COMMUNITY REPORT 2013



LAKEHEAD · LAURENTIAN · MEDICINE

Northern Ontario School of Medicine

École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario

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Working Together for a Healthier North



Postgraduate residents at NOSM's Anesthesia Boot Camp.



Family Medicine residents celebrate the completion of their program in Thunder Bay.



First-year NOSM medical students in the Simulation Lab.



Membres du Groupe consulatif francophone de l'EMNO.
Members of the School's Francophone Reference Group.



Board of Directors members and Fort Frances councillor Andrew Hallikas.



Aboriginal MD graduates with Aboriginal Elders, NOSM staff members, and Chair of the Aboriginal Reference Group following graduation at NOSM's East Campus at Laurentian University in Sudbury.

Contents

4 **Working Together for a Healthier North**

6 **Educational Excellence**

14 **Community Collaboration**

23 **Outstanding Research**

30 **Organizational Effectiveness**

37 **Sustaining the Future**

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Message from the Dean

Dr. Roger Strasser

The outstanding success of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is the result of the collaboration of people, communities, and organizations across the North, working together for a healthier North.

Even though our history is relatively short, NOSM's unique distributed, community-engaged learning model—started in Northern Ontario, for Northern Ontario—has grown into something extraordinary. Our many feats—a positive influence on recruitment and retention, educating high-quality physicians and health professionals, the innovative use of technology, and our long list of national and international awards—have created a global reputation that has only been possible because of the contributions of so many. We are not only succeeding together; we are leading together, as you will read throughout the pages of NOSM's *2013 Community Report*.

NOSM's collaboration with Aboriginal communities, Francophone communities, health service partners, host universities, funders, local and provincial governmental officials, Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and many others continues to be vital to working to improve the health of the people and communities of Northern Ontario.

While NOSM's *2013 Community Report* provides a glimpse into the activities, initiatives, and successes of the year past, we are now beginning to chart our direction with the development of a new strategic plan for 2015-2020. To achieve this, we are spending the year 2014 cultivating a rich discussion within the School and with the people and communities we serve.

As you read this report of recent accomplishments, I invite you not only to think about how much we have achieved together, but also where we might next go, as we continue to work with Northern Ontarians to reach beyond extraordinary. Please visit **nosmsp2020.ca** to join the conversation about NOSM's future. Make your voice heard, and ensure that the Northern Ontario School of Medicine continues to be accountable to you.



Message from NOSM Board Chair and President, Laurentian University



Mr. Dominic Giroux

When people with a common goal come together, great things are possible. On the eve of ten years since the admission of our charter class, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine is a shining example of what can happen when we work toward a shared dream. NOSM was created because many in Northern Ontario came together to find a solution to concerns about accessible, relevant health care in the region.

NOSM's achievements are Northern Ontario's achievements. Because of the people of Northern Ontario, NOSM has flourished, and continues to deliver on its social accountability mandate to contribute to the improved health of people and communities across Northern Ontario. NOSM is Northern Ontario's medical school, and is only possible because of the contributions of alumni, staff, faculty, donors, communities, and partner organizations across the North who work together to realize the common goal of a healthier North.

Message from NOSM Board Vice-Chair and President, Lakehead University



Dr. Brian J.R. Stevenson

As Dean Dr. Roger Strasser is fond of saying, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine is "No Ordinary School of Medicine."

In 2013, NOSM received the international ASPIRE Award for Excellence in Medical Education because of the School's success in fulfilling its social accountability mandate—the mission to direct its education, research, and service activities to address the priority health concerns of the communities of Northern Ontario. While this award recognizes NOSM's international leadership in the area of social accountability, the impact of this mandate is being experienced locally.

NOSM is having a positive effect on the recruitment and retention of health professionals across Northern Ontario. A growing number of Northern Ontarians have NOSM-trained health professionals caring for them in their communities. I think, collectively, we can take pride in our medical school, and the many collaborators who continue to make NOSM an outstanding success.

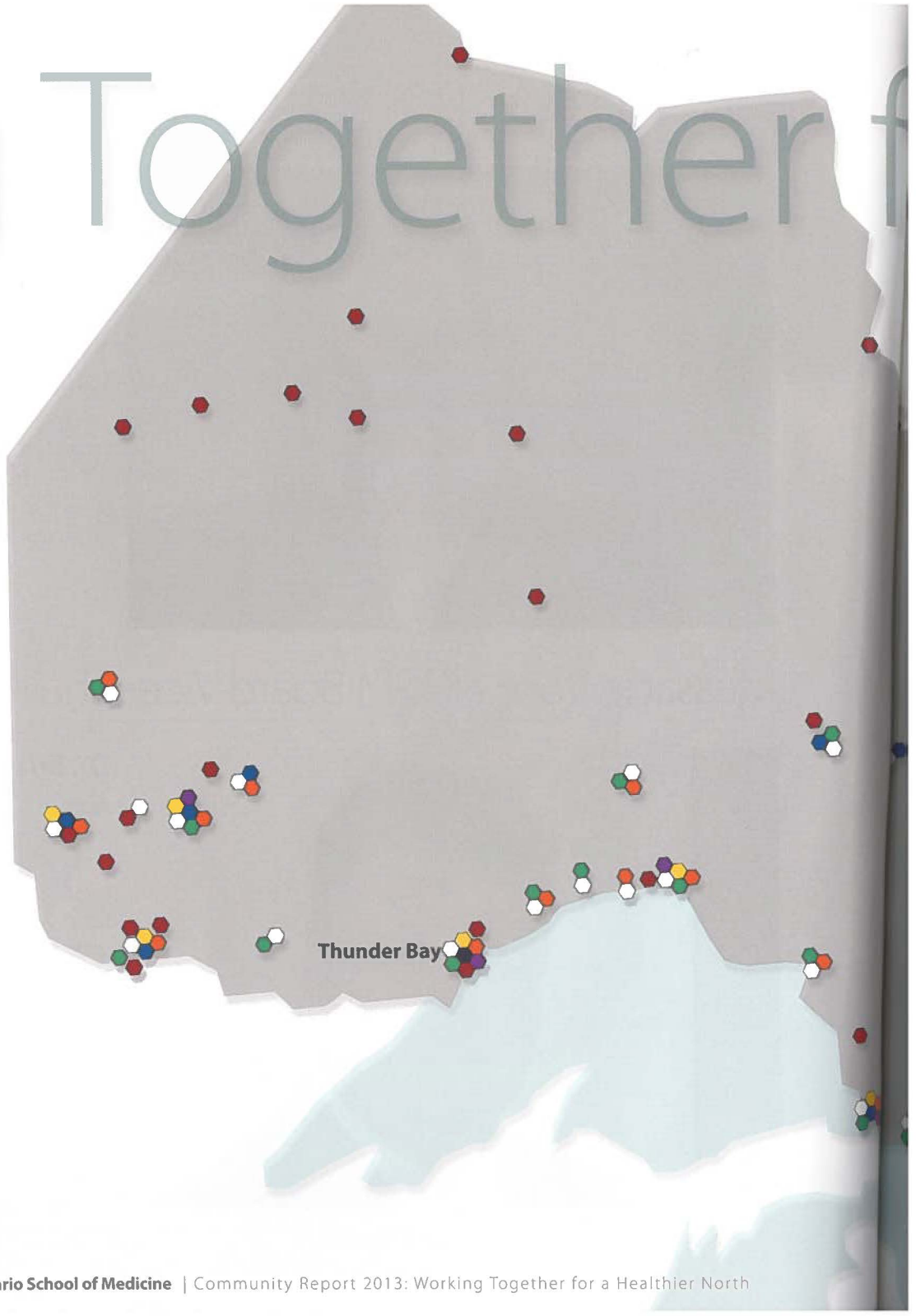
Working Together f

What does distributed, community-engaged education and research look like?

