THE 20TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING VANCOUVER

The CNIS had its initial General Meeting in November 1995 in the nation’s capital with Dr. Peter McLean, Ms. Joan Vanduzer and Dr. Ronald Lett as founding directors. This November 21st CNIS entered into its 20th year of operations at its AGM held in Vancouver. Next August it will no longer be a teenager but celebrate its 20th birthday. It would be difficult to mention the many people who have contributed to this accomplishment. There have been 7 board chairs, dozens of board members and hundreds of professional and lay volunteers and varying numbers of staff depending on funding.

At this 20th AGM attended by 47 members including proxy’s, a board of 11 members was constituted. Dr. Tarek Razek* of Montreal the current board chair and Dr. Jan Christlau** of Vancouver continue as they both have another year left on their term. Dr Wylam Faught** of Ottawa and Dr. Andrew Howard*** of Toronto both long term members both were re-elected for 2 years while Dr. William Pollett* (St. John’s), Dr. Heather Scott (Halifax), Dr. Hassan Shennassa** (Ottawa), Dr. Ghee Hwang* (Vernon), Dr. Sam Bugis* (Vancovuer) and Dr. Norgrove Penny*** (Victoria) were all elected to new 2 year terms. Dr. Gwen Hollaar* of Calgary was elected to the one year term reserved for the subsequent host of the Bethune Round Table, which is scheduled for June 2015 in Calgary. The current board will now include 5 general surgeons*, 4 obstetricians** and 2 orthopedic surgeons. Dr. Ronald Lett’s appointment as CEO was ratified by the membership as was the appointment of Dr. Robin Fairfull Smith as an honorary life member who served the CNIS in Tanzania for 9 years.

At the first board meeting following the AGM Dr. Wylam Faught was elected Board chair, Dr. Andrew Howard Vice-Chair, Dr. Sam Bugis, Treasurer and Dr. Tarek Razek Program Committee Chair.

CNIS FUNDING: CURRENT SUPPORT – DFATD SUBMISSIONS

The Safer Obstetrics in Rural Tanzania Project (SORT) was completed at the end of 2014. CNIS work continues with the support of the Canadian Association of General Surgeons (CAGS) in Gulu, Uganda and McGill Centre for Global Surgery at the Injury Control Center Tanzania. The activities which were under SORT continue on the shores of Lake Victoria at Mwanza and Sengerema, Tanzania, with the support of the Bondi Foundation and on the shores of the Indian Ocean at Tanga, Tanzania, with the support of the Donner Canadian Foundation. On January 15th CNIS submitted an 11 million dollar 5 year proposal called COHORT (Comprehensive Obstetrical Outcomes in Rural Tanzania) to the Department of Foreign affairs Trade and Development (DFATD) which will build on the successes and the lessons learned in the SORT project. The specifics of the proposal were reviewed at a consultation meeting between the leadership of CNIS and the Tanzania Ministry of Health in Dar Es Salaam on December 5th. The CNIS has also submitted smaller proposals to initiate skills training in Benue State, Nigeria and in the Andes of Peru. A letter encouraging you to renew your membership will be circulated in the near future. The CNIS continues to need the support of individual Canadians.
ESS AND HERNIA COURSES IN GULU, UGANDA

CNIS structured ESS and Hernia courses were taught in northern Uganda in November 2014.

Dr Barney Lawlor, ably assisted by local faculty, taught the ESS course in Gulu. The course was completed by half the 5th year medical students (31 students) at the University of Gulu. In addition, we had five exchange students from Mogadishu, Somalia take the course.

As usual the students, who were well prepared with the pre-course material, enthusiastically completed their tasks. They eagerly attended daily and had to be reminded regularly of the time as each and every one wanted to keep going beyond the allotted time to learn each skill.

The structured Hernia course took place the following week in Lacor site for Gulu University and in Lacor Hospital Operating Room. A total of nine interns took part, six from Lacor and three from Gulu. Many of these interns had already preformed hernia repairs but it was obvious that the structured course augmented and changed their surgical management of this common problem.

