry Yin