



HALF MILLION DOLLARS IN BOOKS FOR TANZANIA!

There is always need for current surgical books in Africa. With support of the Donner Canadian Foundation, CNIS sent a container of new books to Dar es Salaam. The books were donated by the Sabre Foundation on condition that we donate them to our African partners. 400 boxes with a retail value of half a million dollars were shipped.

Dr. Boniface, director of ICC-T, hired 3 students to take inventory and then organized distribution to 10 centers, assuring that there were no duplications. Dr. Boniface reported 7719 volumes in topics of medicine, nursing, surgery, radiology, anatomy, trauma & neurosurgery, physiotherapy, dentistry, anaesthesia, ophthalmology and critical care.



Dr. Respicious Boniface and students with some of the boxes in the book-filled store in Dar es Salaam.

10 DEPARTMENTS AT 7TH ACC-ESS MEETING

The 7th African Canadian Committee for Essential Surgical Skills was held in February in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was chaired by Drs. Ronald Lett and Patrick Kyamanywa, with 10 African surgery departments represented: Addis, Gondar, Jimma & Awassa from Ethiopia, Dar es Salaam & Moshi from Tanzania, Mbarara, Gulu and for the first time, the Dept. of Obstetrics, Kampala, Uganda and Butare from Rwanda. Lorne Braun & Dr. Lett represented CNIS, giving updates on Malawi, Mali, and Mozambique who were unable to attend.

All centers prepared powerpoint presentations on the outputs and outcomes of training in 2008. ESS, SOO, Structured Hernia Repair, Fundamental Intervention and Safe Transfer & Surgical Skills for African Residents curricula were reviewed & updated. Structured skills courses in Neurosurgery for Generalists, Essential Burns Management & Circumcision were planned. On the final day, the CIDA Director from the Canadian Embassy met the participants and discussed development issues. Suggestions for major changes were delayed, as there was overall satisfaction with ACC-ESS. Dr. Kyamanywa continues as co-chair, leading a task force with Dr. Abebe (Ethiopia), Dr. Rwanyuma (Tanzania) & Dr. Ruhinda (Uganda) to review regionalization of ACC-ESS.



ACCESS Meeting back row L-R: Patrick Kyamanywa, co-chair, Amaani (KCMC), Braun (CNIS), Okello (Gulu), Gashaw (Gondor), Rwanyuma (Dar), Abebe (Addis), Front L-R: Aberra (Awassa), Ruhinda (Mbarara), Nakimuli (Kampala), Edmond Wega (CIDA), ChuChu (Jimma) Netsanet Sileshi (Addis)

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On the Left: ESS Instructors Course, Gondar

COURSES AT SKILLS LAB IN GONDAR

An ESS Instructors Course and a Hernia Repair Instructors Course were conducted in the surgical skills lab in Gondar in February. Since the lab officially opened in early 2008, ESS has been conducted by the Gondar staff, but these were the first workshops for CNIS. 22 ESS Instructors and 15 Hernia Instructors were certified. The courses were well received and professionally organized by Dr. Gashaw, the ESS Director, Dr. Amezene Tadesse, ESS Co-Director and Dr. Mensur, the ESS Patron in Gondar.



Dr. Jackie at ESS Instructor's Course, Kampala

ESS BACK IN KAMPALA

After an interruption of several years, ESS training has returned to Kampala. The January workshop was conducted by Dr. R. Lett and facilitated by Dr. S. Kaggwa, Head of the Department of Surgery. Dr. T. Kumuli, the ESS Director assisted with the logistics. The course was attended by Dr. Byamugisha, Head of Obstetrics and Dr. Tindimwebwa, Head of Anesthesia. There was active participation from all 3 departments with 22 ESS Instructors certified. CNIS welcomes Kampala back and looks forward to training many final-year students at Makerere University.



Headmasters Mr. Zeneeba and Mr. Abraha (right) with teachers from Axum Primary School

CHANGES AT ICC-U

There have been important changes at ICC-U in Kampala. Ms. Mable Nakitto, former Community Program Director, was promoted to ICC-U Director. Acting Administrator, Mr. Jerome Nsajju, was promoted to IPIFA Program Coordinator and Ms. Iryne Marunga has been reassigned from IPIFA to become the Safe Kids Uganda Program Coordinator. Brenda Sekabembe works as a Research Associate, doing a study on the economic cost of injury. Ms. Sekabembe is supported by WHO, Ms. Nakitto 50% and Ms. Marunga 100% by Safe Kids World Wide and Mr. Nsajju 100% and Ms. Nakitto 50% by CNIS. ICC-U is markedly starting to diversify its funding. CNIS has signed a one-year agreement with ICC-U and will extend its current agreement with IPIFA to the end of 2009.

