



MacGLObAS Transitions

I'm pleased to congratulate **Dr. Carolyn Levis** and welcome her to her role as the new Director of MacGLObAS. Dr. Levis brings her long-term experience working with plastic surgery partners in Ukraine, Haiti and Guatemala as well as her professional credentials and national reputation as incoming President of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons. She has been a member of the MacGLObAS executive since its inception and has been recently appointed Director of the International Surgery Desk in the Department of Surgery.

After three years, including the recent COVID challenges to international travel, it's a good time to reflect on what we have achieved and where we are headed. The initial strategic priorities of MacGLObAS were:

- 1. To be a local hub for global engagement.** We have provided an interdisciplinary forum, included medical students and residents in communications and events, developed a website (<https://macglobas.mcmaster.ca/>) and presented at national (BRT) and international (CUGH) conferences.
- 2. To innovate in global surgery scholarship.** An annual joint Grand Rounds and fall Seminar have seen broad interdisciplinary attendance. Several McMaster residents and faculty participate in the UBC Global Surgery graduate courses, and new opportunities are evolving with Global Health in PGME.
- 3. To mentor future global surgery leaders.** Resources for resident international electives are on the website, some residents have done Masters degrees in Boston and London, and we have welcomed and mentored clinical fellows from Guyana and Uganda through the St. Joseph's International Outreach Program.
- 4. To foster interdisciplinary research and capacity building.** A grant submission to the Royal College IDAC project call received positive feedback although unsuccessful competing with over 70 submissions. We anticipate a revised proposal will be submitted this year.

The needs for surgical care in low-resource settings have only increased as the world has focussed on COVID. MacGLObAS links globally minded physicians at McMaster in the Departments of Obstetrics/Gynecology, Anesthesia and Surgery who want to make a difference. Many thanks to the executive group, Dr. Baumann and especially Coordinator David Oldenburger for being such committed collaborators.

Brian Cameron, MD, FRCSC
Outgoing Director of MacGLObAS

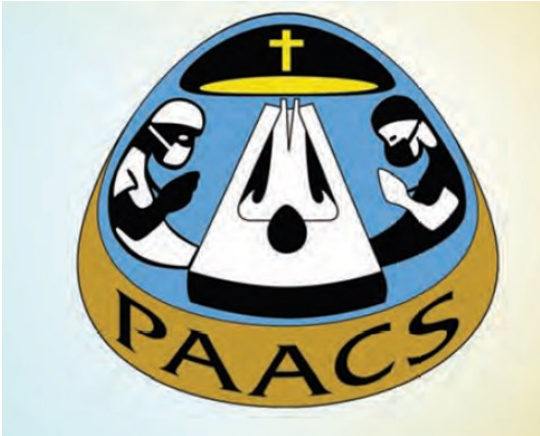
Listen to a recent podcast with **Dr. Brian Cameron** on his journey as a pediatric global surgeon: [Cold Steel: Canadian Journal of Surgery Podcast. Episode 78 with](#)



Left Image: Dr. Brian Cameron, Professor of Pediatric Surgery and outgoing Director of MacGLObAS

Right Image: Dr. Carolyn Levis, Associate Professor Plastic Surgery and incoming Director of MacGLObAS

PanAfrican Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS)



PAACs has 16 programs in Africa: 10 general surgery, 3 orthopedic surgery programs, 1 pediatric surgery program (Kijabe, Kenya), 1 cardiothoracic fellowship (Tenwek, Kenya) and 1 head and neck fellowship (Mbingo, Cameroon). The PAACS programs are located in mission hospitals in 8 countries in Africa. As of 2020, 97 general surgeons, 7 orthopods, 9 pediatric surgeons, 4 head and neck surgeons, and 1 cardiothoracic surgeon have been trained. Past graduates are working in 21 African countries. Program to open in the near future include Plastics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Neurosurgery, Anaesthesia and Surgical endoscopy.