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) has campuses at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and Laurentian University in Sudbury, with over 90 teaching and research sites across Northern Ontario. Learning is supported by over 1,300 faculty members and more than 200 employees.

NOSM's model is comprised of partnerships and collaborations with individuals, communities, and organizations (including Aboriginal and Francophone), hospitals and health services, physicians and other health professionals, universities and colleges, information communication technology organizations, and other medical schools.

These partners and collaborators are working together to advance the dream of equitable, responsive health care for all Northern Ontarians—in short, they are working together for a healthier North.



or a Healthier North

Mapping NOSM's Distributed Model

Aboriginal Communities
First-year medical students spend four weeks in an Aboriginal community in Northern Ontario.

Rural/Remote Communities
Second-year medical students complete two four-week placements in small rural or remote Northern Ontario communities.

Comprehensive Community Clerkships (CCC)
Third-year medical students spend eight months completing the CCC in a host community in Northern Ontario.

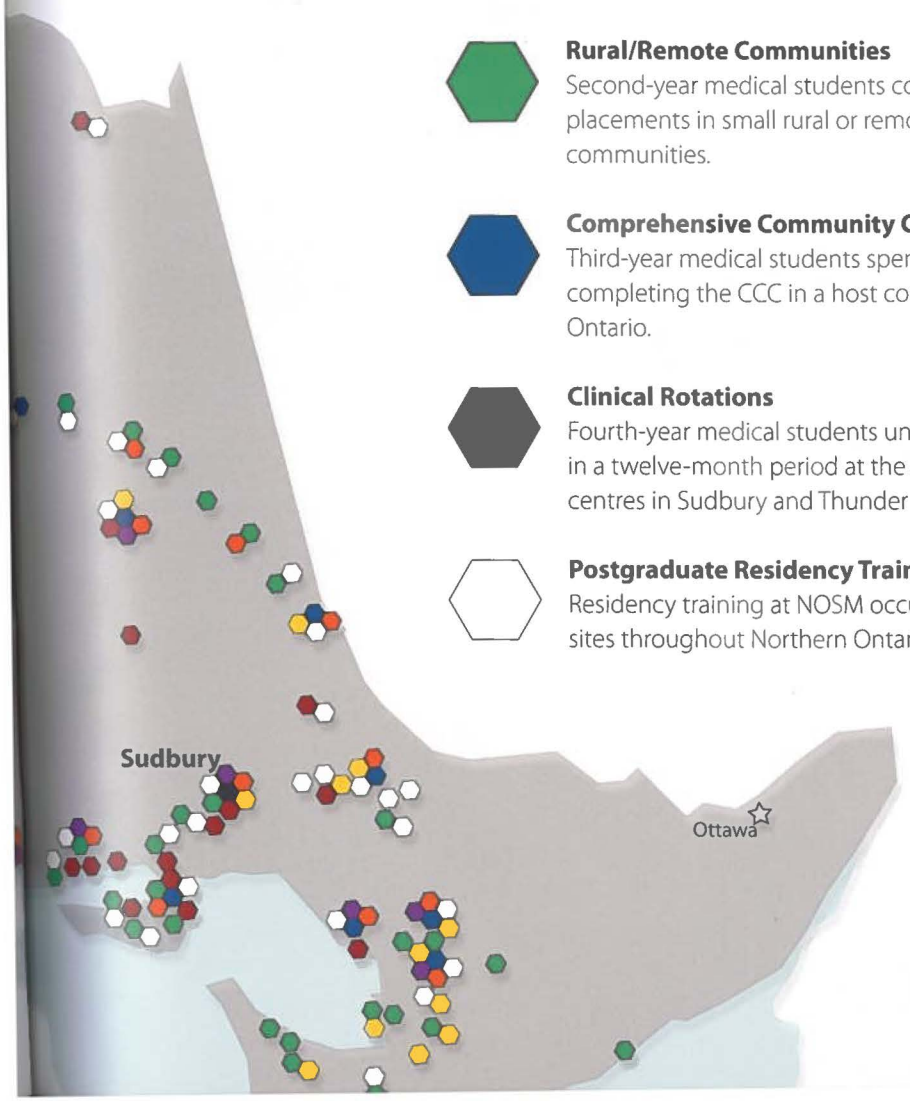
Clinical Rotations
Fourth-year medical students undertake six core rotations in a twelve-month period at the academic health sciences centres in Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

Postgraduate Residency Training
Residency training at NOSM occurs at distributed learning sites throughout Northern Ontario.

Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program (NODIP)
Forty-six week internships are completed in communities throughout Northern Ontario and North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

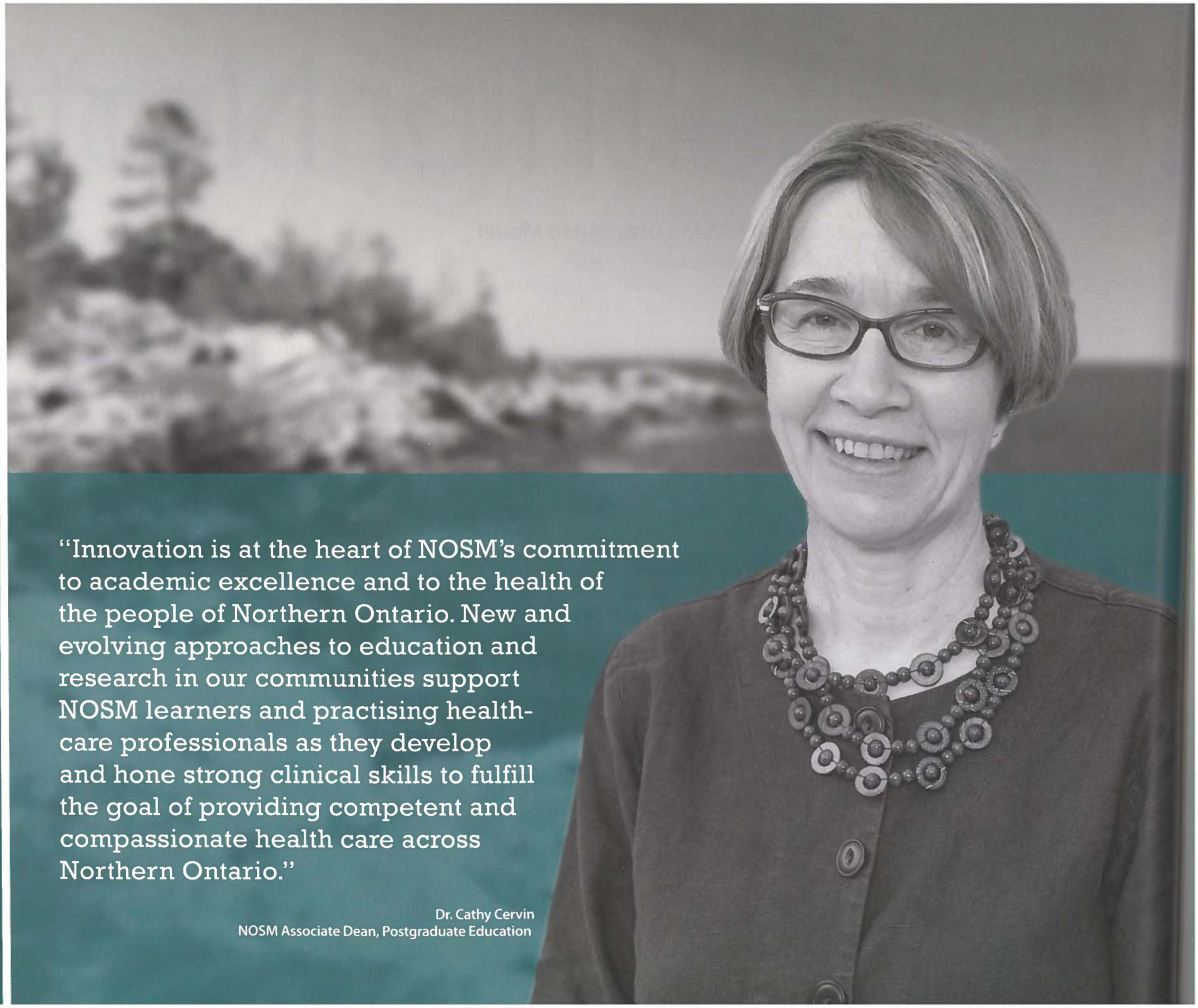
Physician Assistant (PA) Program
PA students undertake 40 weeks of supervised clinical rotations in rural and urban settings throughout Ontario, including 20 weeks in the North.

