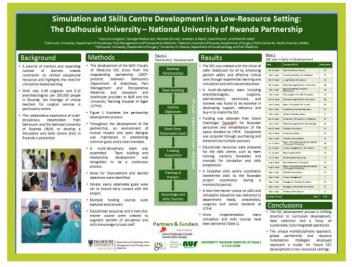


# Year in Review



Collaborative Research presented at Bethune Roundtable (Jon Bailey) and the Royal College Simulation Summit (Michelle Murray)



Members of the Halifax group of Broken Earth Haiti volunteers: back row: (L-R) - Dr. Andrew Jarvie (Anesthesia), Kim Sampson (OR Nurse), Denise McMahon (OR Nurse), Dr. Keith Neufeld (Ortho Resident), Dr. David McCarthy (Ortho Fellow), Dr. David Amirault (Ortho); front row (L-R) - Dr. Chad Coles (Ortho), Dr. Martin LeBlanc (Plastics), Heather Sirounis (Anesthesia)

## Talk to Us!

Are your engaged in global health work? Would you like to be?

In order to support current and future engagement in global health in the department, we need to hear from you.

Please take 10 minutes to complete this survey: <u>http://goo.gl/94UaF0</u>

All respondents will be entered into a draw for a bottle of wine.

In recent years, a growing interest in the field of global health has led to increasing numbers of academic departments establishing programming and support for global health engagement. The Department of Surgery has recently established a Global Surgery Office to support its goal of high quality educational, research and outreach pursuits in this area. The key priorities of the current Global Surgery Office are:

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- Education. To stimulate discussion and awareness among department members and the local community about surgical issues in global health
- <u>Research</u>. To contribute to the international body of research on global surgery while developing greater interest within the department and university
- <u>Outreach</u>. To develop collaborative projects in low resource settings that contribute to enriched patient care in our department and for our partners

Since its establishment in 2013, the Global Surgery Office has had a number of successes, some of which are highlighted in this inaugural newsletter. These include exciting collaborative efforts in the establishment of a Simulation and Skills Centre in Rwanda, participation in the Essential Surgical Skills trainers' course, research presentations the Bethune Roundtable, Royal College Simulation Summit, and Dalhousie Global Health Day, as well as the development of a strategic plan and advisory committee in the formal establishment of the Department's Global Surgery Office. We are also thrilled to highlight the work of a number of Surgery staff and residents who participated in service missions to Haiti through the Broken Earth initiative.

In 2014, the GSO is looking forward to exploring opportunities for long-term partnership with colleagues at the University of Dodoma in Tanzania. Members of the team will also be involved in a collaborative project with the University of Toronto in Tele-simulation Education, research on surgical simulation for residents in lower income countries, and delivering Essential Surgical Skills training.

## **Report from the Field: Haiti**

David Amirault

An 18 member group of physicians and nurses from Halifax were involved in a mission to Haiti under the auspices of the Broken Earth Project.

The surgical staff included Dr. Chad Coles, Dr. David Amirault, and Dr. Marty LeBlanc. They were accompanied by Dr. Coles' orthopaedic fellow, Dr. David McCartney and one of the orthopaedic residents, Dr. Keith Neufeld.

During that time, the entire group fitted into the hospital environment working alongside their Haitian colleagues. The surgery consisted of a combination of traumatic and elective orthopaedic and plastic surgery cases. The experience was extremely rewarding and was a terrific team building exercise.

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. 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. 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 colead 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 develop the Simulation and Skills Centre. In conjunction with the UTHK 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 <u>http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/surgery/isd/brt2014.html</u> First Abstract Deadline for those applying for BRT Scholarships: <u>Dec 15, 2013</u> Final Abstract deadline: <u>Jan 17, 2014</u>

#### 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

# **Global Surgery Office Team**



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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GSO: HTTP://GLOBALSURGERYOFFICE.MEDICINE.DAL.CA