International Surgery Desk

McMaster University Department of Surgery

Why International Surgery?

As surgeons we recognize there are marginalized communities both within and outside Canada that need and deserve better surgical care. Many of our faculty offer clinical care and education in other environments, and benefit through personal fulfillment and development of new professional collaborations with like-minded people. Residents may combine their altruistic impulses with clinical education and research in an international elective.

The developing discipline of 'international surgery' includes the concepts of humanitarian motivation, under-served populations, and international partnerships. An academic framework is growing that includes courses, conferences, publications and even a textbook on Global Surgery. Three years ago, our then Chair Dr. Bill Orovan established an International Surgery Desk to facilitate and share these academic activities with the Department and the University. Our current Chair Dr. Susan Reid has continued to fully support such initiatives. The extensive breadth and depth of our international collaborations are reported in the ISD newsletters and website.

The annual Bethune Round Table on International Surgery has become the major Canadian conference for those working in the field, and an opportunity to share research and education with those living and working in low-resource settings. The recent meeting in Vancouver had 120 registrants from 16 countries, including 15 sponsored BRT Scholars. We are excited that McMaster will be hosting the 2014 Bethune Round Table, providing an opportunity for our faculty and residents to present their research, and to broaden our collaborations with Anesthesia and Ob/Gyn colleagues. Mark the date in your calendar - June 5-8th, 2014. Come to share and learn!

Brian

McMaster Welcomes Visiting International Clinical Fellows

Dr. Andrew Kintu (pictured left) is here from Uganda for a 6 month fellowship in Obstetric Anesthesia. As an intern, he confronted the effects of a deficiency of anesthesia providers in his region of Jinja. Passions inflamed, Andrew returned to Makerere University for anaesthesia training as a GPAS (Global Partners in Anaesthesia and Surgery) scholar. He was recently appointed a Lecturer in their Department.

Andrew’s heart lies with the women and mothers that suffer and at times die giving life. Knowing the dangers of providing intervention that can sometimes be too little or too late for pregnant women, Andrew has taken a keen interest in improving obstetric anaesthesia care in Mulago hospital and the soon-to-be built Women’s Hospital in Kampała.

Two graduates of the CAGS affiliated surgical training program in Guyana will be undertaking clinical fellowships through McMaster. They both aim to learn new skills to improve surgical care at home. Dr. Cheetanand (Vishal) Mahadeo (pictured below left) will join the Thoracic Surgery program under the supervision of Dr. Colin Schieman and Dr. John Miller. He is interested in lung and esophageal disease, trauma and intensive care. Dr. Ravi Motilall (pictured below right) will spend his initial month with the Pediatric Surgery service, then train under the guidance of Dr. Peter Willard in Welland. His focus will be Minimally invasive, Oncologic and acute care surgery.

Spring 2013 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

June 17-19: Global Health Metrics & Evaluation Conference (Seattle, WA)

September 6-8: Alliance for Surgery and Anesthesia Presence 6th Annual meeting (Durham, NC)

October 16-17: World Congress of Surgery, Obstetrics, Trauma, and Anesthesia (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago)

October 27-28: 20th Annual Canadian Conference on Global Health (Ottawa, ON)

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

The McMaster Department of Surgery and the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS) will host the 2014 BRT conference.

We welcome all physicians working in anesthesia, obstetrics, and surgery in low-resource settings.

Abstracts are published in the Canadian Journal of Surgery. Submissions are invited on the following global surgical issues:

- Sustainable partnerships and building local capacity
- Evidence-based surgery in low-resource settings
- Patient safety, critical care, and transport
- Improving inter-professional collaboration.

The abstract deadline for this conference is January 17th, 2014.
SOURCE Hosts 2nd Evidence Based Surgery Workshop

The Surgical Outcomes Research Centre (SOURCE) organised a successful 3-day workshop (April 15-17, 2013) on Evidence Based Surgery (EBS) principles, attracting over 50 surgeons and research students from across Middle East. This second annual unique event was conducted in collaboration with King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre (KFSH&RC) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The workshop was led by Dr. Achilleas Thoma, Director of SOURCE and co-tutored by Dr. Forough Farrokhyar, Dr. Charles Goldsmith and Dr. Luis Braga.

The topics for the 3-day workshop included Randomized Controlled trials, Power & Sample Size, Systematic review & meta-analysis, diagnosis, surveys & case-series. The 3-days were divided into morning and afternoon sessions where by the tutors facilitated small groups encouraging an interactive, problem based learning format.