Rehabilitation Studies
Audiology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and speech-language pathology learners undertake clinical placements in a diverse range of practice and community settings ranging from four to 12 weeks in duration.





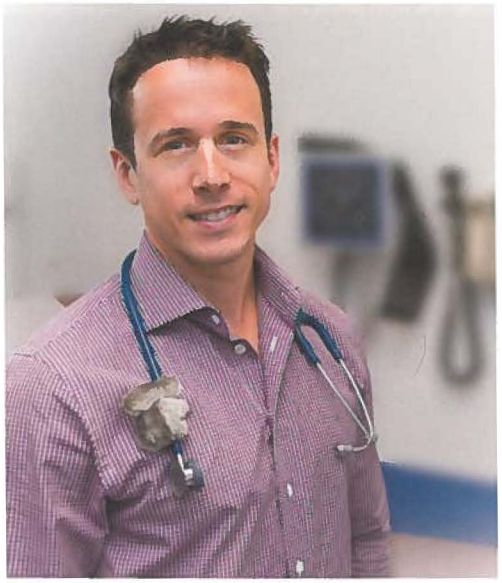
Educational Excellence



"Innovation is at the heart of NOSM's commitment to academic excellence and to the health of the people of Northern Ontario. New and evolving approaches to education and research in our communities support NOSM learners and practising health-care professionals as they develop and hone strong clinical skills to fulfill the goal of providing competent and compassionate health care across Northern Ontario."

Dr. Cathy Cervin
NOSM Associate Dean, Postgraduate Education

Local Pediatrician Opens Practice



Dr. Jonathan DellaVedova had an interest in pediatrics from his first day of medical school, but he says it was the teaching and guidance from the local pediatricians in Sault Ste. Marie that helped him feel confident to tackle a pediatrics residency. DellaVedova completed his four-year residency in Pediatrics at McMaster University after graduating from NOSM in 2009. The decision to move back to Sault Ste. Marie was not a difficult one for him, as Northern Ontario, and in particular "the Soo," is his home. DellaVedova enjoys being close to his family, the unique collaborative professional opportunity at the Group Health Centre, and spending time outdoors.

Transitioning into independent practice can be tough, but DellaVedova says the practice environment in Sault Ste. Marie has been very supportive. The support he has received from his pediatrician colleagues and staff at the Group Health Centre and the hospital has made it easy to focus on enjoying practising medicine from day one.

"The MD program at NOSM provides a much more closely-knit learning environment than you would find at the larger sites. This provides more early hands-on learning, mentorship from faculty, and opportunities to benefit from the strengths of other students. Even though I hadn't spent much time in a tertiary-care centre before residency, I still felt that I had an advantage over the other first-year residents because of my experiences at NOSM."

Dr. Jonathan DellaVedova, Pediatrician
Graduate of NOSM's MD Program

Sense of Community Brings Dietitian Home

"NODIP challenged me to work in a wide range of diverse settings, and introduced me to a variety of health issues pertaining to Northern Ontario. I felt there were plentiful opportunities for self-directed learning, and I was able to meet my own personal needs as an intern, which has certainly prepared me for my current role as a Registered Dietitian in Sault Ste. Marie."

Kaitlin Cobean, RD
Graduate of NOSM's
Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program

Born and raised in Northern Ontario, Kaitlin Cobean's goal after completing her formal education and dietetic internship was to reside and work in the North. Pursuing dietetic studies through the Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program (NODIP) at NOSM provided Cobean a wealth of networking opportunities with a variety of health-care professionals. The NODIP curriculum enabled Cobean to work within a team setting with other health professionals, which she believes improved her interpersonal skills.

After graduating from NODIP, Cobean accepted a job in her hometown of Sault Ste. Marie as a Registered Dietitian at the Algoma Diabetes Education and Care Program at the Group Health Centre. She is also a Certified Diabetes Educator. Cobean has always had a keen interest in health issues relevant to people living in Northern Ontario, and working in Sault Ste. Marie has instilled in her a sense of pride and passion.



Physiotherapist Recruited to Northern Ontario

"My experience in Northern Ontario has been very inclusive. There is a strong sense of community here, one that is much stronger than in the south. Up here, people are more willing to work together, and everyone is so appreciative of everything you do. I'm excited to become a preceptor so I can expose new students to all the North has to offer."

Tyler Moise, Physiotherapist at HSN
Northern Studies Stream Alum



Before his placement with the Northern Studies Stream (NSS) program, Tyler Moise from Cornwall, Ontario had never been north of Barrie. But after hearing a presentation about NSS while undertaking his Masters in Physiotherapy at McMaster University, Moise was inspired to apply to the NSS program to experience Northern Ontario for the first time.

Throughout his two-year program at McMaster, Moise undertook two clinical placements in Northern Ontario: one in Fort Frances, and one in Sudbury. While in the North, Moise experienced some of the many differences between rural and urban practice for physiotherapists. According to Moise, Northern Ontario settings provide health-care professionals with a more diverse scope of practice than what is typical in the south—an element that he found both exciting and empowering. As a result of his placements through NSS, Moise accepted a position as a Physiotherapist at Health Sciences North (HSN) in Sudbury upon graduation.

