



Newsletter

Fall 2019

Dr. Brian Cameron, Director (cameronb@mcmaster.ca)
<<https://surgery.mcmaster.ca/education/international-surgery-desk/>>

2019 ISD Resident Scholarship Award Winners



Congratulations to Dr. **Michelle Kameda** (PGY4 Neurosurgery; pictured at left), and Dr. **Nirojini Sivachandran** (PGY5 Ophthalmology; pictured at right), recipients of 2019 International Surgery Desk Resident Scholarship awards.



Funded by the International Surgery Desk, the ISD Resident Scholarship is awarded annually to a McMaster surgical resident or fellow to assist in funding an international surgery clinical or research elective in a low resource region. This year the ISD was pleased to present awards to two very deserving candidates!

Dr. Kameda plans to travel to CURE Children's Hospital in Mbale, Uganda to complete a one-month clinical elective in pediatric neurosurgery under the supervision of Dr. Benjamin Warf, Senior Medical Director/CURE Neuro and Professor, Harvard Medical School/Boston Children's Hospital.

Dr. Kameda is interested in conducting a qualitative sociocultural study to assist in identifying sociocultural barriers that may be at play in the diagnosis and continued follow-up of pediatric brain tumour survivors in low resource settings. A recent study in Pakistan ([Predictors of treatment abandonment for patients with pediatric cancer at Indus Children Cancer Hospital, Karachi,](#)

[Pakistan](#)) revealed that even when medical management was provided free of cost to patients, usage of medical resources and adherence to medical follow-up regimens remained low, suggesting that cultural and societal factors might be playing a more central role, and that this may help to explain epidemiological differences observed in Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the world.

Dr. Sivachandran recently returned from a surgical elective at the Aravind Eye Hospital in Pondicherry, India. Under the supervision of Dr. **Enitan Sogbesan** (Associate Professor and Director, Ophthalmology Residency Training Program, McMaster), Dr. Sivachandran had an opportunity to learn more about manual small incision cataract surgery (MSIC), the procedure of choice in low resource regions. Her report can be found on page 4.

Remember to register for the 2nd Annual MacGIOBAS Global Surgery Seminar on Saturday, October 26, 2019! See page 2 for event details.



Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming Events

October 17-19, 2019
CSIH Canadian Conference on Global Health, Ottawa, ON
<http://www.csih.org/en/events/canadian-conference-global-health>



October 26, 2019 (10 am-2 pm)
2nd Annual MacGIOBAS Seminar
McMaster University (see page 2)

April 4-5, 2020
17th Annual Unite for Sight Global Health & Innovation Conference
New Haven, CT
<https://www.uniteforsight.org/conference/>



April 18-20, 2020
11th Annual Conference of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), Washington, DC
<https://cugh2020.org/>



May 27, 2020 (7 am)
4th Annual MacGIOBAS Joint Rounds, McMaster University

May 28-31, 2020
Bethune Round Table 2020
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg

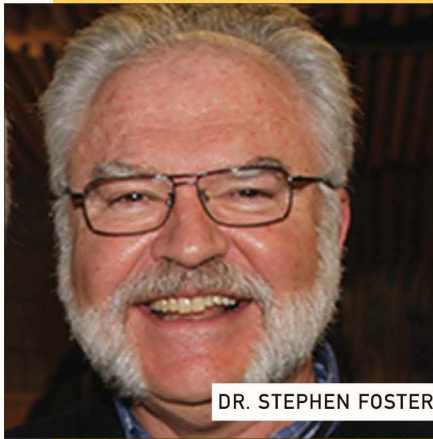


Second Annual

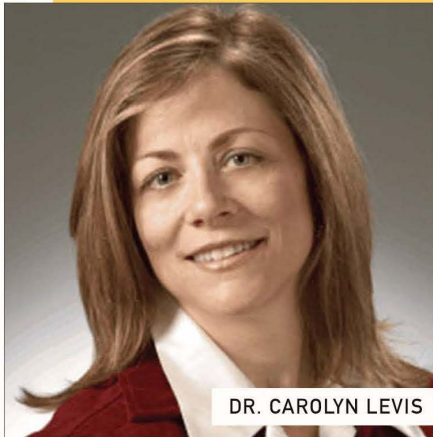
MacGLOBAS Seminar



SPEAKERS



DR. STEPHEN FOSTER



DR. CAROLYN LEVIS



DR. AMY MONTOUR

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe resources and best practices to develop reciprocal relationships with international partners and support medical trainees undertaking international electives.
- Discuss challenges and opportunities for faculty engaged in global surgical activities in an academic environment.
- Identify ethical dilemmas, issues of resource limitations and cultural sensitivity in order to engage in sustainable global surgery activities.