For more information about SOURCE and the EBS workshops, visit their website: www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/source/ or email Manraj Kaur at kaurmn@mcmaster.ca.

International Activity in the Division of Urology

A delegation of Canadian urologists (pictured right) went to Changsha, China in November 2012 to perform urologic surgery. Dr. Anil Kapoor participated as part of the Norman Bethune Society China-Canada collaborative, demonstrating a laparoscopic partial nephrectomy. The experience was enriching for all Canadian and Chinese participants.

Dr. Kapoor (pictured left) also attended the annual Saudi urologic meeting in Abha, Saudia Arabia in April 2013 and participated in urologic surgeries during the visit. The exchange of ideas and surgical techniques was educational for both countries.

Dr. Ian Davis completed a Urology locum from October 2011 until April 2012 at the University of Otago School of Medicine in Dunedin New Zealand.

International Service in Obstetrics and Gynecology - Dr. Esther Chin

I recently had the privilege of spending two months at Centro Evangélico de Medicina do Lubango (CEML) in Angola. CEML is headed by Dr. Stephen Foster, a career missionary surgeon, McMaster Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, and McMaster medical school alumnus. Having spent much of the last thirty years in Angola, he has developed a surgical repertoire that is as impressive as it is expansive. Most striking, however, is his commitment to the Angolan people and his unceasing patience and kindness despite working under trying circumstances. Tales abounded as he recalled Angola during its communist and civil war years.

I also worked alongside Dr. Priscila Cummings, a Brazilian-American Ob/Gyn who will be serving permanently at Kalukembe, a rural Angolan hospital. Under her tutelage, I began to learn how to repair vesicovaginal fistulas. Tragically, due to poor access to timely and decent obstetrical care in most of sub-Saharan Africa, fistulas are commonplace and result in horrendous physical and social debilitation. In an effort to increase awareness, we ventured to Huambo to give a fistula presentation to the Women’s Organization of Angola.

Given my plans to practice long-term in rural Africa, this elective opportunity and moreover, Dr. Foster’s and Dr. Cummings’ mentorship were invaluable.

Dr. Esther Chin is a resident (PGY3) in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McMaster
Opportunities for Residents

International Surgery Desk Scholarship
The ISD awards a scholarship each year to a McMaster surgical resident or fellow who is embarking on an international surgery clinical or research elective in a low-resource region. Applications are due each April and awards are given each September. The scholarship is in the amount of $2000.00. Please see the ISD website for information on past recipients.

Paul Farmer Global Surgery Fellowship
McMaster surgical alumna Dr. Jola Omole is currently in Rwanda contributing to surgical education while completing her Paul Farmer Global Surgery Fellowship. This is a one- or two- year fellowship offered by the Partners in Health organization and Harvard Medical School. The purpose of the fellowship is to train leaders who will further promote surgical care, education, and research in the field of global surgery in resource-poor settings around the world. For information on how to apply, please visit www.children’shospital.org

Operation Rainbow Canada
In February, Dr. Kevin Cheung (PGY4, pictured below left) joined a 24-member team mission to Cambodia that performed 106 surgeries including cleft lips, cleft palates, and burn contractures over 8 days. Dr. Cheung says “there are many humanitarian benefits to participating in an overseas mission; however, as a resident, the benefits in surgical training may be even more significant. [With volunteer staff plastic surgeons] I performed more cleft lip and palate repairs in 8 days than I will likely perform during my entire residency. We managed complex burn scar reconstructions that are largely unseen in North America due to prompt primary burn care. Furthermore, understanding the cultural and language differences, resource limitations, and strengths of working in a multidisciplinary team reinforce all of the CanMEDS competencies.” Dr. Cheung’s elective was supported by the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons’ Educational Fund.

International Surgery Courses
Several McMaster faculty and residents from the Surgery and Anesthesia departments have completed the online course SURGICAL CARE IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH offered by the University of British Columbia. In September, UBC is offering two more Masters level courses through the Branch for International Surgery: Global Disability, and Surgical Care Issues in Humanitarian Disaster Response. More information on these programs is available through the Branch for International Surgery website at: www.internationalsurgery.ubc.ca

Presentations and Publications
MPSRC Intern Claudia Frankfurter (pictured left) presented a poster at the 2nd Brock-McMaster Undergraduate Global Health Forum on the DAPS project entitled “Quantification of Global Burden of Pediatric Surgical Disease Using Disability Weights through International Partnership”. The data will also be presented at the Global Health Metrics and Evaluation conference by Dr. Dan Poenaru.

