"My Ugandan Orthopaedic Experience"

(Submitted by: Matthew MacLeod, PGY4, Orthopaedic Surgery, McMaster University; Dr. MacLeod was the recipient of the 2015 ISD Resident Scholarship)

Our 9-day trip to Uganda in April-May of 2015 marked the third collaboration between McMaster Orthopaedics and UBC’s Uganda Sustainable Trauma Orthopedics Program (USTOP; http://ustop.orthopaedics.med.ubc.ca/). As with previous trips we were based primarily at Mulago Hospital in Kampala. However, some of my orthopaedic colleagues did branch out and visit Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services in Uganda (CoRSU; http://corsu-uganda.org/), a private, not for profit, non-government hospital that provides free surgery to patients 17 and under. The trip was supported with a large Hamilton contingent including staff surgeons: Dr. Bradley Petrisor, Dr. Desmond Kwok, and Dr. Jaydeep Moro; Orthopaedic residents: Dr. Matthew MacLeod and Dr. Marcin Kowalczyk; OR nurses: Franca Mossuto, Elizabeth Stec and physiotherapist: Meeta Bhana. Our involvement was a 50/50 mix of teaching and clinical work. Provided teaching included basic and advanced saw-bones bioskills courses, a perioperative nursing safe surgery course, as well as impromptu teaching during ward rounds. For the first time internationally, we presented the MacOrtho produced Acute Musculoskeletal Trauma Limb Support (AMTLS) course. For USTOP’s full trip report please see: http://ustop.orthopaedics.med.ubc.ca/trip-reports/

To speak to my own experience in Uganda, I can best summarize it as eye opening. Ugandan residents and staff deal with a large volume of orthopedic trauma – and remarkably efficiently given limited resources. My clinical experiences included daily casualty ward rounds, weekly ward rounds in which every inpatient on the 70-bed orthopedic ward is rounded on by staff and residents, and operating alongside my fellow Ugandan residents. Much of the orthopedic trauma is related to road traffic accidents and the ubiquitous “Boda-boda” or motorcycle taxis which offer very little protection to their riders in the event of an accident. (Continued on Page 3)
Recent Research Presentations and Publications

This year McMaster students and faculty affiliated with the ISD presented posters and gave podium presentations at the following events:

- 2015 Bethune Round Table on International Surgery, Calgary, AB
- Global Partners in Anesthesia and Surgery (GPAS), Uganda
- World Congress of Surgery, Thailand
- Canadian Conference on Global Health, Ottawa
- Guyana Annual Medical Scientific Conference


Congratulations to....

Dr. Dan Poenaru, adjunct faculty with McMaster’s Department of Surgery (pictured at right), who was awarded the 2015 American College of Surgeons/Pfizer Surgical Humanitarian Award for his work in Kenya with BethanyKids. For further details, visit the ACS website: https://www.facs.org/media/press-releases/2015/humanitarian

2016 International Surgery Desk Resident Scholarship

The ISD is proud to award the International Surgery Resident Scholarship each year to a McMaster surgical resident or fellow who will be embarking on an international surgery clinical or research elective in a low resource region. The scholarship is funded by the ISD in the amount of $2000.

Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2016. Please see the ISD website to apply: www://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/isd/education.html

2016 Bethune Round Table

Keynote speakers will include:

- 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/

Deadline for abstract submission is January 17, 2016 http://www.brt2016.com
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I also saw a number of chronic traumatic injuries which are not unheard of, but seldom seen in Canada. These injuries present late for a variety of reasons including: patients seeking care from traditional bone setters before presenting to hospital, days spent travelling to Kampala from rural areas of Uganda, or because family are trying to scrape together the funds to pay for orthopaedic implants to facilitate their loved-one’s surgery. This experience, in addition to providing valuable hands-on experience with rate cases, also vividly illustrated to me that providing orthopaedic care extends beyond my role as a medical expert.

I spent the majority of my clinical time in the Mulago Hospital main operating theatre operating on limb threatening emergencies including gunshot wounds, open fractures, compartment syndrome, and septic arthritis. Most striking to me was the stoicism of Ugandan patients. The most remarkable thing I saw was a patient with an open floating knee injury who was splinted with a folded cardboard box transfer himself from a stretcher to the operating table entirely under his own steam, then sit upright for induction of spinal anesthesia, without a grimace or sound.

