



International Surgery Desk



Register now: October 18-19th at St. Joseph's Hospital:
3rd Conference on Healthcare Collaboration in Uganda



Department of Surgery

Autumn 2012

Upcoming Events

October 20th,
IWCH conference
(RBG Centre)

October 21-24th:
**Canadian Conference on
Global Health** (Ottawa)

November 21st 7:30am:
General Surgery Rounds:
Dr. Jessica Westerholm
reporting from Nepal (Juravinski)

April 13-14th, 2013:
**Global Health & Innovation
Conference 2013 (Yale)**
uniteforsight.org/conference/

May 10th-12th, 2013:
Bethune Round Table on
International Surgery (Vancouver)

NEWS BULLETIN:
**McMaster Will Host the
2014 Bethune Round
Table—stay tuned!**

The ISD Website has been remade and is now being updated regularly. For more information on the ISD activities and extended features from this newsletter, please visit:

fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/ISD

Can you supervise a Global Surgery Research Project? Students from McMaster's BSc and Global Health programs are seeking supervisors for their global health research.
Contact the ISD for details.

Seven Ugandan surgeons and anesthetists will attend the Side-By-Side Conference hosted by the St. Joseph's International Outreach Program. The ISD, as well as the Divisions of General Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery, are sponsors for this international workshop, which will bring together North American and Ugandan physicians to develop action plans for partnership in surgical education and research. More information and registration at: <http://www.internationaloutreach.ca/Uganda-Conference.htm>

First ISD Scholarship Awarded

Dr. Rubini Pathy (PGY3 Orthopaedic Surgery) was recently awarded the Inaugural McMaster International Surgery Desk Scholarship. This scholarship will help fund her international elective within the clubfoot and orthopaedic trauma programs at Mulago Hospital in Uganda. She will be supervised by McMaster's **Dr. Brad Petrisor**, UBC's Dr. Piotr Blachut and Dr. Patrick Sekimpi at Mulago Hospital in Kampala.

After her first visit to Uganda in October 2011, Dr. Pathy *"was fascinated by the volume of orthopedic trauma and recognized that there are multi-faceted challenges to providing optimal orthopedic trauma care at Mulago Hospital."*

The objectives of her ISD scholarship include:

- To learn about the common orthopaedic trauma presentations and current management at Mulago Hospital
- To identify current orthopaedic equipment resources and needs
- To assist in bioskills workshops for the Ugandan orthopaedic surgery residents, to be run by Dr. Blachut and his colleagues
- To assist in the casualty theatre, with Dr. Blachut and his team, on orthopaedic trauma cases
- To implement the INORMUS study at Mulago Hospital, to measure the burden of orthopaedic trauma, under the supervision of Dr. Petrisor and Dr. Sekimpi.



ISD Interviews Dr. Timothy Olajide, Visiting Scholar



Dr. T.A. Olajide, MBBS, FWACS, attending a laparoscopy course at McMaster's Center for Minimal Access Surgery

Dr. Timothy Olajide came to McMaster for two months this summer to observe our pediatric surgical practice and learn about laparoscopic surgery. He is a pediatric surgical consultant in southwestern Nigeria, where most hospitals lack equipment to perform minimally invasive surgery. Timothy learned about McMaster from Dr. Lukman Abdur-Rahman, who was a Visiting Scholar in 2010. [see Oct 2010 ISD Newsletter.]

This was Dr. Olajide's first trip outside Nigeria. "I was responsible for the arrangements, the hotel, the air ticket, everything because I wanted to improve my knowledge and my skill." **"My goal," says Dr. Olajide, "is to ensure that we practice pediatric surgery at the highest level."**

Dr. Olajide explained that Nigerian surgeons have the knowledge but the lack of equipment necessary to operate on children, such as neonatal ventilators and parenteral nutrition, prevents them from giving the same standard of medical care as in Canada. **"We make do with what we have, and improvise a lot to keep the practice going,"** says Dr. Olajide. Doctors from Nigeria are overworked and often leave for greener pastures in western countries. **"A good thing about the training here at McMaster," explains Dr. Olajide, "is that there is not much of a gap between the trainees and the trainers. [In Nigeria], there is fear, fear to talk to your boss, fear to see your boss."** It is considered a breach of protocol in Nigeria for a junior resident to call a specialist directly. Standard of care suffers due to this lack of accountability. Dr. Olajide explains that while there is surgical postgraduate education, (cont. on pg 2)

