



Course Offerings Expanding

Since launching its first online graduate course, *Surgical Care in International Health* or SURG 510 two years ago, demand for the Branch's academic program has continued to grow. The course has graduated 60 students from across North America, Pakistan, Kuwait and Singapore. Graduates are now asking "when are the next courses?" The Branch is responding to this demand.

Starting in January 2012 BIS will offer two new courses: *Global Disabilities and Surgical Care* and *Humanitarian Disasters in Surgical Care*. Like SURG 510 the online format gives students the ability to discuss the subject matter with other students at any time of day from any part of the world.

Lead author for the *Global Disabilities* course, Norgrove Penny is excited by the fact that the course "embarks on new territory not covered elsewhere--the relationship of surgery to preventing and treating disabling impairments in the developing world". With the release of international initiatives such as the 2011 World Report on Disability, it is important for surgeons to understand their role in the disability agenda. How specific disciplines impact sensory and motor impairments, how the drastic shortage of skilled health providers impacts elective surgery and the importance of early intervention in preventing childhood disability are a few of the topics that will be covered.

Ross Brown, a trauma surgeon with considerable field experience in Afghanistan is working closely with a team of NGOs and other surgical experts with the goal of developing the *Humanitarian Disasters in Surgical Care* course. Students will learn about the anatomy of a humanitarian disaster, strategies to move from relief to recovery, and case models of surgical care responses to name a few.

Both courses are benefiting from the literature reviews provided by Lisa Knowlton (general surgery resident) and Sher-Ping Leung, general surgeon.

"These courses are the cornerstone to our postgraduate program and will position UBC's Branch as the world-leader in training surgeons to conduct clinical research and surgical care in international locations", said Instructor and Associate Director, Brian Westerberg, an ENT surgeon based at St Paul's Hospital, Vancouver. The target date for the masters degree program is September 2012.

A photograph showing a surgical team in an operating room. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text "ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH" is superimposed on the image in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**ADVANCING
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Awards-Activities-Achievements

The Branch's Director **Robert H. Taylor** has been appointed to the Order of Canada along with Branch member **Angela Enright**. Both now join the "Order of Canada health fraternity" which includes **Norgrove Penny**.

The Order of Canada is the country's highest recognition of excellence, achievement and citizenship.

SURG 510 alumni and BIS Research Awardees **Gareth Eeson** ('11) and **Monica Langer** ('10) recently returned from Uganda where they participated in a surgical capacity initiative involving Branch Associate Directors **Geoff Blair** and **Eleanor Reimer**.

Anise Barton ('09) and husband **Tom Wallace** ('09) recently returned from doing surgical field work with a Guatemalan-based NGO. **Jonathan Pollock** ('11) Assistant Professor, Surgery and Director, Emory Global Surgery Program in Atlanta heads to Ethiopia where he is advancing Emory's mission of building patient centered surgical capacity through surgical education, research and academic partnerships.

Dan Jenkins ('10) is completing a Master degree in Global Health at Curtin University, Australia. Founder of the Alliance for Surgery and Anesthesia Presence (ASAP), **Kelly McQueen** ('09) is busy organizing the 4th Annual Meeting to be held at the University of California, San Diego in November.

Vanessa Fawcett used her 2009 BIS research award to work with **Morad Hameed**, Assistant Professor, Surgery UBC to pilot an injury surveillance program known as the Cape Town Trauma Registry. This initial interest has now expanded to compiling a global inventory of trauma systems, a project she presented at the May UBC Residents' Research Day.

Branch member Professor Emeritus, **Henry Litherland** has developed BIS's database and is now turning his hand to helping us engage with our ever-growing international surgery alumni.



Coming Up:

- June 7- Vancouver Robert H. Taylor Director, BIS, addresses the OPSEI- Annual Lectureship-"What a Difference a Decade Can Make: International Surgery's Evolving Mandate"
- June 8- Vancouver Rounds on International Surgery-VGH Global Disability & Surgical Care Host: Kevin Bush, Associate Director, BIS Presenters Nancy Van Laeken, Chair, Dept. of Surgery St Paul's & Norgrove Penny, Special Advisor, Physical Impairment, CBM International
- November 9-11, Annual Meeting-ASAP, San Diego www.asaptoday.org.

Have an upcoming event? Do let us know!

Future Roadmap: Uganda-North America Surgical Collaboration

In April the Branch in collaboration with OPSEI and GPAS hosted the Second Annual Conference on Surgery and Anesthesia in Uganda. With over a dozen North American universities engaged in various surgical initiatives in Uganda it has become critical to improve coordination and collaboration between the various partners.

Eighty five participants including ten from Uganda attended. The goal of the meeting (with participants from predominately academic surgery and anesthesia groups) is to promote greater collaboration among those active in Uganda and to create a forum to explore and harmonize strategies for improving capacity to provide surgical services in resource-poor settings.

Four topics were the focus of the conference: training & research; the economics of developing a strong health system; scalability and enduring partnerships.

A "roadmap" that outlines 8 priority objectives is now drafted and includes:

1. Create a local Ugandan coordinator position
2. Support 8 Medical Scholars
3. Assist in Curriculum development
4. Establish an infrastructure priority list

The webcast of the proceedings and the Roadmap are available on the Branch website. The date for next year's conference will be announced shortly.

G. Blair, M. Langer -Uganda April
(photo credit G. Eeson)



Canadian Network for International Surgery

Branch-CNIS Sign Agreement

The ink has just dried on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) between CNIS and the Branch. This new Agreement which covers the period 2011-13 builds on the excellent results achieved under an earlier phase. The MOU provides \$60,000 to support the development and implementation of post-graduate courses in international surgery as well as research awards for UBC surgery-related residents.

The announcement of the research awards was welcome news for surgery-related residents. BIS will be presenting up to 4 research grants of \$2500 each at the end of June.

Drawing on the expertise of the Branch's surgical community, BIS will lead the focus of research within CNIS's program component of injury, surgical and obstetrical information. By so doing the Branch is poised to make a significant contribution to the broader CNIS program goal of reducing death and disability from surgical and obstetrical disorders in selected African countries.

Funding for CNIS's program is provided by the Canadian International Development Agency.

"I THINK EVERY MEDICAL STUDENT AND SURGEON/TRAINEE SHOULD VIEW THIS VIDEO"

Felix Durity, Professor Emeritus, responding to the Branch's new video

GLOBAL SURGERY OFFICES in Canada

They go by a variety of names—desk, office, branch, centre but all are responding to the unaddressed issue of today's public health agenda—international surgery. Together they are expanding both the interest and awareness of the vital importance of tackling the global disparities in surgical care.

There are now six such offices. They are at the University of Toronto, McGill, Dalhousie, Calgary, McMaster and, of course, BIS at UBC. While their strategic visions differ each of these offices is making important contributions in various aspects of international surgery. To date the Branch is the only office offering a post-graduate program in international surgery.

Recently, the Branch developed a one page summary of these global surgery offices and their activities. Who is doing what key function where remains a work in progress so if we have missed your office and any of your current activities do let us know.

The Branch for International Surgery was established in 2006.

Mission:

- To advance surgical care in international health through education, research, collaboration & engagement;
- To promote the establishment of "international surgery" as a valid discipline of study and practice within a medical/surgical career.

Member Departments:

- Orthopaedics
- Anaesthesia
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Surgery

INFORM is the newsletter of the Branch for International Surgery, providing news and information for and about BIS members, alumni and friends.

Online: www.internationalsurgery.ubc.ca

