

Our colleagues from the Department of Anesthesia, Dr. Andrew Jarvie and Dr. Heather Sirounis, were outstanding on the trip to Haiti. In addition, the Emergency nurses, PACU nurses, OR nurses and Emergency Room physicians worked extremely hard and we are forever grateful to them for their efforts.

Report from the Field: Rwanda

Jon Bailey

Simulation and skills training has been identified as a need for residency training programs at the National University of Rwanda (NUR). This is due to the large number learners with very few staff facing overwhelming clinical demands. Members of the Dalhousie's Department of Anesthesia Global Health Office have been working with the NUR Departments of Surgery and Anesthesia to develop a simulation and skills centre. Recently that team, led by Dr Patty Livingston, received a Grand Challenges Canada grant to fund the setup costs for the centre. With dedicated space supplied by NUR at the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali (UTHK) the Faculty of Medicine Simulation and Skills Centre (FOMSSC) became a reality.

In February of 2013 an interdisciplinary group representing Dalhousie Departments of Surgery, Anesthesia and Critical Care travelled to Rwanda with the goal of bolstering simulation and surgical skills training at NUR. The purpose of the visit was two-fold: 1. to strengthen the educational partnership between Dalhousie and NUR by involving Dalhousie's Department of Surgery; 2. to begin the physical setup of the FOMSSC by organizing equipment and training instructors. Two members of the newly formed Dalhousie Global Surgery Office (GSO), Jon Bailey (PGY3 General Surgery) and Michelle Murray (Skills Centre Coordinator), joined this development process in the months preceding their trip to Kigali. Ms Murray was able to gather much needed equipment based on needs identified by the Head of Surgery at UTHK, Dr Georges Ntakiyiruta. Throughout the trip, she used her years of simulation experience to advise Dr Georges and the Dean of Medicine, Dr Patrick Kyamanywa, on renovations that would be required for the FOMSSC. During our visit, the team designed and delivered a two-day instructors' course on simulation education. This course was met with great enthusiasm from participants, which included division heads from surgery, anesthesia and critical care. Simultaneously, Ms Murray was able to begin mentoring Angelique Mugirente, the FOMSSC program coordinator.

The grand opening of the FOMSSC took place in July to much fanfare. Three national Rwandan news agencies televised coverage of the event. The FOMSSC received international recognition being visited by former US president Bill Clinton. The most encouraging result following the opening has been the uptake of simulation education in Kigali, demonstrating the enthusiasm of Rwanda instructors and trainees. From Feb-Sept, 26 courses were conducted at the FOMSSC involving 476 trainees. This included an Essential Surgical Skills course that was lead in part by Dr Keith Pawluck (General Surgery) and Jill Hudson (Urology), two former Dalhousie surgical residents.

In July, Ms Murray returned to continue mentoring her counterpart and to further develop the Simulation and Skills Centre. In conjunction with the UTHK Departments of Surgery and Anesthesia, the members of the Global Surgery Office and the Department of Anesthesia Global Health Office are continuing to seek new ways to strengthen medical education through simulation in Kigali. Dr Marius Hoogerboord (GSO Director) is collaborating with Dr Allan Okrainec (Director of the Temerty/Chang Tele-simulation Center at Toronto Western Hospital) to begin teaching the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) via tele-simulation. In January 2014, Dr David Amirault (Orthopedic Surgery) and Dr Brock Vair (Medical Director of Simulation) will be travelling to Rwanda to co-lead a Basic Surgical Skills course, among other mentorship and teaching. Ms Murray will be returning at the same time to continue her mentorship role. Dr Gavin Tansley (PGY2 General Surgery) is designing a study to assess retention of surgical skills following delivery of a simulation-based skills session. He will join the Dalhousie group to conduct this study along with Rwandan FOMSSC staff and residents. Our hope is that this study will guide us in refining a simulation and skills template jointly designed by the GSO and Department of Anesthesia Global Health Office.

This partnership is rapidly growing strong roots. We look forward to an ongoing relationship where mutual learning contributes to better surgical education, both here and in Rwanda.

Continuing Professional Development

Bethune Roundtable

June 5-8, 2014

McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada

<http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/isd/brt2014.html>

First Abstract Deadline for those applying for BRT Scholarships: **Dec 15, 2013**

Final Abstract deadline: **Jan 17, 2014**

Certificate in Global Health

January 7 –April 1, 2014 (Tuesdays, 530-730PM)

Dalhousie Global Health Office

www.gho.medicine.dal.ca



National University of Rwanda Simulation and Skills Centre

(L) Jon Bailey leading skill demonstration; (R) Michelle Murray with local Skills Centre Coordinator, Angelique Mugirente

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GSO:

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