



The math cure ...

Sunday, August 17

Two of Canada's top mathematicians are heading to Botswana this week to teach 25 Canadian and African grad students how to control the spread of infectious diseases using equations and formulas.

The Canadian mathematicians — Dr. Abba Gumel, professor of mathematics at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg and Dr. Troy Day, associate professor of mathematics, statistics and biology, from Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. — are members of MITACS, a national math research network that brings together researchers, companies and governments in a collaborative effort to solve problems of key importance to society and industry.

Gumel and Day will link up with colleagues from Makerere University in Uganda, the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe and University of Botswana, to lead the grad students through an intense two-week workshop that will teach them the latest math tools and techniques to help predict outbreaks of diseases like malaria and tuberculosis and control their spread.

As Dr. Gumel said: "The goal of this workshop is to equip these math students with the research skills so that they will be in a position to play integral roles in the