AGENDA

10:00 – 10:45 Keynote: Dr. Stephen Foster “Teaching and Mentoring in low-resource settings” with 15-minute Questions & Answers

10:45 – 11:30 Interactive Discussion Panel “Promoting reciprocal collaboration in postgraduate training.” Dr. Mark Osmond (chair), Dr. Carlos Martin, Dr. Caitlin VanDeCappelle, Dr. Stephen Foster

11:30 – 11:45 Networking Break

11:45-12:15 Afternoon Presentation: Dr. Amy Montour “Culturally sensitive care in indigenous populations” with 15-minute Interactive Q&A

12:15 – 12:45 Lunch Served

12:45 – 13:15 Cultural and ethical challenges on surgical missions, examples from Guatemala and Ukraine. Dr. Carolyn Levis with 15-minute Interactive Q&A

13:15 – 13:45 Interactive Discussion Panel “Sustainable Global Surgical Practice: managing resource limitations, cultural and ethical challenges.” Dr. Carolyn Levis (chair) and Dr. Amy Montour

13:45 – 14:00 Closing Remarks

COST & ACCREDITATION

\$125 Faculty & Clinicians | **\$25** Medical Trainees

This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity approved by McMaster CHSE for up to three hours.

OCTOBER 26, 2019 | 10AM-2PM
CAMPBELL AUDITORIUM | ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

REGISTER HERE: MACGLOBAS.MCMASTER.CA

MacGObAS Rounds & Reception

At this year's MacGObAS Joint Department Chair's Rounds on May 29, 2019 Dr. Eve Nakarembe, consultant obstetrician-gynecologist and global health advocate from Uganda (centre in the photo), spoke on "Harnessing Limited Resources with Big Impact" to a live audience of over 60 at McMaster University Medical Centre with a further 30 joining via teleconference.

The recipient of several awards, including Uganda's National Hero's Medal, the Golden Jubilee Medal, and the Rising Star Award from Grand Challenges Canada, Dr. Nakabembe is director of the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative of [Save the Mothers](#) East Africa. Her work is focused specifically on multidisciplinary approaches to reducing global maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality, subjects in which she is widely published.

During her presentation, Dr. Nakabembe addressed health inequities in Uganda, harnessing low-resource innovations, and challenged participants to reflect on how local health inequities can be addressed with these low-resource innovations.

Working with hospitals to improve standards of care for mothers and newborns, Nakabembe has called for social and business reforms to provide women with better access to medical care and transportation. One solution has involved using toll free hotlines and mobile phone technology to link mothers in rural areas with trained health care workers.

Dr. Nakabembe also discussed the manner in which the "soft skills" such as teamwork, effective communication and empathy that her training as a SJIOP fellow at McMaster provided have benefited her and her patients more than the individual medical skills she learned. She also reflected on the various clinical settings in which she has worked across the globe, as well as the impact of "invisible systems" that have a major impact on functioning and clinical care, although they often go unnoticed.

MacGObAS Leadership

Executive Committee: (next meeting - November 5, 2019)
Department of Anesthesia - Drs. Alez Dauphin, Joel Hamstra, Anne Wong
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology - Drs. Jean Chamberlain, Laurie Elit, Mark Osmond
Department of Surgery - Drs. Margherita Cadeddu, Brian Cameron, Carolyn Levis

Advisory Board:
Drs. Andrea Baumann (Assoc. VP Global Health), James Paul (Chair, Anesthesia), Nicholas Leyland (Chair of Obstetrics/Gynecology), Susan Reid (Chair, Surgery), Mark Crowther (Chair, Medicine & IOP President), Patty Solomon (Professor & Past Vice-Dean Rehab)



Photo: Ruth Adair, May 31, 2019 (Global Health Office, McMaster)

On May 30, MacGObAS and the SJIOP also hosted a dinner and reception at McMaster's University Club where Dr. Nakabembe spoke on the significant impact McMaster trained clinicians are making in the way health care is delivered in Uganda, and how they are contributing to system-wide initiatives to improve safety and quality of care. Attendees also heard from Dr. **Peter Kagoma**, one of the original founders of the IOP, as well as current leaders **Mary Ann Breitigam** (Executive Director), Dr. **Mark Crowther** (President & Chair), and Dr. **Rebecca Krusselbrink**. A big thank you goes to the St. Joseph's Outreach Program and its donors for their support of Dr. Nakabembe's visit and dinner/reception!