Shift in Health-Care Career for PA Grad



Dr. Andrew Hamilton was a practising chiropractor in both Northern Ontario and British Columbia when he made the decision to change careers. Wanting to remain in health care, Hamilton chose to undertake training as a Physician Assistant (PA).

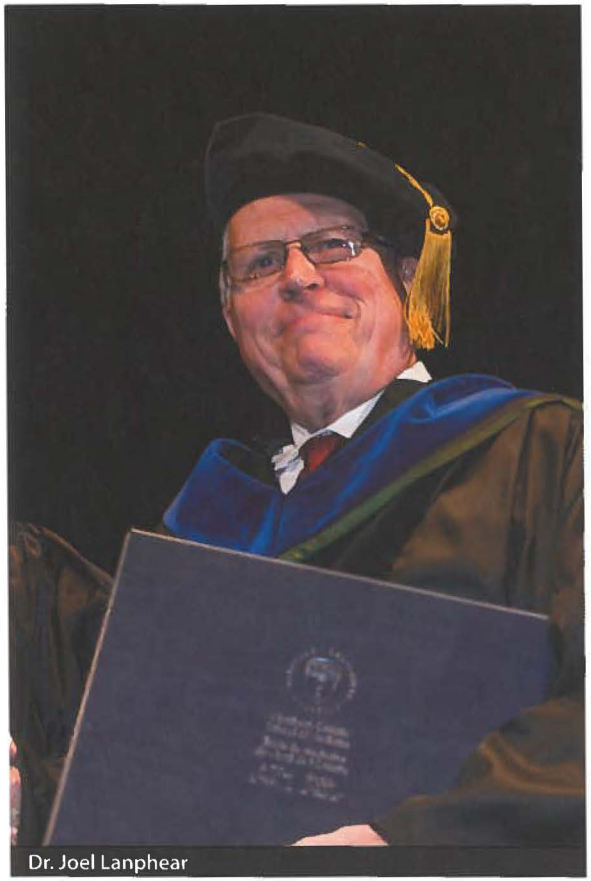
PAs are skilled health professionals who support physicians in a range of health-care settings. They work alongside physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and other members of the interprofessional health-care team. The PA program is a blended online and face-to-face program delivered by the Consortium of PA Education, comprised of the University of Toronto, The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Graduates receive a Bachelor of Science, Physician Assistant degree conferred by the University of Toronto.

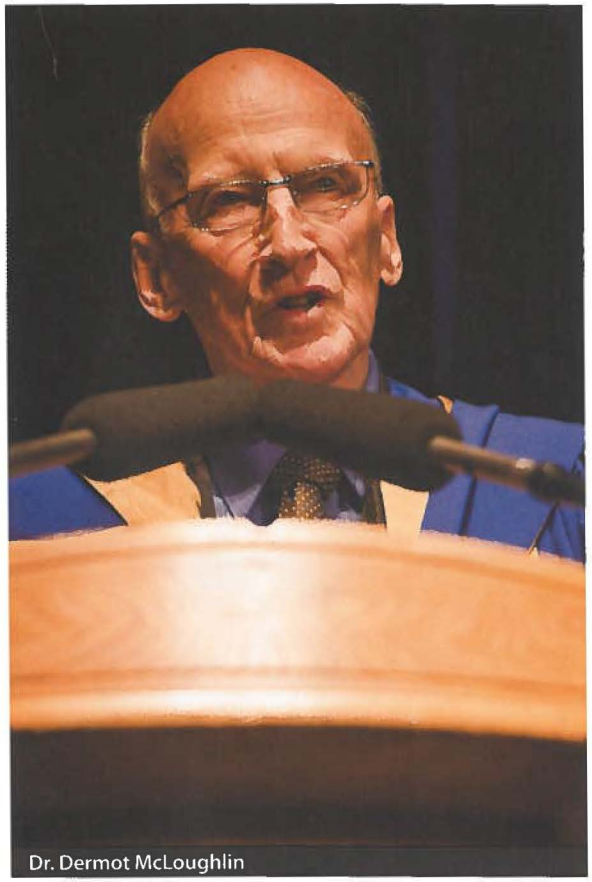
Hamilton convocated in 2013, and considers himself fortunate to work in the ER at the South Muskoka Memorial Hospital in Bracebridge.

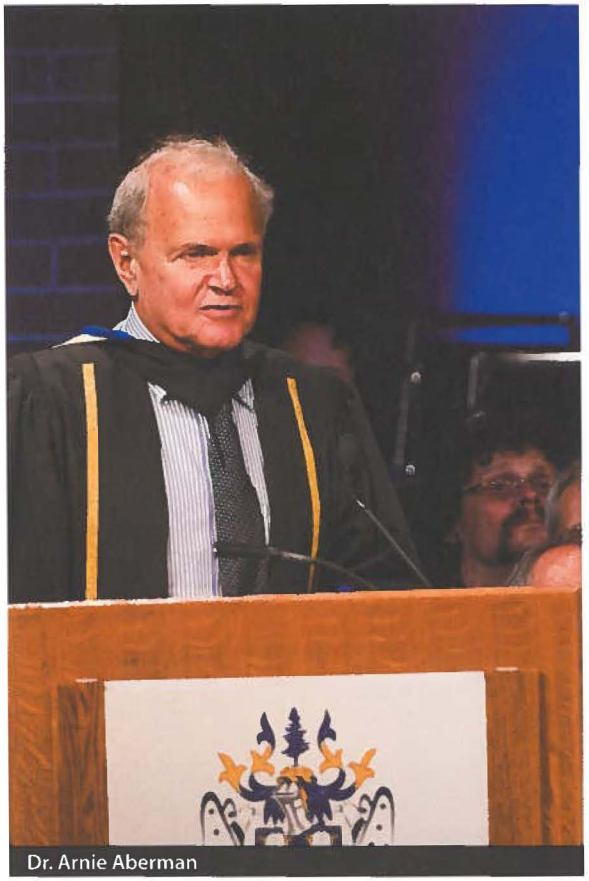
"I have always wanted to stay in the North and in the health-care field. Living in cottage country and working in the ER has brought my interest in the outdoors and health care together."

Andrew Hamilton, DC, CCPA
Graduate of the BScPA
Physician Assistant program

Acknowledging Outstanding Contributions to NOSM's Success


Dr. Joel Lanphear


Dr. Dermot McLoughlin


Dr. Arnie Aberman

Award of Professor Emeritus

Dr. Joel Lanphear, former NOSM Senior Associate Dean and Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education, was awarded Professor Emeritus at the Lakehead University convocation on May 31. Lanphear was recognized for his long and distinguished service in medical education, including the early development of the NOSM MD program.

Honourary Degree Recipients

On May 31, Lakehead University awarded Dr. Dermot McLoughlin, a NOSM faculty member and a radiologist in Sioux Lookout, with an Honourary Degree. In addition to his outstanding contributions to Aboriginal health care, McLoughlin was an inaugural NOSM Board member, and is currently a clinical faculty member.

On June 4, Laurentian University awarded Dr. Arnie Aberman an Honourary Degree in recognition of his pivotal contribution to the establishment and early development of NOSM, as well as his outstanding contribution to academic medicine nationally and internationally.

Another Cohort of Health Professionals Completes Programs

Early summer is a time of great celebration for NOSM as learners complete their education from the School's health-professional education programs.

