Editorial
Éditorial

East and Central African Journal of Surgery: the Canadian connection

For this issue of the CJS, we have declined to write a specific editorial from the editors. In its place, with our full support, is an editorial by Dr. Ronald Lett, President of the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS), describing a developing link between the CJS and the East and Central African Journal of Surgery (ECAJS). The work of the CNIS has been highlighted in the journal in 1995 and 2000.

The G-8 nations have responded to the economic, social and health needs of the African continent with what we hope is a visionary and not self-serving series of programs. Certainly, the announcements emanating from the G-8 summit at Kananaskis, Alta., project a sense of optimism for the future. We hope the link of the CJS with the ECAJS will play a role, however small, in the sense of enthusiasm for Africa coming from the G-8 summit. We look forward to playing a part in the future.

Jonathan L. Meakins, MD
James P. Waddell, MD
Coeditors

References

The Editorial Board of the East and Central African Journal of Surgery (ECAJS) has been expanded and now includes 3 Canadian surgeons, including the coeditors of the Canadian Journal of Surgery (CJS). Professor Jonathan Meakins is surgeon-in-chief at McGill University Health Centre in Montreal and Professor James Waddell is chair, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Toronto. Their participation recognizes of the importance of the ECAJS and is a vote of confidence in its potential.

The link of the 2 journals was organized by the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS) within the context of its information exchange project. The CNIS has been collaborating with surgeons of the Association of Surgeons of East Africa since 1995 through activities such as the Essential Surgical Skills and Injury Prevention projects. The lesser known CNIS Information Project has expanded from the unidirectional provision of books and journals to the libraries of partner organizations to that of information accessibility and exchange, exemplified by the CJS-ECAJS link.

Journals from less advantaged environments have an important educational and scientific function. The ECAJS can contribute to scientific advancement on issues of global and local importance. The link with the CJS provides a means of increasing the resources available to the editors of the ECAJS through the input and experience of the coeditors of the CJS.

A small journal is positioned to establish author-friendly policies that are a training platform for authors but at the same time improve the quality of science by insisting on a high standard. This is a role shared by the ECAJS and the CJS in their respective environments. The editors of small journals face the challenge of limited finances and a limited number of scientific contributors and...
reviewers. They, therefore, have a role to play as regional educators and scientific mentors. This link will provide mutual support for the editors of both journals in this role, and as reviewers for and contributors to both journals.

One objective of the collaboration is international recognition of the *ECAJS*. The Canadian experience should help the *ECAJS* attain that status. The editors of the *ECAJS* have agreed to base the collaboration on 10 minimum requirements of good editorial practice (Table 1). These requirements will be used to assess progress and determine areas where support can help. The collaboration will benefit the Canadians who participate with their African colleagues, and the *CJS* will have an opportunity to widen its international mandate. Joint editorials and exchange of publications will be possible.

The Canadians are honoured to participate in the growth and improvement of the *ECAJS*. This journal is an important contribution to surgery in Africa and we look forward to its continued success as it becomes recognized internationally.

Ronald Lett, MD, MSc
President and International Director
Canadian Network for International Surgery

**References**