Julia Pemberton’s paper “Evaluating the long-term impact of the Trauma Team Training course in Guyana: an explanatory mixed-methods approach” was published in the American Journal of Surgery.

Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS)
The McMaster ISD is a member of the Canadian Network for International Surgery, an organization that sends doctors and teaches life-saving surgical and obstetrical procedures in Africa. Over the past 16 years, CNIS and their partners in eight African countries have trained nearly 20,000 practitioners through over 500 surgical and obstetrical workshops. The ISD will partner with the CNIS to host the upcoming Bethune Round Table Conference at McMaster in 2014. For more information on the CNIS and how to get involved in supporting their work, please visit www.cnis.ca.
ISD 2012 Annual Report Highlights

The ISD facilitates and shares international surgery activities within the Department, including an educational component in all projects, and collaborates with like-minded disciplines and colleagues within the McMaster University and Canadian surgical communities.

DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

Guyana:
- Dr. Karen Bailey and Julia Pemberton presented courses at the annual Guyana Medical Scientific Conference.
- McMaster alumnus Dr. Nick Bauman is coordinating the CAGS-Guyana project.
- Several challenging surgical pathology cases from Guyana were reviewed by McMaster faculty.

Uganda:
- Dr. Brad Petrisor and Dr. Rubini Pathy (PGY4) visited Mulago Hospital to teach Sawbones workshops and work with Ugandan surgeons.
- The Divisions of General Surgery and Orthopedics sponsored 2 Ugandan surgeons to attend the October “Side By Side” conference in Hamilton with SJIOP.

EDUCATION IN INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

- Dr. Dan Poenaru spoke at the Surgical Chair’s Rounds in June on “Measuring the Burden of Surgical Disease”.
- Dr. Samir Faidi, Dr. Alez Dauphin, and Dr. Brian Cameron presented a seminar on Global Surgery to MD and Global Health MSc students.
- Nigerian surgeon Dr. Timothy Olajide was an ISD Visiting Scholar at McMaster for 2 months and attended courses on laparoscopy and ATLS.
- The inaugural ISD Scholarship was awarded to Dr. Rubini Pathy (PGY3 Orthopedics) for her clinical elective in Uganda.
- McMaster alumna Dr. Jessica Westerholm presented General Surgery Grand Rounds in November on her experience at the Tansen Mission Hospital in Nepal.
- Dr. Ian Davis did a Urology locum from October 2011 to April 2012 in New Zealand with the Otago School of Medicine.
- Dr. Anil Kapoor taught urologic surgery in Saudi Arabia and in Changsha, China as part of the Norman Bethune Society China-Canada Collaborative; and

fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/isd

SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES

- Dr. J. Harvey and Dr. G. Isaza visited the Healthy Eyes clinic in Sucre, Bolivia, with Medical Missions International, performing surgery for cataracts and strabismus.
- Dr. Carolyn Levis visited Guatemala with the Healing Hands Foundation Plastic Surgery team to care for children with congenital hand anomalies, burns, and upper limb injuries.
- After serving voluntarily for 2 weeks in a Misratah hospital during the Libyan conflict, Dr. Samir Faidi has returned regularly to Libya to offer clinical teaching as well as formal trauma care courses.
- Dr. Stephen Foster, McMaster alumnus and previous Royal College Teasdale-Corti award winner, continues to oversee the Lubango Mission Hospital in Angola and supervises visiting students and residents.

KNOWLEDGE: RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION

- Dr. Mohit Bhandari (INORMUS, FAITH, FLOW and HEALTH studies) and Dr. Michelle Ghert (PARITY) continue to conduct world-leading global health research in the Department of Orthopedics.
- Dr. C.J. Foote (PGY3, Surgeon Scientist Program, Orthopaedics) continues his Master’s research with the INORMUS study in India.
- Dr. Achilleas Thoma, the SOURCE group and McMaster alumnus Dr. Khalid Al Harbi presented an Evidence Based Surgery Workshop in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Several Surgery Department members are collaborators in international clinical trials studying clotting problems in non-cardiac surgery patients including LMICs. (MANAGE, POISE-2, CTA-VISION, The VISION Study.
- Cardiac surgeons Dr. Andre Lamy (CORONARY) and Dr. Richard Whitlock (SIRS, LAAROS III) lead international RCTs including LMIC centres.
- McMaster was represented by 3 podium presentations and 5 posters at the Bethune Round Table on International Surgery conference in Toronto.

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