What is MacGObAS?

MacGObAS is a new collaboration between the McMaster University Global Health Office and the Departments of Obstetrics/Gynecology, Anesthesia, and Surgery. Its purpose is to bring together faculty and residents to promote our activities and partnerships, recognize and inspire volunteer service by faculty and trainees, develop educational resources for those interested in global surgical care, and generate innovative interdisciplinary research.

Please visit our website for further information:
<https://macglobas.mcmaster.ca/>

Report from the Aravind Eye Institute Pondicherry, India -- Nirojini Sivachandran



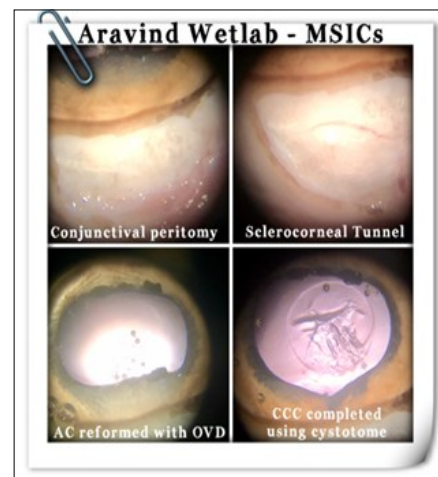
I have long been interested in international work. The opportunity presented itself when my program director fostered an international surgical elective collaboration with Aravind Eye Hospital, one of the largest eye hospitals in the world. This collaboration has been in the pipeline for several years and came to fruition this past July 2019. I arrived in Pondicherry, India on July 1st 2019 around 7:30am, which was a 3hr car ride from Chennai Airport. The International guest house, located ~200m from the hospital, was beyond what I had ever expected for accommodations. It had a classic interior, with a large dining table, well equipped kitchen, comfortable living furniture and well over ten individual guest rooms. Each guest room had two twin beds, a table and chair, with controllable air conditioning and individual washrooms with western toilets, and stand in showers. It was fabulous. There was also a maid for helping with meals, snacks and laundry services.



The Aravind Eye Hospital is truly a unique facility that offers care for everyone regardless of your socioeconomic background, they work tirelessly to end needless blindness. Everyone including support staff, nurses, surgeons, clinicians, and IT all work towards this goal. The efficiency with which the hospital functions is truly an exemplary model. They see over four million outpatients and complete more than five hundred thousand surgeries each year. There are eight operating theatres with eighteen surgical beds, some rooms have multiple operating scopes and beds. I was assigned a surgical mentor on my second day and started by surgical training that same day.

I was learning manual small incision cataract surgery, MSICs, the technique of choice for low resource settings. I learned and operated everyday including Saturdays working on one or two cases, and when I became more independent even three cases/day. The tools are much simpler and limited, and I was dependent more on my technique to complete the surgeries. There were many challenges that I encountered but there was always mentoring, teaching and help at any moment, which made this one of the most positive learning experience. Not only did I learn MSICs surgery but I was able to observe novel iridodialysis repair, GATT procedures, and trabeculectomies. I was also able to complete MSICs on

mature and hypermature cataracts, an absolutely phenomenal experience, especially knowing that patients gained functional vision. This allows for them to have a much better quality of life, be a productive member of their community and provide care for their own family and children. This experience not only allowed me to grow as a surgeon with added skillset, but allowed me to grow as an individual. I realized what was fundamentally important for me, and was able to independently navigate through my challenges. More importantly, this experience allowed for deep reflection on my strengths, weaknesses and fears. Certainly one of the best experiences in my residency training thus far. I am very grateful for my mentors including Dr Sogbesan and Dr Venkatesh for making this elective possible. As well, I'm grateful for the funding provided through the Department of Surgery.



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and MacGIobAS
[@MGlobas](https://twitter.com/MGlobas)
on Twitter!



Help us train surgeons for Uganda and Guyana.

McMaster surgeons and residents welcome Dr. Ronald Kabuye from Uganda.

Dear colleagues,

We are asking you to consider an annual donation of \$500 to the St. Joseph's International Outreach Program (IOP) for the next two years to support the Department's training partnerships with Uganda and Guyana.

