

McMASTER INTERNATIONAL SURGERY DESK

Spring 2016

(Dr. Brian Cameron, Director - Email: [cameronb@mcmaster.ca](mailto:cameronb@mcmaster.ca); Website: <http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/isd/>)

## Congratulations....

To **Dr. Carolyn Levis** (Associate Professor, Plastic Surgery, McMaster University), who was presented with an Award of Merit (Order of Princess Olga) by Peter Poroshenko, president of Ukraine, for her work with the [Canada Ukraine Foundation](#) medical mission team. The team recently completed its fourth medical mission to help wounded soldiers and civilians in Ukraine.

When presented with the award, Dr. Levis commented, " I draw strength from and am inspired by the patients I have treated, along with my Ukrainian counterparts at the military hospital. I gratefully accept this award on behalf of the wider Canadian community and we stand united with Ukrainians who want a better future."



Dr. Levis (second from left) with fellow award recipients

## Upcoming Events

**June 3-4, 2016:**

**Bethune Round Table Conference**

Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS

<http://www.brt2016.com>

Keynote speakers will include:

- \* Dr. John Meara, <http://www.thelancet.com/commissions/global-surgery>
- \* Dr. Andrew Furey, <http://www.brokenearth.ca/>
- \* Dr. Patrick Kyamanywa, University of Rwanda
- \* Professor Dame Tina Lavender, Centre for Global Women's Health, University of Manchester <http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/staff/tinalavender/>

**October 2016:**

**Canadian Conference on Global Health**

More information to come!

## 2016 International Surgery Desk Resident Scholarship



Congratulations to the recipient of the 2016 International Surgery Desk Resident Scholarship, **Dr. Noor Alolabi** (PGY4 Plastic Surgery). Noor plans to take part in a volunteer medical mission with **Dr. Carolyn Levis** and the Guatemala Healing Hands Foundation this November.

For further information on this non-profit organization that specializes in the treatment of congenital and hand injuries, please see here: <http://guatemalahands.org/>

Many members of the Department of Surgery are involved in international work, and the ISD would love to share your stories here!

Contact Kathy Wilson ([kawilso@mcmaster.ca](mailto:kawilso@mcmaster.ca)) to submit an item for our next newsletter.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN GLOBAL SURGICAL CARE

The UBC Branch for International Surgery now offers four online courses leading to a graduate certificate. For more information, please see their website: <http://internationalsurgery.med.ubc.ca/education-courses/graduate-certificate-in-global-surgical-care/>

## "(Truly) General Surgery In Angola"

Andrew Giles, PGY3, General Surgery

I had the privilege of traveling to Angola Feb 2 – Mar 20, 2016 to complete an international elective at CEML Hospital (Centro Evangélico de Medicina do Lubango) under the supervision of **Dr. Stephen Foster** and Dr. Annelise Olsen. My wife, a RN, also came to learn and work alongside me.

General surgery in Angola can hardly be limited by a definition. Over many years of training and experience, the surgeons there have developed the abilities necessary to treat the incredibly broad range of surgical disease. In the same day we would perform a diagnostic laparotomy (the Angolan CT scan) and bypass the ampullary cancer we found, treat BPH with a simple prostatectomy, or apply external fixation for an infected nonunion fracture. My responsibilities were much the same as they would be here. I rounded with the surgeons, learned to write notes and orders in Portuguese, attended clinic, and assisted in endoscopy and OR. A culmination of my language practice was translating for a visiting orthopaedic surgeon's clinic.

In a country with the world's highest under-five mortality rate and an average life expectancy of 52 years, we were privileged to work alongside health care providers, many of whom are under trained, over worked, and often working without pay. We frequently ran out of basic supplies, such as IV fluids or certain antibiotics. I learned to be creative, and, like my Angolan colleagues, laugh often and be grateful for what we did have.



Dr. Giles (centre) in the OR at the CEML in Angola



Dr. Giles (at right) with one of the Angolan surgical techs

### A Sampling of the ISD's Recent Global Surgery Research

- ⇒ **Anupa Prashad**, MSc, a recent graduate of McMaster's Health Sciences Education program, presented her thesis work at the 2016 Canadian Conference on Medical Education ("*Retention and Capacity Building in the University of Guyana Surgical Training Program: A Case Study Exploration of Eyal and Hurst's Framework for Locally-Relevant Training*").
- ⇒ **Dr. Abdullah Saleh**, a postgraduate fellow in pediatric surgery, presented a paper at the **Unite for Sight Global Health & Innovation** conference at Yale in April ("*Metric technologies: Development of a sustainable pathway for the creation of low-cost medical devices*").
- ⇒ **Dr. Brian Cameron** will be presenting a paper at the upcoming **Bethune Round Table** conference in Halifax ("*Surgery in Africa journal club: A north-south e-learning collaboration for surgical residents in the COSECSA region*"). Dr. Cameron has been developing modules for an online journal club for African surgical residents, working with colleagues at the University of Toronto, the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, and the College of Surgeons of East, Central and South Africa.
- ⇒ **Dr. Michael Livingston**, a senior General Surgery resident, collected local Hamilton data to contribute to a Global Surgery collaboration and recent publication in the *British Journal of Surgery* ("*Mortality of emergency abdominal surgery in high-, middle- and low-income countries*"). McMaster Children's Hospital was one of only three Canadian sites to participate in this landmark study.

### UGANDA PARTNERSHIP UPDATE



**Dr. Edward Kironde** (at left), a senior orthopaedic registrar from Kampala, Uganda, has arrived in Hamilton for a six month fellowship in orthopaedic trauma with **Dr. Brad Petrisor** and his colleagues. Please say hello when you see him!

The **St. Joseph's International Outreach Program** (SJIOP) is supporting the cost of Edward's fellowship. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the SJIOP to help sponsor Dr. Kironde: <https://internationaloutreach.ca/donate/>



...The McMaster Ortho team visited Uganda in April...stay tuned for a report from Dr. Petrisor in the Fall 2016 newsletter!...