Dr. Laurie Elit

Nineteen PAACS graduates are teaching in PAACS programs and 13 others in non-PAACS programs.

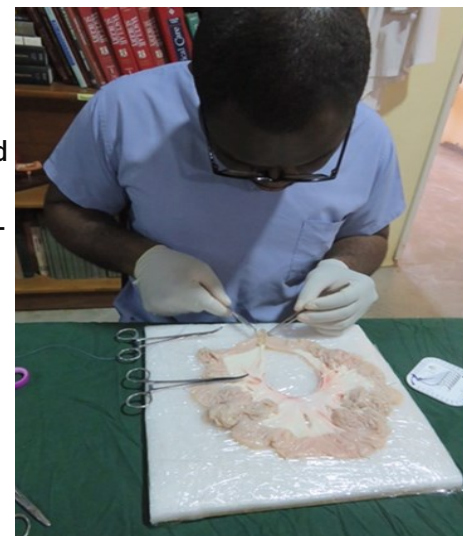


Dr. Snell teaching in the OR with one of the PAACS residents

At Mbingo Hospital in North West Cameroon, I have been faculty for the general surgery program. There are 4 general surgeons (1 is a prior PAACs graduate), 1 rotating orthopod, a head and neck specialist, pediatric surgeon, and myself - a gynecologic oncologist. We have 7 trainees on service. Each day starts at 7am with prayer and a morning report: a description of new admissions, new consults, number of ORs, number of c-sections and number of deaths. Then we break into 2 teams (blue and green team) to round on all admitted patients. Daily there are 3-6 regularly booked OR rooms running. Thursday is the general surgery academic half day which starts with a Bible study and then a quiz on previously discussed material followed by 2 didactic teaching sessions. From me the group has learned about danger zones in the pelvis (ie., vascular, neurologic and genitourinary misadventures) and then case reviews (vulvar and cervical cancer).

During my time here, each Saturday has entailed a half or whole day Basic Skills training course on topics such as knot tying, biopsy, ultrasound, drains and chest tubes, laparoscopy basics and bowel suturing (pig intestine). We have had one large group dinner of jamajama and foofoo (pizza for me) and ice cream for the kids.

- Dr. Laurie Elit, MD FRCSC
Professor Emeritus, Ob & Gyn
McMaster University



PAACs residents practicing bowel anastomosis on pig gut

Recap: MacGLObAS Joint Grand Rounds

This year, MacGLObAS virtually hosted Dr. Dylan Bould for its annual Joint [Grand Rounds](#). Dylan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, and the Department of Innovation in Medical Education at the University of Ottawa. Dylan is the Chair of the [Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society International Education Foundation \(CASIEF\)](#) and a recipient of the Canadian Anesthesia Society Award. During his talk **“Partnerships to develop capacity for Global Surgery and Anesthesia”**, Dylan encouraged participants to hold on to the shock of the current crisis of COVID-19 across the globe and not let it be forgotten as increased vaccinations help to ease COVID-19's effect on life in Global North countries. He described how the collapse of health systems globally is just a symptom of a much larger picture of chronically weak health systems across the globe and all part of a failure to invest in health systems. However, Dylan encouraged participants to look at examples of long-term partnerships in many countries with limited resources, to develop capacity and strengthen health systems. The event was widely attended with over 75 participants from across Canada. In case you missed the event or would like to watch it again, the recording can be found on the [MacGLObAS Youtube Channel](#).



A Message from the ISD – International Surgery Desk

As surgeons, we have faced unusual challenges throughout this year in ways that none of us could have ever imagined. As we emerge from the pandemic, hopefully in the not-too-distant future, we will need to navigate life and practice in the post COVID world which will undoubtedly be different and represent a “new normal”.

For those of us who have participated in global surgery initiatives, our future involvement and focus will look somewhat different than our past though we may find new opportunities that we might not have considered when travel was open and easy.

