The Bethune Round Table (BRT) Conference is a unique annual interdisciplinary scientific meeting that brings together health professionals from Canada and the global ‘north’ with participants from the global ‘south’ to discuss challenges and solutions to improving, anesthetic, obstetrical and surgical care in low and middle income countries. Started in 2001 by Dr. Massey Beveridge at the University of Toronto, it is now currently led by the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS) and has been hosted by academic centers in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, and Montreal. This year, McMaster University, led by Planning Committee Chair, Dr. Brian Cameron, was honoured to host the conference June 5-8, 2014. In addition to its sponsors, generous support was also provided by the Departments of Surgery, Anesthesia and Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The 2104 Bethune Round Table conference in Hamilton 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, including Dr. James Orbinski, (formerly of Medecins Sans Frontieres), Dr. Vivienne Mitchell (former Chair, Guyana Medical Council), and Dr. Jean Chamberlain (Order of Canada recipient. In addition, there were 27 podium presentations and 21 poster presentations.

More information about the Bethune Round Table Conference can be found at http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/isd/brt2014.html

Three post-conference workshops were offered on the last day of the conference, one of which was the Regional Blocks for Trauma and Perioperative Care, coordinated by Dr. Anne Wong and co-taught by Dr. Harsha Shanthanna and Dr. Mauricio Forero. It was highly rated by the interdisciplinary participants from around the world, including Uganda, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti and Guyana. The success of the BRT Conference will continue to support the ongoing interdisciplinary efforts to perioperative around the world in low-resource settings. Thanks to our colleagues for their invaluable support!