MD Students

On May 31 in Thunder Bay and June 4 in Sudbury, NOSM's Class of 2013 graduated with a joint MD degree from Lakehead University and Laurentian University. This marked NOSM's fifth graduating MD class. The ceremonies included the hooding of graduates and recitation of the Physician's Oath.

Postgraduate Residents

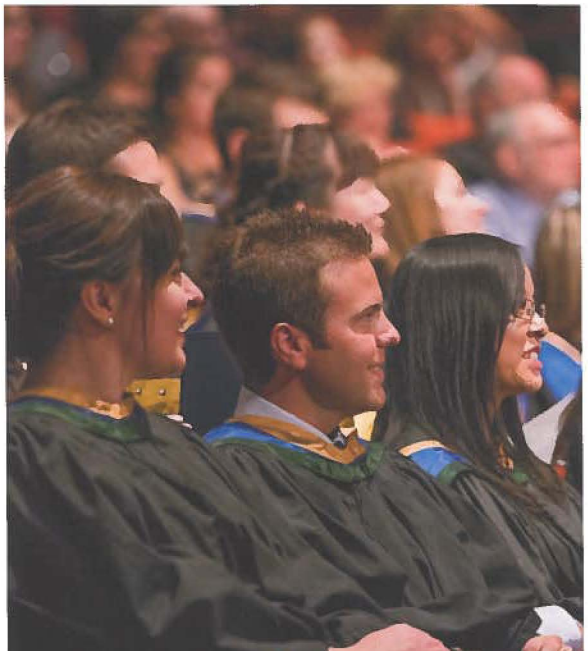
NOSM's Thunder Bay Family Medicine residents celebrate their success. The completing residents embraced the unique and challenging experiences afforded by the program, a truly pan-Northern experience based on academic excellence and distributed learning.



NOSM's newest physicians gather after convocation in Thunder Bay.



Family Medicine residents celebrate the completion of their program in Thunder Bay.



MD convocation at Laurentian University in Sudbury.



Dr. Liane Villano receives certificate from Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean.

Physician Assistants

The second class of Physician Assistants convocated from the Physician Assistant Professional Degree Program on June 4 at the University of Toronto (U of T). The program is delivered by the Consortium of PA Education, which is a collaborative of U of T, The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, and NOSM.

Dietetic Interns

On July 25, the newest class of Registered Dietitians completed the Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program (NODIP). Ceremonies were held via videoconference in four locations: NOSM's West Campus at Lakehead University, NOSM's East Campus at Laurentian University, as well as NODIP sites in Barrie and Sault Ste. Marie.

Congratulations to all alumni on your accomplishments.



Four members of the graduating class of PAs.



Twelve NODIP Dietetic Interns completed the program in 2013.

A First for Northern Ontario


Dr. James Goertzen

Known as the "nobel prize" of family medicine education in Canada, the Ian McWhinney Family Medicine Education Award honours a family medicine teacher who has made a significant national impact on the development of family medicine educational activities. The year 2013 marks the first time that a Northern Ontarian has been lauded with the award—Dr. James Goertzen, NOSM's Medical Director of Faculty Development, Professor of Family Medicine, and Family Physician, was presented with the award in front of a national audience of his peers in November at the Family Medicine Forum held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Goertzen's innovative contributions to family medicine education over the last 25 years earned him this prestigious award. Throughout his career as an educator, Goertzen has established a venerable reputation as a teacher, researcher, and creator of innovative faculty development opportunities.

"Dr. Goertzen served as a guide for me in my early career forays into postgraduate education and faculty development. I have been privileged to witness the impact of his work in education in Northern Ontario and at a provincial and national level in my capacities as a NOSM faculty member, and as a member of the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, the Ontario College of Family Physicians, and the College of Family Physicians of Canada."

Dr. Sarah Newbery, Family Physician
NOSM Associate Professor



Rural Medicine Leadership

In April, NOSM was awarded the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada's (SRPC) Rural Education Award. The Rural Education Award, which has been bestowed upon NOSM for four years running, acknowledges that more MD graduates from NOSM are training for rural practice than any other medical school in Canada.

The award was presented at the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada's annual conference in Victoria, British Columbia. Dr. Lisa Graves, NOSM's former Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education, accepted the award on behalf of the School.

Meet Ontario's Family Physician of the Year



Dr. Sarah Newbery knew from the time she started medical school that she wanted to practise comprehensive, rural family medicine. Upon completion of her residency in 1996, Newbery and five of her peers established a practice in Marathon—a community that had only one doctor for a population of 5,000. Newbery saw a need that she could assist with, and she has stayed since.

As a NOSM Associate Professor in Family Medicine, Newbery is also known throughout the region for her leadership in the structuring of NOSM's curriculum and assessment models. Her passion for rural family medicine is contagious; she has inspired many students to pursue careers in rural, comprehensive family medicine as a result of their training in Marathon.

For her dedication and enthusiasm for family medicine, Newbery was named Ontario's Family Physician of the Year in November at the Family Medicine Forum in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"Rural family medicine is a wonderful career. To be able to care for people throughout their lifetimes is a privilege that is almost unparalleled."

