



Branch for International  
**Surgical Care**

## BRANCH NEWS

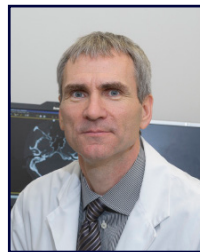
July 2017

*"It is an exciting time to be in the field of global surgery. Finally, the world seems to have woken up to the problem and is working to improve disparities in global access to surgical care. The Master of Global Surgical Care will be a welcome resource for practitioners in the field."*

- Dr. Brian Westerberg, Director

### Director of the Branch

**Dr. Brian Westerberg was named Director of the Branch for International Surgical Care in April 2016** following the retirement of Founding Director Dr. Robert Taylor. Dr. Westerberg is a UBC Clinical Professor, a practicing Otolaryngology-Head and Neck surgeon at St. Paul's Hospital, and has been involved in provision of care and training of health care providers in Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Ethiopia over the past 15 years. In Uganda, supported by Rotary International, he has led the Hearing Health Care projects which have studied hearing loss and provided temporal bone courses and clinical officers lecture series focusing on issues of capacity building, sustainability, and the role of medical missions. We are excited to see and look forward to being a part of Branch growth under his leadership and direction.



### Master of Global Surgical Care

With five billion currently lacking access, investment in safe, affordable surgical and anesthesia care contributes significantly to reduction of death and disability. Only 6% of surgical procedures occur in over a third of the world's poorest population, where another 143 million procedures are needed.<sup>1</sup> Our graduate programs equip students with the knowledge and skills to build sustainable surgical care capacity in low-resource settings, reducing the global burden of this unmet, pressing need.

We are pleased to announce that the Master of Global Surgical Care (MGSC) is officially in the UBC Academic Calendar and submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education for an anticipated first intake in January 2018.<sup>2</sup>

The online two-year, 30-credit program<sup>2</sup> offers a blended model of practicum-based and online learning methods to facilitate participation of candidates from across Canada and around the world. The MGSC can ladder from the Graduate Certificate (GCGSC). Students can choose to complete the program's optional Canadian Low Resource Settings Stream with an intense focus on the unique issues affecting surgical care in rural and remote low-resource settings in Canada.

<sup>2</sup> Pending final approval by the Ministry of Advanced Education.

<sup>1</sup> Meara JG, Leather AIM, Hagander L et al. Global surgery 2030: evidence and solutions for achieving health, welfare, and economic development. *Lancet* 2013; 386: 569–624.

<sup>2</sup> For more course information, visit the UBC Academic Calendar [course descriptions](#).

### Mexico City Bilateral Exchange



CCCEGHSC team in Mexico City. Center: Adriana Contreras, Executive Director and Dr. Guillermo Vallejo, Chief of Surgery at the Mexican Red Cross Hospital Polanco with UBC Trauma Surgeon Dr. Emilie Joos.

**The Branch is excited to be kicking off the Canadian Collaborative Center of Excellence for Global Humanitarian Surgical Care (CCCEGHSC)** in partnership with Mexican Red Cross. As part of the CCCEGHSC, we are collaborating with these groups to launch the first bilateral exchange in Mexico City and to develop courses supporting emergency service capacity. With project leaders Dr. Ross Brown and Dr. Emilie Joos, Branch teams have conducted environmental scans, trauma needs assessments, and consultations leading to the initial bilateral exchange in Mexico City.

### Our Research Awardees



**Kimberly Luu**  
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery  
Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Uganda

In response to the traditionally unstructured graduated exposure and guided practice for surgical skill acquisition, otolaryngology PGY-5 resident Dr. Kimberly Luu is introducing the Ear Trainer to Ugandan Otolaryngology residents and medical students. Providing effective surgical training in microscopic ear surgery is particularly difficult, requiring a unique set of dexterous skills. Dr. Luu will be testing the validity of a lo-fidelity simulator for ear surgery to determine if the current model can serve as a suitable simulation model in a low-resource setting.



**David Stockton**  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Uganda Sustainable Trauma Orthopaedic Program (USTOP), Uganda

Orthopaedic surgery PGY-3 resident Dr. David Stockton is comparing the outcomes of external fixation to unreamed intramedullary nailing in Uganda. Open tibia fractures there commonly result from road traffic accidents, and external fixation is currently the standard of care. He will investigate if intramedullary nailing results in improved functional outcomes for adult patients with Gustilo Type II and IIIA open tibial shaft fractures in Uganda and if this also improves rates of infection, malunion, non-union, healing, and reoperation compared to external fixation.

The Branch is currently accepting Research Award applications. Details and application form are available [online](#).

### Ethiopia Trauma Care Training

**Our team, led by Dr. Richard Simons, recently returned from Gondar University Hospital in Ethiopia.** Dr. Simons delivered the fourth offering of the primary trauma care (PTC) training course with general surgery resident Dr. Kristin DeGirolamo. For the first time, the course reached surgical officers and general practitioners from primary and district hospitals, opening the doors of sustainability in expanding the PTC program out into rural sites using local faculty.

The team also delivered a nursing trauma course – a case-based program recently piloted in BC and taught by Monique McLaughlin to meet the needs of the Ethiopian nurses – and training to local registry archivists, led by incoming PGY-1 general surgery resident Dr. Annie Lalande. To supplement delivered training, team members also provided ad hoc lecture and round-based teaching. We would like to thank gracious hosts Dr. Mensur and Dr. Miklol.