You can make a tax-deductible donation online to IOP through Canada Helps, and indicate your donation is for Surgical Training. Learn more [here](#).

As many of you know, the Department has developed training partnerships with Uganda and Guyana over the last decade. The impact of these young surgeons when they return to their countries is huge — both by meeting some of needs for patient care, and even more importantly, by training their own next generation of surgeons. Every fellow has been supported by and returned to their home institution.

Recently, we have had more requests from our partners and more financial support from the IOP. With support from our leaders in General Surgery and Trauma, Orthopedics, Vascular Surgery, Thoracic

Surgery, and Neurosurgery, we will have four additional Clinical Fellows from Uganda, Guyana, and South Sudan training with us over the next couple of years. The expenses (accommodation, licensing, insurance, etc.) for each fellowship total about \$20,000 a year. The IOP generally contributes half of the costs, and with the PGME, manages the logistics. That means we need to find \$10,000 for each fellow to support their expenses for 9-12 months of training here. In addition to private donors, some divisions have provided some of the financial support for these fellows.

Our challenge to our Department colleagues is to raise \$20,000 a year for the next two years to support two clinical fellows per year. If 40 surgeons each contributed \$500 per year for two years, we would meet this goal. We are stepping up as the first two contributors and invite you to join us.

Thank you for your support for our international partnerships!

Dr. Brian Cameron
Director, International Surgery Desk

Dr. Susan Reid
Chair, Department of Surgery



Ethics in Global Surgery
June 6-9th, 2019 | University of Alberta
Edmonton Clinic Health Academy
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Bethune Round Table 2019 - Edmonton, Alberta



This year's Bethune Round Table conference was hosted by the University of Alberta. With a theme of "Ethics in Global Surgery", a pre-conference workshop was held to develop an ethical framework for global surgery partnerships, including challenges for North Americans delivering clinical care in unfamiliar low-resource settings. The multidisciplinary conference brought together clinical, researchers, advocates and trainees from over a dozen countries to discuss clinical research, education and challenges in global surgery. The organizers included McMaster alumni Dr. **Abdullah Saleh** (Pediatric Surgery) and **Kai Fan** (MSc Global Health). Dr. **Brian Cameron** was a member of the faculty for the CNIS Trauma Team Training Instructor course.

One of the best keynotes ("Compassion, Respect and Justice") was delivered by Dr. Lewis Wall (Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Washington University), and was relevant for all clinicians whatever their environment. COSECSA President Professor Pankaj Jani (pictured at right), a previous visitor to McMaster, spoke about meeting the training needs of over 500 surgical trainees in East Africa.

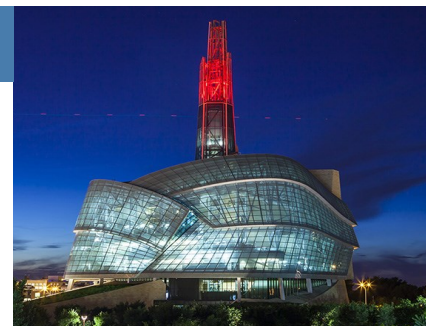


Mark your calendars for the **2020 Bethune Round Table**, which will be hosted by the University of Winnipeg/ Winnipeg Global Surgery Office, and will take place from May 28-31, 2020. The theme for next year's event will be "Indigenous Peoples in Global Surgery".

(Inquiries: info@bethuneroundtable.com)

The 2020 BRT reception will be held at the new Canadian Museum for Human Rights (pictured at right).

(For more information on the City of Winnipeg: <https://www.tourismwinnipeg.com/>)



Report from Guyana



On June 21, 2019 I attended the 17th meeting of the Caribbean College of Surgeons, hosted in Guyana. It was a proud moment when 5 young Guyanese surgeons, trained locally in Guyana in collaboration with Canadian surgeons and CAGS, were inducted into CCOS Fellowship. This was a watershed moment in the international recognition of the graduates of the innovative Guyana surgical training program, which has served as a model for other post-graduate training programs in the country.