Since returning to Canada, I have had the opportunity to debrief with my USTOP colleagues and consider the complexity of affecting changes in orthopaedic care in Uganda. One area for future consideration is that a sizeable portion of orthopaedic care is provided by non-government sources. Partnership with a non-profit clinic like CoRSU could help us further our endeavours.

After our trip I also had the opportunity, facilitated through the International Surgery Desk, to meet with residents from other disciplines who have done electives in Uganda, and meet Ugandan fellows training in Canada. After hearing their stories, I feel that initiatives like USTOP are having an impact and by our interaction with the residents at Makerere University we are sowing seeds of future change.

PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

UGANDA

The McMaster-Uganda surgical connections continue to evolve. In March, Dr. Janelle Rekman (an Ottawa surgical resident working with Dr. Cameron) completed a Needs Assessment for the new surgical training program in Gulu, Northern Uganda. In April, Dr. Matt MacLeod (PGY4 Orthopaedic Surgery) joined the McMaster-USTOP orthopaedic group, which included Drs. Brad Petrisor, Desmond Kwok and Jaydeep Moro, in Uganda (see his report starting on Page 1). Dr. Susan Reid (Chair, Department of Surgery) visited Makerere, Mbarara and Gulu with the leaders of the St. Joseph’s International Outreach Program (SJIOP); her report will appear in the upcoming Department newsletter. In June, we welcomed Dr. Phyllis Kisa for a short visit to Hamilton. She recently completed pediatric surgery training in Vancouver and has returned to Makerere University. Dr. Ryan Fielding (PGY3 General Surgery, Niagara) spent October in Mbarara on a surgical elective.

Drs. Margherita Cadeddu and Brian Cameron participated in the Global Partners in Anesthesia Conference in September in Uganda, and taught a basic laparoscopy course for surgical residents. In April 2016, we will welcome Dr. Edward Kironde for six months of orthopaedic training through the SJIOP.

Registration is open for UBC’s two online graduate courses, which are set to begin on January 4, 2016:

SURG 514 - Surgical Care in Humanitarian Disaster Response
SPPH 540 - Program Planning and Evaluation with a Surgical Care Focus

For more information on these courses and how to apply, please visit their website at: http://internationalsurgery.med.ubc.ca/education-courses/graduate-courses/
Dr. Cheetanand Mahadeo completed his Thoracic Surgery clinical fellowship training in Hamilton and returned to Guyana, where he is setting up the country’s first thoracic surgery service. One of his colleagues recently did a transplant fellowship in Calgary, and together they recently performed the first kidney transplant ever carried out in Guyana by Guyanese surgeons. The McMaster Nephrology group has a service and training collaboration with Guyana through the SJIOP.

SAVE THE DATE!
February 24, 2016
Chair’s Rounds, Department of Surgery,
McMaster University
(Juravinski Cancer Centre Lecture Theatre, 4th Floor,
7:30 -8:30 am)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Geoffrey Blair, UBC
Topic: “Do Surgical Camps Still Have a Place in Global Surgery?”

Dr. Geoffrey Blair is a Clinical Professor of Pediatric Surgery at the B.C. Children’s Hospital; Director of Undergraduate Surgical Education; and has served as Hospital Department Head and as President of the Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons. His varied interests include pediatric thyroid surgery, surgical education and innovation. For 10 years, he has led a pediatric surgery team on an annual two-week surgical camp in Uganda, treating hundreds of children while working with and training Ugandan surgeons.

Read McMaster medical student Nicole Jedrzejko’s August 2015 interview with Dr. Olivia Kituuka (pictured at left), hepatobiliary surgeon with Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. McMaster’s Department of Surgery hosted a visit by Dr. Kituuka in June 2015; much of this was spent in the Hepatobiliary Unit at the Juravinski Hospital with Dr. Michael Marcaccio.


Dr. Phyllis Kisa from Makerere University (along with Dr. Brian Cameron) being interviewed by CHML during her June visit.