Dr. Sarah Newbery, Family Physician
NOSM Associate Professor

ASPIRE for Excellence



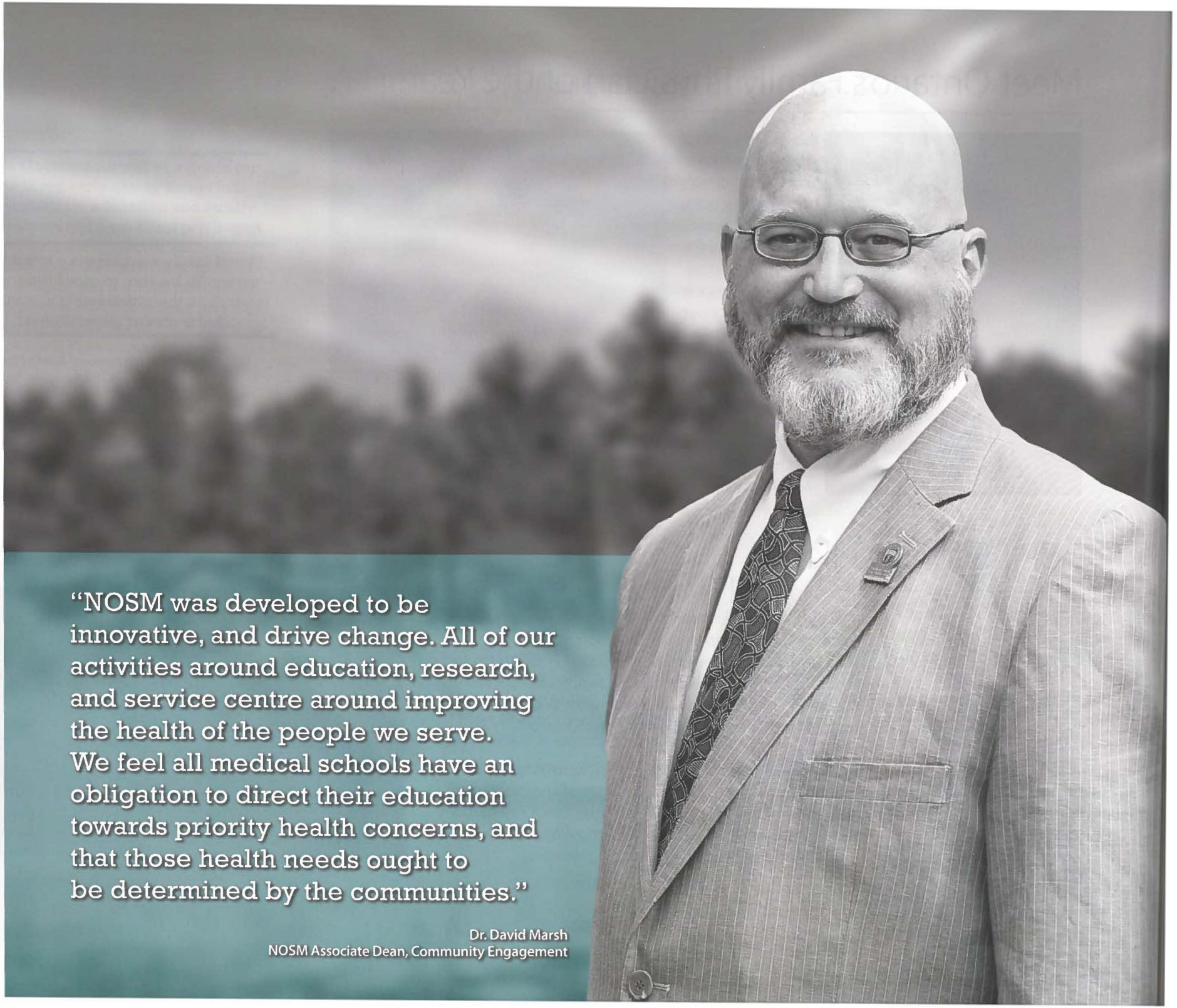
In August, NOSM was thrilled to receive the prestigious ASPIRE Award for Excellence in Medical Education. Receipt of the ASPIRE Award was based on NOSM's success in fulfilling its social accountability mandate—the mission to direct its education, research, and service activities to address the priority health concerns of the communities of Northern Ontario.

The award was presented at the opening ceremony of the 40th annual conference of AMEE (the international Association for Medical Education in Europe) in Prague, Czech Republic. Receiving the award on behalf of the School was Dr. David Marsh, NOSM's Associate Dean, Community Engagement.



Dr. David Marsh (centre) accepts the ASPIRE Award on behalf of NOSM.

Community Collaboration

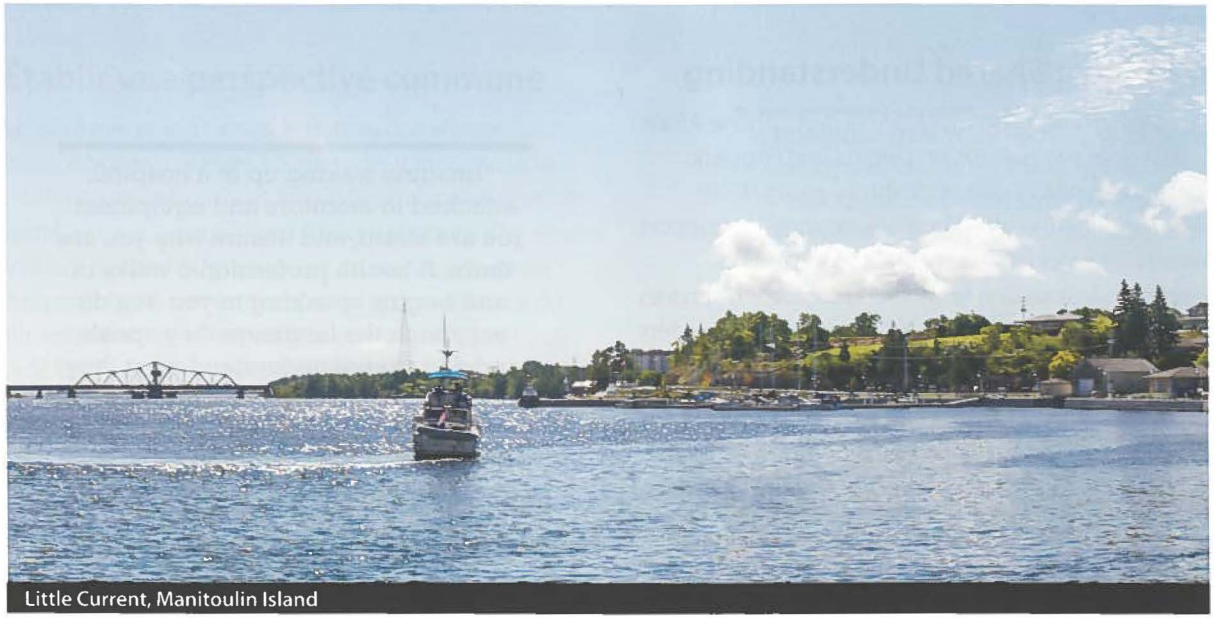


"NOSM was developed to be innovative, and drive change. All of our activities around education, research, and service centre around improving the health of the people we serve. We feel all medical schools have an obligation to direct their education towards priority health concerns, and that those health needs ought to be determined by the communities."