Dr. Carlos Martin, Fellow in Vascular Surgery, from Guyana

McMaster faculty Dr. **Laurie Elit** (Gynecology Oncology), Dr. **Joel Hamstra** (Anesthesia) and Dr. **Karen Bailey** (Pediatric Surgery) are among those who have made teaching visits to Guyana. Numerous other McMaster faculty continue to be involved leading programs in internal medicine, nephrology and pediatrics. In collaboration with the St. Joseph's International Outreach Program, McMaster has also provided clinical fellowship experiences in Hamilton for a number of Guyanese graduates. This fall, Dr. **Carlos Martin** (pictured at top right) started a year's training in Vascular Surgery; he is the first international fellow the division has taken, and his training will be focused on hemodialysis fistula creation and management, as well as open surgical bypasses and some endovascular interventions. Dr. **John Harlock**, Director of the Vascular Surgery residency training program, reports that the experience continues to be a very positive one for the division. Dr. Martin will be part of an interactive discussion panel on promoting reciprocal postgraduate training collaborations at the upcoming MacGLOBAS seminar (October 26, 2019). Dr. **Smolana Swan** is also at McMaster training in Anesthesia. Due to arrive in January 2020 is Dr. **Brian Madison** from South Sudan (Orthopaedic Trauma) and in July 2020, Dr. **Oscar Obiga** from Uganda (Neurosurgery). These visiting scholars are supported in part through a private foundation, but faculty donations through the SJIOP are also appreciated. We also welcome Dr. **Marisa Seepersaud**, Guyana's sole pediatric surgeon, to McMaster as an observer for 6 weeks as the CAPS Global Scholar sponsored by the Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons. If you would like to be involved in the Guyana partnership, [please contact me](#).

-- Dr. Brian Cameron

Congratulations!

Dr. **Laurie Elit** (pictured at right) was awarded this year's Hamilton Health Sciences MSA Humanitarian Award for Community & Global Service. Dr. Elit is active in efforts to improve cancer care in developing countries with a special focus on women's health care, and has visited Kenya, Mongolia, and Cameroon. She regularly takes part in monthly Tumour Board teleconferences to advise on oncology cases in Kazakhstan and Cameroon, which allows her to maintain her international ties alongside an ongoing local clinical practice and research career as a Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology at McMaster. Dr. Elit exemplifies selfless, humble and authentic service to others, and we would like to congratulate her on this much-deserved acknowledgment of that work.



Many members of McMaster's Department of Surgery are involved in international work, and the ISD would love to share stories.

Contact Kathy Wilson (kawilso@mcmaster.ca) to submit an item for a future edition of the newsletter.

McMASTER GLOBAL

The Department of Surgery is once again well represented in the latest edition of the **McMaster International Activity Compendium** (31 entries!) that covers international activity from 2014-2017. The Compendium has now been reworked as an online resource, and is available for viewing via the following link: <https://global.mcmaster.ca/projects/#tab-content-view-compendium>

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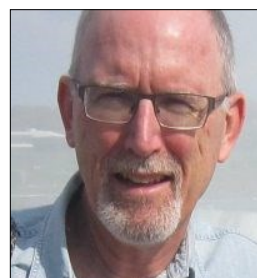


Learn more at internationalsurgery.med.ubc.ca



Effective September 2019, Dr. **Brian Cameron** (pictured below) joined the faculty of the UBC Branch for International Surgical Care's *Surgical Care in International Health (SURG 510)* distance education course, which is offered every September and January. For further info on graduate degree, certificate, and individual course options, see their website:

<https://internationalsurgery.med.ubc.ca/education/graduate-programs/>



➔ **Don't Forget!** ➜

Second Annual **MacGLOBAS** Seminar

SPEAKERS



DR. STEPHEN FOSTER



DR. CAROLYN LEVIS



DR. AMY MONTOUR

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe measures and best practices to develop reciprocal relationships with international partners and support medical students seeking international elective
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525 Faculty & Clinicians | 525 Medical Trainees

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CAMPBELL AUDITORIUM | ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

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Remember to Register

2nd Annual MacGLOBAS Global Surgery Seminar
Saturday, October 26, 2019
St. Joseph's Hospital (10 am - 2 pm)

<https://healthsci.mcmaster.ca/macglobas/news-events/events/global-surgery-in-context-2nd-annual-macglobas-seminar>

Speakers:

Dr. Stephen Foster: General surgeon in Angola for 40 years, where he has supervised numerous Canadian students and fellows completing international electives.

Dr. Amy Montour: Family physician at McMaster who will speak about Indigenous Health perspectives.

Dr. Carolyn Levis: Plastic surgeon from McMaster who frequently travels to Central America with surgical mission teams.

Cost:

Faculty: \$125 (includes 3 hrs MOCOMP credit, lunch)

Residents: \$25 (includes lunch)

Students: FREE (lunch not included)



Thank you for your support!