

## FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL SURGERY RESEARCH

Department of Surgery

### ISD and the Masters in Global Health Program

The Master of Science in Global Health program began in September 2010, with a partnership between McMaster University and Maastricht University in the Netherlands. The program offers teaching in global health issues and the opportunity for experience in low- and middle-income countries. The ISD plans to work with the Masters in global Health to arrange international surgery internships for some students. On November 22nd, **Dr. Samir Faidi** (pictured left), Department of General Surgery at Hamilton General hospital, **Dr. Alez Dauphin**, Clinical Professor of Anesthesia at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, and **Dr. Brian Cameron** gave a presentation to over 100 global health and medical students about their experiences in Libya, Haiti, and Guyana. Over 100 people were in attendance. For more information on the Global Health Program, please visit: [fhs.mcmaster.ca/globalhealthprogram/](http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/globalhealthprogram/)



### International Surgical Research: PARITY

Dr. Michelle Ghert, the Director of Research in the McMaster Department of Orthopedic Oncology, is the project coordinator for the PARITY study (Prophylactic Antibiotic Regimens and Tumor Surgery). This study conducted by the MacOrtho team examines the effect of duration of postoperative prophylactic antibiotics on the rate of postoperative infection following lower-extremity tumor excision and endoprosthetic reconstruction for bone tumors. This multicenter trial is being conducted with collaboration between institutions across Canada, the USA and Argentina, and was recently published in BMJ Open. [fhs.mcmaster.ca/macortho](http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/macortho)



### 3rd Annual Uganda Side-By-Side Conference in Hamilton

Surgeons and anesthesiologists from four Ugandan hospitals (Gulu, Mulago, Mbarara, and Soroti) attended this conference hosted by the St. Joseph's International Outreach Program to establish priorities for surgical education and research in Uganda. Areas of focus from the meeting include organizing internal trainee rotations, matching advanced training needs with groups to deliver the courses, harmonizing international group expertise with regional hospital requests and collating research ideas. A meeting summary is available at [www.globalpas.org](http://www.globalpas.org)



Standing (left to right): Dr. Kurt Domuracki (PGY3), Dr. Kan Ma (PGY1), Dr. Anil Dalvi (PGY3), Professor Emmanuel Moro, Dr. Moses Magada, Dr. Martin Ogwang, Dr. Nathan Onyachi, Dr. Brian Cameron  
Seated (left to right): Dr. Saramin Galinski, Dr. Sister Mary Margaret Ajiko, Dr. Olivia Kituuka, Dr. Sam Kagwa, Dr. Stephen Ttendo

McMaster faculty and residents introduced Ugandan surgeons and anesthesiologists to the Centre for Simulation Based Learning.

### Winter 2013

#### Upcoming Events

**April 13-14:**  
**Global Health & Innovation Conference 2013**

(Yale University, Boston)  
[uniteforsight.org/conference/](http://uniteforsight.org/conference/)

**May 10-12:**  
**Bethune Round Table on International Surgery (Vancouver)**

**June 17-19:**  
**Global Health Metrics & Evaluation Conference (Seattle)** [ghme.org](http://ghme.org)

**October 27-29:**  
**20th Canadian Conference on Global Health (Ottawa)**

**June 5-8, 2014:**  
**Bethune Round Table conference (McMaster University, Hamilton)**



### Announcements

#### Can you supervise a Global Surgery Research Project?

Students from McMaster's BHSc and Global Health programs are seeking supervisors for their global health research.

#### Call for ISD Resident Scholarship

Applications are invited from surgical postgraduates to support a clinical or research elective in a low resource region. Amount: \$2000  
Deadline: **April 1st 2013**. The rubric for evaluation and application template are available on the ISD website.