Dr. David Marsh
NOSM Associate Dean, Community Engagement

Manitoulin Island Welcomed as CCC Site

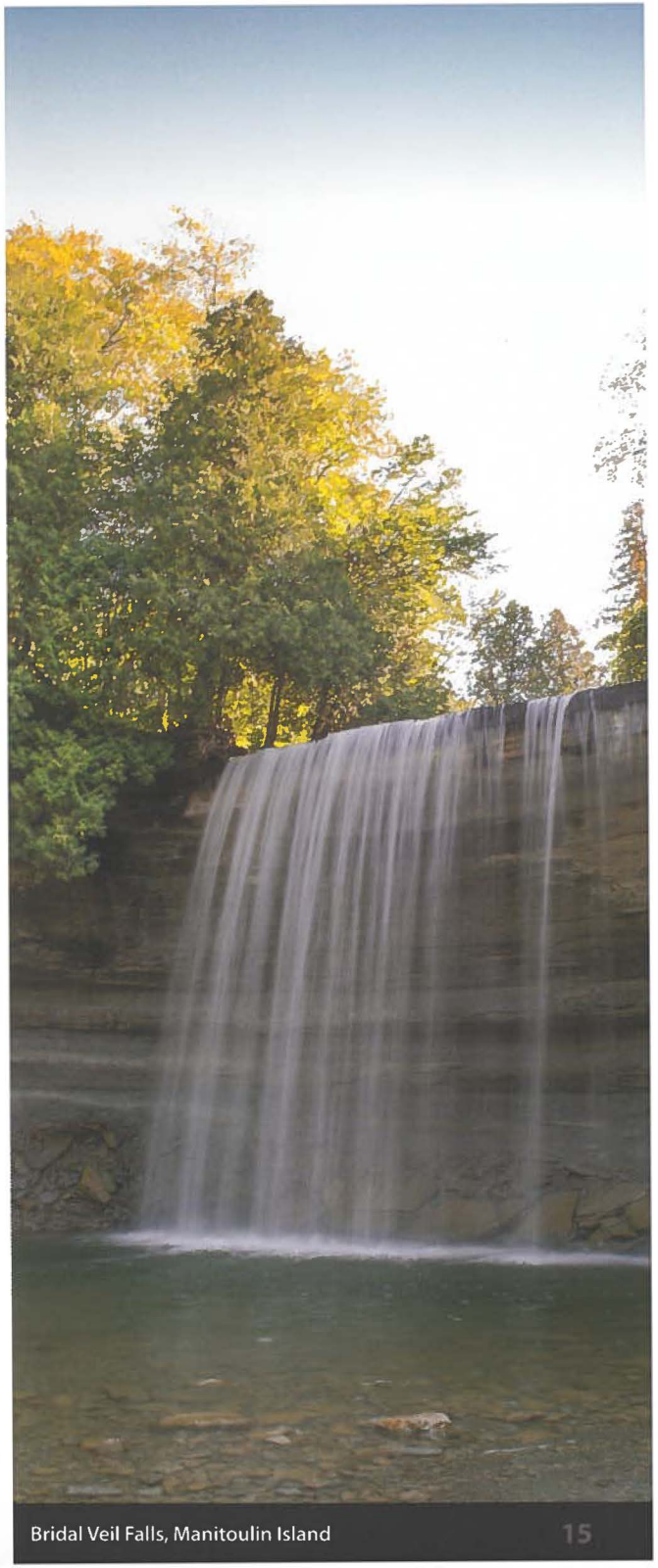
Unique to NOSM's undergraduate medical education program is the third-year Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC) placement. During the eight-month, community-based, longitudinal integrated clerkship, third-year medical students benefit from participation in a continuity-of-care cycle under the guidance of physician teachers. NOSM is pleased to welcome Manitoulin Island to the group of now 14 CCC sites across Northern Ontario where third-year medical students live and learn in assigned communities from September to April.



Little Current, Manitoulin Island

Communities hosting third-year NOSM medical students:

Bracebridge
Dryden
Fort Frances
Hearst
Huntsville
Kapuskasing
Kenora
Manitoulin Island
North Bay
Parry Sound
Sault Ste. Marie
Sioux Lookout
Temiskaming Shores
Timmins



Bridal Veil Falls, Manitoulin Island

Cultural Competency Breaks Barriers

NOSM's social accountability mandate includes a commitment to graduate health professionals who are able to provide equitable, responsive health care for all Northern Ontarians. In support of the School's mandate, NOSM hosts continuing education sessions to ensure that clinicians, educators, and staff understand the importance of cultural competence.

Coming to a Shared Understanding

On February 28 and March 1, NOSM's Francophone Affairs Unit offered two workshops on cultural and linguistic competence in health care at Health Sciences North (HSN) in Sudbury. The workshop was designed to support health-service providers in meeting the increasing demand for Francophone health information and services. The workshop offered support to health-service providers and organizations in responding to the health needs of Francophone populations in an authentic and culturally competent manner.

NOSM's Aboriginal Affairs Unit and Health Sciences and Interprofessional Education Unit hosted a cultural competency workshop for NOSM preceptors across the North on October 25. The workshop covered a wide range of culture and health perspectives that impact health-care delivery with Aboriginal patients. Specifically, the workshop offered an opportunity to learn about Aboriginal historical, social, and cultural influences on health care. Preceptors also learned about traditional approaches to health and wellbeing, and strategies that can be used to incorporate cultural competency into their daily practice and clinical teaching.

> "Access to health-care systems is about more than opening a door. It's about creating a space for meaningful participation."
>
> **Dr. Sheila Cote-Meek**
> **Member of NOSM's Aboriginal Reference Group**

> "Imagine waking up in a hospital, attached to monitors and equipment. You are afraid, and unsure why you are there. A health professional walks in and begins speaking to you. You do not speak the language they speak, and you cannot understand what they are saying to you. You are unsure what treatment you received before you woke up. For many Northern Ontario Francophones, such a scene is not far from reality."
>
> **Jacqueline Gauthier**
> **Chair of NOSM's Francophone Reference Group**

> "Aboriginal peoples were so shy when medical care was introduced. They were shy of their bodies, because showing our bodies was not our way. Our healers are seers. We don't have to show them our bodies for them to know what is wrong."
>
> **Julie Ozawagosh**
> **NOSM Elder**

Based on the visions of Elder Langford Ogemah, Gaa-taa-gwii (meaning "to join, to help") symbolizes the separate, but equal, life journeys of NOSM's East and West campuses through the joining of eagle feathers. Representing Mother Earth, the red cedar base joins everything together—including all of human kind—signified by the black, red, yellow, and white ribbons.

Selon les perspectives de l'aîné Langford Ogemah, Gaa-taa-wii symbolise, par les plumes d'aigle jointes, les voyages de la vie séparés mais égaux des campus Est et Ouest de l'EMNO. La base en bois des plumes représente Mère Nature qui joint toutes choses, y compris le genre humain, représentées par les rubans noir, rouge, jaune et blanc.



La compétence culturelle abolit les obstacles

Le mandat d'imputabilité sociale de l'EMNO inclut un engagement à former des professionnels de la santé aptes à prodiguer des soins équitables et adaptés à toute la population du Nord de l'Ontario. À l'appui de ce mandat, l'École organise des séances d'éducation continue afin de faire comprendre l'importance de la compétence culturelle aux cliniciens, aux éducateurs et au personnel.

Établir une perspective commune

Le 28 février et le 1er mars, le Bureau des affaires francophones de l'EMNO a offert deux ateliers sur la compétence culturelle et linguistique dans les soins de santé à Horizon-Santé Nord (HSN) à Sudbury. Ces ateliers visaient à aider les fournisseurs de services de santé à répondre à la demande sans cesse grandissante de renseignements et de services en français. Ils ont aussi aidé les fournisseurs et organismes de services de santé à répondre aux besoins des populations francophones de manière réelle et culturellement compétente.

Le 25 octobre, les Bureaux des affaires autochtones et des sciences de la santé ont organisé un atelier sur la compétence culturelle pour les précepteurs de l'EMNO répartis dans le Nord. Cet atelier a porté sur un vaste éventail de perspectives culturelles et sanitaires qui ont une incidence sur la prestation de soins aux patients autochtones. En particulier, il a renseigné sur les influences sociales, culturelles et de l'histoire sur les soins de santé. Les précepteurs ont aussi appris les approches traditionnelles de la santé et du bien-être ainsi que des stratégies qu'ils peuvent utiliser pour intégrer la compétence culturelle dans leur exercice quotidien et leur enseignement clinique.