PEACEBUILDING IN AXUM, ETHIOPIA

The CNIS Peacebuilding Program is underway at two primary schools in Axum, Ethiopia. Over 500 Grade 5 students have completed the first 5 units of the course. (Peace, Conflict, Conscience, Empathy, and Anger/Anger Management) The last 6 units (Self-Control, Fairness, Kindness, Problem-Solving and Reconciliation) will begin in the second school term. This program is directed locally by the school head masters, Ato Zenaabe of Axum Primary School & Ato Abraha of the Abraha we Atsbeha Primary School. The Axum Peacebuilding Project was monitored in February. Of the 10 teachers at each school, 4 are male and 6 are female, and of the 500 students, 50% are girls. The program is very popular with the students.



On the Left:
Dr. Vincent Echavé,
M.D., MS FACS,
FRCS

On the Right:
Dr. François Couturier,
MD, MSc, DTM&H

À gauche:
Le Dr. Vincent Echavé,
M.D., MS FACS, FRCS
À droite:
Le Dr. François Couturier,
MD, MSc, DTM&H

2008 CO-VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Every year CNIS gives an award to one of our dedicated and skilled volunteers. This year, the award goes to TWO volunteers who both have made a remarkable contribution to our organization: The Volunteer of the Year Award for 2008 goes jointly to:

Dr. Vincent Echavé and Dr. François Couturier from Université de Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Dr. Echavé is professor of surgery and director of general surgery and the surgical training program at the Université de Sherbrooke. The Cuban native has traveled to do humanitarian work overseas, as a surgeon with the MSF and for the last two years, with CNIS. In August 2008, Dr. Echavé received the Canadian Medical Associations Highest Honor, the F.N.G. Star Award. CNIS is honored to have such a great surgeon teaching CNIS courses in Mali.

Dr. Couturier is a professor of family medicine at Hôpital Charles-LeMoyné of Université de Sherbrooke. He provided the initial link between CNIS and Sherbrooke, and CNIS and Bamako, and has been instrumental in starting the Sherbrooke primary medicine collaboration with the national university in Bamako. He has been involved with teaching the Obstetrical Unit of the ESS Course in Bamako, both in 2007 and 2008. Dr. Couturier's help has allowed CNIS to expand into Francophone Africa in collaboration with Université de Sherbrooke.

Congratulations and a big thank you to you both!

2008 VOLONTAIRES DE L'ANNÉE

Chaque année le RCCI décerne un prix à l'un de nos volontaires émérites et dévoués. Cette année, le prix revient à un DUO qui a remarquablement contribué aux efforts de notre organisation. Leur expertise en chirurgie et en obstétrique, ainsi que leurs connaissances de la langue française et de la géographie du Continent Africain ont permis au RCCI de s'étendre en Afrique francophone.

Le prix collectif de Volontaires de l'Année 2008 revient à: Dr. Vincent Echavé et Dr. François Couturier de l'Université de Sherbrooke, Québec.

Dr. Echavé est professeur, directeur du département de chirurgie général et du programme d'enseignement de chirurgie à l'Université de Sherbrooke. Originaire de Cuba, il a longtemps effectué de l'aide humanitaire pour MSF avant de se porter volontaire pour le RCCI. Dr. Echavé a suivi en mai 2007 le cours d'instructeur des Habilités Chirurgicales de Base(HCB) et joua un rôle primordial dans l'introduction des HCB au Mali en décembre de la même année. En 2008, le Dr. Echavé reçut la plus haute distinction de l'Association Médicale Canadienne: le FNG Star Award.

Dr. François Couturier est professeur de médecine familiale à l'Hôpital Charles-LeMoyné de l'Université de Sherbrooke. Il procura le lien initial entre le RCCI, Sherbrooke et Bamako, et fut indispensable dans l'établissement de la collaboration entre la Faculté de Médecine de l'Université de Sherbrooke et celle de l'Université Nationale de Bamako. Il fut également engagé dans l'enseignement de l'Unité Obstétrique du Cours HCB à Bamako, en 2007, puis en 2008.

Nos sincères félicitations et un très grand merci a vous deux !

SALAMA SAFARI PILOT TAKE OFF

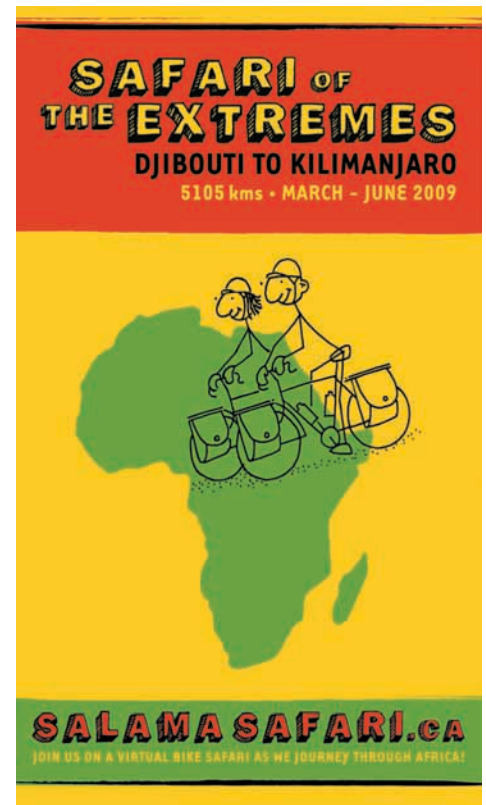
The Salama Safari, a CNIS course for primary school students takes off on March 25th. 120 grade 6 & 7 students from Lord Tennyson Elementary in Vancouver will travel 5105 kilometers through 8 African countries.

