A year and half has passed since taking on the role of Director of the Office of International Surgery and in a very short time we have managed some great achievements in the arena of trauma and acute care in West Africa.

Our partnerships with the Kenya Red Cross, Innovative Canadians for Change, Indiana University, and the U of A division of general surgery have made it possible to bring ACS-accredited ATLS to West Africa for the first time ever. Looking into the future, we are working on initiatives directed towards surgical education and research.

Our short time working in Kenya has illustrated for me, the great need for surgical education and leadership in all areas of surgery. I would welcome and encourage collaboration with any and all surgical divisions.

I would be happy to know how I may be of assistance in your respective international endeavours.

Dr. Regan Guilfoyle
The Office of International Surgery is such a needed resource at the University of Alberta right now. It’s a great time to showcase the incredible international work being done behind the scenes.

Jessica Hogan, BScN, MSc in Surgery Candidate
OIS Advisor & Administrator

TRAINING & EDUCATION

In partnership with the Canadian Network for International Surgery, we have coordinated and hosted the Essential Surgical Skills Instructors course at our Surgical Medical Research Institute lab in November 2015.
Surgeons traveled from around the country to participate in highly interactive scenarios that taught them how to educate fellow surgeons in limited-resource settings; cost-effective and familiar items were transformed into low-fidelity teaching models for life-saving surgical skills. Standardized protocols, life support and anaesthesia, obstetrics and genitourinary emergencies, orthopedics, and traumatology were some of the key topics covered through lecture, discussion, and simulation.
INTERNATIONAL ELECTIVES AND FELLOWSHIPS
The Office of International Surgery funded its first international elective in March of 2015. The Acute Care and Emergency Surgery Fellow at the University of Alberta participated in a 4-week elective at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya. He participated in direct patient care and was responsible for resident teaching during his elective. Following the success of this elective, the Office of International Surgery and the division of General Surgery are currently working on developing a 12-month international fellowship for Acute Care and Emergency Surgery that will be based out of the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton and the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kenya. We plan to start this fellowship by July 1, 2017.

I had multiple learning opportunities at MTRH: I participated in daily rounds, M&M rounds, Journal Club, and mock thesis defense, in addition to consultation and surgical operations.

Those learning opportunities were extremely valuable and helped me to grow as a clinician.

Deng Mapiour, MD

RESEARCH
We have embarked on a retrospective chart review with Dr. Mark Hampton out of Victoria Hospital in Wynburg, South Africa. The purpose of this study is to qualitatively evaluate laparoscopic cholecystectomies performed in this center. This initial assessment of minimally-invasive procedures in South Africa will lay groundwork for further training and development in minimally-invasive surgery Victoria Hospital.

We are also partnering in research lead by MSc in Surgery Graduate candidate Jessica Hogan and Innovative Canadians for Change. This pilot focuses on improving trauma data collection, surveillance, and service delivery in Western Kenya. In
Spring/Summer of 2016, the implications of a GIS-enabled trauma registry will be trialed between several referral and district hospitals, adding to our understanding of trauma in East Africa as well as sustainable solutions for improving access to quality injury care. A preliminary research poster will be presented at the 2016 Trauma Association of Canada conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia in April 2016.

**ATLS PROMULGATION IN EAST AFRICA**

The Office of International Surgery has been working in conjunction with the not-for-profit organization Innovative Canadians for Change (ICChange) since its inception in 2012. Our current focus and efforts have been directed towards improving trauma systems and trauma care in Kenya. In partnership with the Kenya Red Cross and the Surgical Society of Kenya, we have coordinated and implemented the first successful American College of Surgeons accredited Advanced Trauma Life Support training course in Sub-Saharan Africa in March 2015, which was attended by 16 registrants. This was the first step towards promulgation of accredited ATLS throughout Kenya and Eastern Africa. Our second training course was held in December 2015, with 14 registrants, along with an ATLS instructor training course, with 12 registrants. The first inaugural training course is scheduled to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2016.

**AMPATH MEMBERSHIP**

We are currently developing a memorandum of understanding with Indiana University in order to join the consortium of universities that are involved in research, training, and patient care, particularly at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kenya. The University of Alberta will continue contributions in the arenas of acute care, advanced education, and trauma services through this partnership.