INJURY SURVEILLANCE IN TANZANIA

ICCT has also continued to conduct hospital based injury surveillance to determine the magnitude of trauma and associated factors in Tanzania. With the assistance of McGill University group (under Dr Tarek Razek), ICCT has deployed an iPad based registry in an attempt to implement an electronic trauma registry in Tanzania since November 1, 2013, and is proving to be very successful. Hospitals involved include Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute, Morogoro, Mtwara, Kigoma, Musoma regional hospitals and Korogwe district hospital. Doctors and Nurses working in the casualty units are trained as data collectors. The results between November 1, 2013 and October 31, 2014 include: 13,060 injury patients seen, 68.5% males, median age 28.0, with motor vehicle crashes accounting for 52%, followed by falls (22%), snake bite (6%), stablings (3%), burns (2%) and sexual assaults (1%). The vehicles involved in MVC are evenly distributed between car (41%) and motorbike (58%). 50% were admitted and 1.56% died at casualty.

Prepared by Dr. Respicious Boniface (ICCT Director).

TRAUMA TEAM TRAINING (TTT) COURSE

In an effort to improve the care of injured patients, ICCT under the support of CNIS and McGill University has continued to teach the TTT Course to medical personnel working in rural district and regional hospitals. This course is designed to teach medical personnel evaluation and management of trauma patients in the initial resuscitative stage, focusing on a team approach. In this year 2014, two courses have been conducted. The first was from January 24 to 26, 2014, among 22 participants (10 males, 12 females) at Same district hospital. And the second was from July 25 to 27, 2014, among 19 participants (8 males, 11 females) at Mombo hospital.
Sengerema Tanzania: AMO Students take SOO, CO Students take FIRST

Sengerema, Tanzania, which is located south of the Gulf of Mwanza, is the site of a District Hospital and a Clinical Officers Training Center. In November and December 2014, under the leadership of Dr. Charles Mguta and Dr. Ronald Lett and with the support of an American Obstetrician Dr. Evelyn, two Structured Operative Obstetrics (SOO) courses for Assistant Medical Officer Students were conducted. Sengerema District Hospital is used by the Assistant Medical Officers School in Mwanza for surgical and obstetrical clinical attachments. The Fundamental Intervention Referral and Safe Transfer Course targets clinical officer (CO) students. Two groups of 24 CO students completed the FIRST course in November with the participation of Dr. Ronald Lett, while in a further four courses with a total of 96, took the course under Dr. Glen Burgoyne of Penticton BC in January. Thanks to generosity of the Bondi Foundation the lifesaving work of the CNIS continues in the Great Lake Region of Tanzania.

TANGA, TANZANIA: ESS & FIRST FOR MIDWIVES

The Safer Obstetrics in Rural Tanzania project was completed in Tanga with two ESS courses for Assistant Medical Officer (AMO) students and 4 FIRST for Midwives courses. Two teaching institutions in Tanga were included in the SORT project: the assistant Medical Officers Training Center and the Nursing Training Center. Essential Surgical Skills, the prerequisite for the structured operative obstetrics course, was taught to two groups of AMO students in December. Dr. Wylam Faught, the CNIS board chair, taught one course; the second course was taught by Dr. James Campbell of Orillia Ontario. These two courses were led by Dr. Issaka, the AMOTC academic officer. Across the street at the nursing school four FIRST courses were taught by Dr. Leah Makala and her team. In Tanzania midwifery is taught as part of the nursing curriculum. The FIRST course for midwives is similar to the course for clinical officers but leaves the surgery day and emphasizes obstetrics and physical examination of the newborn. Forty AMO students took the ESS course while more than eighty nursing students took the FIRST course.

THE CANADIAN NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

1985 Broadway, Suite 105
Vancouver, BC V6J 4Y3
Phone: 604-739-4708
Email: office@cnis.ca
Patron: His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada
Chair: Dr. Wylam Faught
CEO: Dr. Ronald Lett
Accountant: Moya Wagner
Program Associate: Lorne Braun
Administrative Assistant: Elizabeth Schaefer

BETHUNE ROUND TABLE 2015

Meeting Local Needs: Socially Accountable Surgical Care

Hosted by the Centre for Global Surgery at the University of Calgary on June 5th to 7th, 2015
www.ucalgary.ca/cgs/bethune