<http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/isd>  
Applications can be emailed to **Julia Pemberton**: [pemberj@mcmaster.ca](mailto:pemberj@mcmaster.ca)

**FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL SURGERY RESEARCH**

**International Research in the Department of Surgery**



Principal Investigator: **Dr. Mohit Bhandari**

This multicenter, prospective observational study examines patients sustaining fractures or dislocations presenting at orthopedic fracture units across 14 hospitals in India to quantify the burden of injuries from trauma accidents and current standard of care of these patients in low- and middle-income countries. INORMUS was well received when presented at the 2012 Orthopedic Trauma Association International Conference by **Dr. C.J. Foote**, a McMaster resident working with INORMUS in India. **Please see the ISD website for an update from Dr. Foote on INORMUS.**



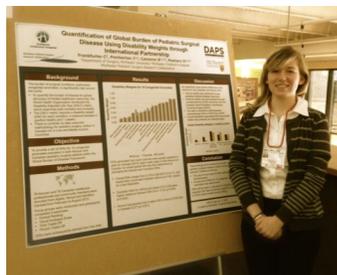
**Dr. Laurie Elit**, Professor in the McMaster Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was a co-author on a recent publication in the Canadian Medical Association Journal: *“The Global Cancer Epidemic: Opportunities for Canada in Low and Middle Income Countries.”* Dr. Elit is a member of the International Women’s Health Program and co-chairs the Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada’s community of practice on international health.



**DAPS** Disability Averted by Pediatric Surgery  
Principal Investigators: **Dr. Dan Poenaru** and **Dr. Brian Cameron**

**KENYA | CANADA**

A poster about DAPS was presented by MPSRC intern **Claudia Frankfurter** (pictured right) at the recent Brock-McMaster Global Health Forum co-sponsored by the CCGHR (see below). Disability weights were calculated for 15 congenital surgical conditions, using focus groups in Kenya and Canada.



**Brock-McMaster Global Health Forum: Report**

On January 26, 2013, over 165 attendees took part in the second annual Brock-McMaster Undergraduate Forum for Global Health held at The Pond Inlet at Brock University. The "Discovering Global Health in Your Future" event was hosted by McMaster University and Brock University in alliance with the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research. The forum featured addresses by Dr. Luis Gabriel Cuervo of the Pan American Health Organization and Dr. Marilyn McHarg, president of the medical humanitarian organization Dignitas International. Attendees took part in interactive global health workshops, engaged with an expert interdisciplinary panel on migrant worker realities, and enjoyed visual arts exhibitions on health research. The forum provided an engaging platform for knowledge-sharing and discussion on key global health issues. **The ISD was an original sponsor of the Forum.**

**ISD Scholarship winner Dr. Rubini Pathy reports on her elective in Uganda**

A main focus of this visit was assisting with resident education. This included teaching basic orthopedic surgical skills during Sawbones workshops for the junior residents, morning didactic and bedside rounds, and assisting in the OR, especially in the “casualty” theatre, where there was often only one or two junior residents operating without supervision. There is an immense volume of orthopedic trauma that presents at Mulago Hospital, which is a tertiary care centre. During weekly trauma ward rounds, we saw over 50 patients who had been admitted during the week, with almost half still awaiting surgery. What was strikingly evident was the complexity of issues that affect the logistics of providing safe, timely and effective patient care. These included pre-hospital care, administrative issues, training and education challenges, and limited and inconsistent material and human resources, all of which impacted pre-, intra- and post-operative care. Being my second visit to Mulago Hospital, I was happy to reunite with the orthopedic residents and staff whom I had met last year. What truly inspires me is the dedication and motivation of the orthopedic residents to learn and to provide care to the best of their abilities, despite their challenging environment. We also visited Soroti Hospital, where I met Sister Mary Margaret, an exceptionally dedicated general surgeon in the truest sense, who faces multiple challenges at her regional referral hospital, including unpredictable electricity. There, we also conducted a surgical skills workshop, teaching the interns and general surgeons the principles and practical application of external fixators to stabilize tibia fractures. I am really grateful to have had this opportunity, as this elective was a humbling yet immensely valuable learning experience and has given me greater insight into the determinants of health, which we often take for granted.

**CONTRIBUTE TO THE ISD:** If you would like get involved with the ISD, contact Kathy Wilson. If you have a recent or upcoming activity to feature in the newsletter or website, please send a short summary and contact information to David KanTERS.

**International Surgery Desk Contacts**

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