With the help of CNIS volunteers, a bilingual 12-chapter student manual will allow all Canadian children to eventually partake. Thanks to a volunteer illustrator and international photographers who have offered their work, the manuals will be full of interesting images.

While the students take off on their virtual journey, Dr. Ronald Lett, and other CNIS surgeons will ride for real on Canadian or African soil.

CNIS is inviting local sponsors to support the program and help us make local children fit, worldly young philanthropists. For info, please contact karethe@cnis.ca.

Follow the exciting journey on our Salama Safari site: www.salamasafari.ca



Salama Safari Poster by Yasmin Dar.
Salama illustrations by Jim Easton.

JOIN US FOR 'A NIGHT ON THE SAVANNAH'

Picture yourself under a vast sky of the African night, dressed for a classic 1930's safari, sipping a 'Serengeti Sunset' martini while listening to the distant roar of wildlife and tribal drums, savoring an astonishing array of Savannah foods, indulging in exotic desserts and a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony, succumbing to the 'whisper of the Savannah' silent auction and partying into the African night.

WHEN: Thursday, May 14th • 7pm - Midnight

WHERE: Performance Works, Granville Island, Vancouver

TICKETS: \$75 includes a 3-course dinner and a \$40 tax receipt.

This exclusive 'safari' has limited seating, so book your tickets or company table early.

Please call 604-739-4708 or email office@cnis.ca



HELP CNIS STAY GREEN & PROTECT OUR FORESTS

Last year, CNIS removed 85 metric tonnes of carbon emissions from the atmosphere and planted 20 healthy trees. Carbon neutral restoration strategies include re-introducing native species, removing invasive species & creating biodiversity. The cost to CNIS is \$100 per tree. Join our green mission & adopt a CNIS tree. For more information, please go to: http://www.cnis.ca/whatwedo_environment.php

ON THE CUTTING EDGE

- **CNIS Courses prepared** - The Head and C-spine Injury and Essential Burn Management has been completed by CNIS Surgical Associate, Dr. Robert Taylor.
- **TTT, SOO & Hernia Repair** - Montreal, May 27- 29. To register: office@cnis.ca.
- **Surviving and Succeeding** - SSS Course, Hamilton, ON, May 25th. For registration, please call 905-522-1155 ext 35144 or email info@cmas.ca
- **Thanks to Proper Design and Camel Productions** - CNIS has updated window decals, shelving in the Vancouver office and logos for the labs in Africa.
- **2008 Royal College of Physicians And Surgeons of Canada Award Recipient:** Mentor of the Year: Dr. Geoffrey Blair, Head of Surgery, Vancouver Children's Hospital and long time supporter of CNIS
- **First Post-Graduate Course on International Surgery** – Congratulations to the Branch of International Surgery directed by Dr. Robert Taylor for obtaining senate approval for the graduate level course 'Surgical Care in International Health'. This is the first such course anywhere.
- **Scientific Presentations** - Drs. Abbebe, Abbera, Kyamanywa, Gashaw, Lett and Ruhinda, all from ACC-ESS, presented scientific papers at the annual meeting of the Surgical Society of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa, January 15-16.
- **Lab Updates** - The Jimma lab, which is under construction, will be the third surgical lab in Ethiopia. The Addis lab is being updated with new equipment and is becoming a regional centre.

CANADIAN NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL SURGERY

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JOIN THE CNIS OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

INDIVIDUALS: \$50 (Regular) | \$25 (Student)
ORGANIZATIONAL: \$500

CNIS IS A REGISTERED CHARITY.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT.

Patron: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mich elle Jean, Governor General of Canada

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President: Dr. Ronald R. Lett

Vice-President: Phil Hassen

Manager: Elizabeth Schaefer

Accountant: Doreen Grossman

Program Associate: Lorne Braun

Surgical Associate: Dr. Robert Taylor

Web Project Manager: Raven Morris

Public Engagement Coordinator: Karethe Linaae

Office Assistant: Grace Green

13% OF AFRICANS DIE AN INJURY RELATED DEATH

1 IN 13 AFRICAN WOMEN DIE A MATERNAL DEATH

HELP CNIS END UNLUCKY