For now, we somehow need to maintain momentum despite the impact of the pandemic and continue to develop partnerships with other healthcare providers at home and in countries in need.

This time offers an opportunity to consider a departmental and even national federation of interested surgeons to consolidate the expertise and to maximize output without duplicating the work of existing programs and future initiatives.

We can look for innovative strategies to expand teaching programs to share with educators and learners in low- and middle-income countries. We can focus on delivery through digital platforms such as integrated teaching/learning modules and virtual support to our colleagues in LMICs. The ISD can focus on how members can support initiatives and not just “boots on the ground” work that we may have provided in the past.

As we begin to emerge from this life-altering crisis, I look forward to exploring new opportunities to engage in Global Surgery initiatives with members and trainees in the Department of Surgery at McMaster University. I welcome your suggestions and feedback and the opportunity to work with you as we continue our involvement in global surgery care.

- Carolyn Lévis MD, MSc., FRCSC
Director, [International Surgery Desk](#)
Department of Surgery, McMaster University

Stay up-to-date on Global Surgery

Readings

- [Closing the Gender Gap in Global Surgery: Trends at the Academic Surgical Congress](#), Padmanaban, V., et al. (2021)
- [What makes global healthcare partnerships successful? A systematic review](#), Guilfoyle, R., Morzycki, A. D., Saleh, A. (2021)
- [North-South Global Surgical Partnerships: A Systematic Review](#), Greive-Price T, Mistry H, Baird R (2020)
- [A Digital Doorway to Global Surgery](#), Hachach-Haram, N. (2020)
- [Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on progress towards achieving global surgery goals](#), Mazingi, et al. (2020)
- [Ethical Considerations in global surgery: a scoping review](#), Grant, CL. et al. (2020).
- [Globalization of national surgical, obstetric and anesthesia plans: the critical link between health policy and action in global surgery](#), Truche, P. et al. (2020).

Recordings

- [Cold Steel : Canadian Journal of Surgery Podcast. Episode 78 with Dr. Brian Cameron](#)
- [Reflections on the 2014 Bethune Roundtable Conference hosted at McMaster University](#)
- [MacGObAS 2021 Joint Grand Rounds](#)
- [6th Annual Global Surgery Symposium Feb 2021, University of Toronto](#)
- [MacGObas 2020 Fall Seminar](#)

MacGObAS Leadership

MacGObAS would like to welcome **Dr. Carolyn Lévis** as the incoming Director of MacGObAS, beginning her new role July 1, 2021

Executive Committee :

Department of Anesthesia: **Dr. Joel Hamstra**, **Dr. Caitlin VanDeCappelle**, **Dr. Anne Wong**

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology: **Dr. Jean Chamberlain**, **Dr. Laurie Elit**, **Dr. Mark Osmond**

Department of Surgery: **Dr. Margherita Cadeddu**, **Dr. Brian Cameron**, **Dr. Carolyn Lévis**

Advisory Board :

Dr. Andrea Baumann (Assoc. VP Global Health), **Dr. James Paul** (Chair of Anesthesia), **Dr. John Barrett** (Chair of Ob/Gyn), **Dr. Mohit Bhandari** (Chair of Surgery), **Dr. Mark Crowther** (Chair of Medicine, IOP President)

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

4 July 2021 [UBC Global Surgical Care](#) , deadline to apply for Masters and Grad Cert for September 2021

7 September 2021 [Royal College International Development, Aid and Collaboration \(IDAC\) Grant submission deadline](#)

16–18 June 2022 [Bethune Roundtable Conference at UBC “Decolonizing Global Surgery”](#), Vancouver, British Columbia

More details can be found on our website: macglobas.mcmaster.ca

We want to hear from you! If you have a story or opportunity related to Global Surgery, or you want to become involved with MacGObAS, email David Oldenburger at globas@mcmaster.ca.



McMaster Global Health Office
Obstetrics & Gynecology | Anesthesia | Surgery