Other Global Health Initiatives at McMaster

Global Health Office, Faculty of Health Sciences

The **Global Health Office** is multi-faceted, operating in close collaboration with all schools in the Faculty of Health Sciences, including medicine, midwifery, nursing and rehabilitation science. The Office provides ongoing support for international activities; enhances McMaster's visibility by strengthening health systems internationally; promotes interprofessional linkages focused on medical and health research through humanitarian aid and development; and acts as a liaison for increasing health human resource capacity building in higher education worldwide. For more information, visit fhs.mcmaster.ca/globalhealthoffice/

McMaster to host International Women's and Children's Health Symposium October 20th, RBG Centre [register: www.iwch.org](http://www.iwch.org)

The McMaster International Women's and Children's Health Network, founded in 1998, is committed to improving the health of women and children in disadvantaged places of the world through leadership development, clinical outreach and research.

(contd) Dr. Olajide Interview

it is difficult to cope with the tight schedule of work and rigorous testing as well as all responsibility for patient care. He says that **at McMaster "everybody knows what to do, and is caring and supportive towards a common goal and there is cordial interrelationship between all workers, even between different units. The communication and free flow of information is wonderful."**

In Nigeria, there is a lack political will to improve patient care, Policy-makers do not patronize the facilities and the wealthy can afford to access health care in the western countries, even for minor medical problems, Dr. Olajide believes that **it would be beneficial to the training of Canadian surgeons to learn how to improvise and "depend more on pathological basis of diseases [for] arriving at a diagnosis, and become less reliant on technology which is prone to technical and human errors."** "Medicine speaks an international language which all doctors should understand irrespective of where you trained," explains Dr. Olajide, "if you find yourself in Nigeria, you should be able to practice. After a three month exchange program, **residents will be amazed what they can do without all these gadgets."** [One of McMaster's 2012 graduating surgeons, Dr. Jola Omole, did an elective in Nigeria last year. see October 2010 ISD Newsletter]

THANKS to the following people for facilitating Dr. Olajide's visit and activities at McMaster: Donna Allerton (ATLS), Arlene Morgan (CMAS), Janice Schreiber (Credentials office), Lisa Bonney (CSBL), Trish MacDonald (SJIOP).

DR. POENARU RETURNS TO AFRICA. Dr. Dan Poenaru was a Visiting Professor and locum surgeon at McMaster in 2011-2012 and remains a collaborator with the ISD and the McMaster Pediatric Surgery Research Collaborative (MPSRC). He has returned to Africa to assist graduates of his pediatric surgery training program in setting up centres in their own countries, Dan teaches two global surgery courses through UBC's Branch for International Surgery and remains deeply committed to global pediatric surgical research, which he sees as the best platform for advocacy of resources for the needs of children in the majority world.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE ISD: If you would like to publicize an activity or get involved in a collaboration, contact the ISD through Kathy Wilson. If you have an article or upcoming event for the next newsletter or ISD website, please send a short summary and contact information to David Kanthers, the research assistant and publication editor for the ISD.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN...

- learning about international health issues?
- improving your critical appraisal skills?
- discussing international health with an interprofessional group?



Global Health Journal Club

The Global Health Journal Club are a group of inter-professional health care workers interested in discussing international health care issues. All are welcome and food will be provided. Dates and locations of upcoming meetings will be posted on the ISD website. For more information about the journal club, contact the resident/fellow coordinators at: bram.rochweg@medportal.ca or simon.oczkowski@medportal.ca

Bolivia Ophthalmology Mission



Dr. J. Harvey (above) and **Dr. G. Isaza** have both visited the Healthy Eyes clinic in Sucre, Bolivia that cares for the less fortunate, indigenous people who live on the outskirts of the city. Surgeries are performed for cataracts and strabismus, and many patients are fitted for artificial eyes. The trip was through Medical Missions International. For more info see: www.ona.org/documents/File/frontlines/ONA_FrontLines_June2012.pdf

International Surgery Desk Contacts

Dr. Brian Cameron, Director cameronb@mcmaster.ca

Kathy Wilson, Administration kawilso@mcmaster.ca

Julia Pemberton, Research pemberj@mcmaster.ca

David Kanthers, Research kanthers@mcmaster.ca