« L'accès aux systèmes de santé ne consiste pas seulement à ouvrir une porte; il faut aussi créer un environnement de participation fructueuse. »

Sheila Cote-Meek, Ph. D.
Membre du Groupe consultatif autochtone de l'EMNO

« Imaginez que vous vous réveillez dans un hôpital, branché à des moniteurs et à des appareils. Vous avez peur et vous ne savez pas trop pourquoi vous êtes là. Un professionnel de la santé entre et commence à vous parler. Vous ne parlez pas la langue dans laquelle il s'exprime et ne comprenez pas ce qu'il vous dit. Vous ne savez pas trop quel traitement on vous a administré avant votre réveil. Pour beaucoup de francophones du Nord de l'Ontario, cette scène n'est pas loin de la réalité. »

Jacqueline Gauthier
Présidente du Groupe consultatif francophone

« Les Autochtones étaient tellement intimidés quand les soins médicaux sont arrivés. Ils étaient embarrassés parce que montrer notre corps ne fait pas partie de nos mœurs. Nos guérisseurs sont des voyants; ils savent ce qui ne va pas sans que nous ayons besoin de leur montrer notre corps. »

Julie Ozawagosh
Aînée à l'EMNO



La ceinture fléchée a été créée par des artisans canadiens-français. Traditionnellement, ces ceintures tissées à la main étaient nouées autour de la taille pour protéger les voyageurs contre les maux dans le bas du dos et empêcher le froid de s'infiltrer dans leurs vestes. La ceinture fléchée est devenue un symbole du patrimoine canadien-français.

The "ceinture fléchée" (or arrow belt) sash was created by French Canadian artisans. Historically, these hand-made sashes were tied around the waist to protect Voyageurs from lower back injury and to keep the cold from creeping up their jackets. The sash has become an identifiable symbol of French Canadian heritage.

O-Week: An Introduction to the Culture of NOSM's Classroom



NOSM's 2013 MD Entering Class.

Like NOSM's curriculum and model, Orientation Week (or O-Week, as it is affectionately called) is unique. During O-Week, NOSM's newest class of medical students begin their journey in medicine, and explore the cultural, linguistic, and geographic diversity of Northern Ontario—their classroom for the next four years.

In late August, students from NOSM's East and West campuses came together in Elliot Lake to begin a road trip where they visited Little Current, Mindemoya, M'Chigeeng, and Manitowaning. They met with community leaders, toured local hospitals, participated in a medicine walk at The Great Spirit Circle Trail, visited Debajehmujig storytellers, and engaged in a cross-cultural workshop.

NOSM's Aboriginal Affairs Unit organized activities across Manitoulin Island which provided teachings about Aboriginal culture. Storytellers from the Great Spirit Circle Trail and Debajehmujig proudly spoke about their culture; the history of their peoples; traditional medicines; and, traditions of the Anishinaabe people of Manitoulin Island. In their first year, medical students spend four weeks living in, and learning from, an Aboriginal community. The training they receive from Registered Nurses, Health Directors, and Traditional Healers is part of NOSM's MD curriculum.

The O-Week journey ended in Sudbury with a dinner hosted by NOSM's Francophone Affairs Unit, and an Oath Ceremony, where students were introduced to the history and significance of the Physician's Oath, and the meaning of being a Northern physician. During O-Week, students are reminded to observe the values of the oath—respect, gratitude, honour, professionalism, and patient safety—during their next four years of training, and beyond.







NOSM's newest class of medical students enjoy various activities during O-Week. Students wear clown noses during one session as a reminder of the importance of developing compassionate connections with their patients and keeping their humour during times of stress (top). Listening to Aboriginal storytelling at the Great Spirit Circle Trail (middle and bottom) helps students develop cultural awareness.

Amazing Race Through Temiskaming Shores



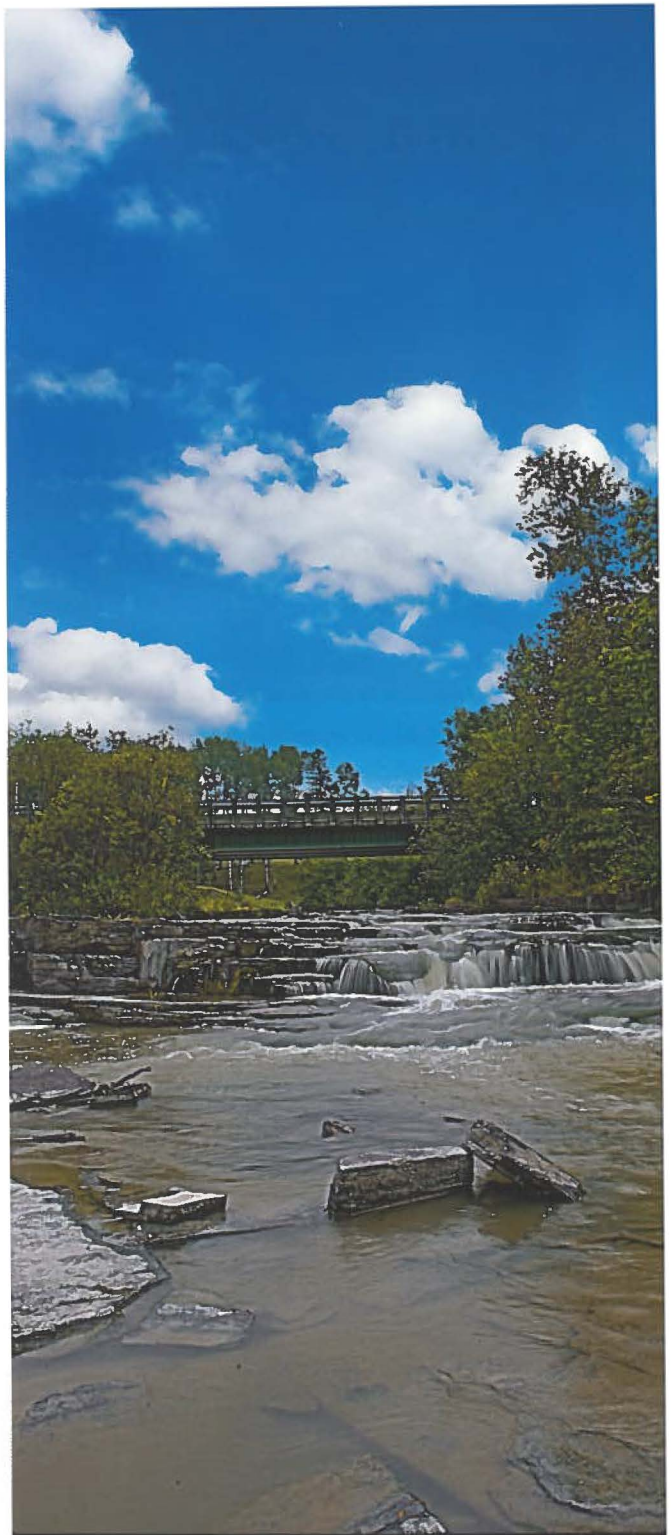
Temiskaming Shores community members with third-year NOSM medical students.

Students undertaking their third-year Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC) in communities across the North are introduced to living and learning in a new town in a variety of ways. Medical students in Temiskaming Shores kicked off their third-year with an "Amazing Race" event designed by the community's Local NOSM Group (LNG). Melanie Verrier, NOSM's Site Administrative Coordinator in Temiskaming Shores, brought students, community members, physicians, and Temiskaming Hospital representatives together for a day-long orientation on August 26. The five medical students beginning their CCC toured around New Liskeard, Haileybury, and Cobalt. The seven members of the Temiskaming Shores LNG hosted a lunch for the participants before ending the race at Pete's Dam.



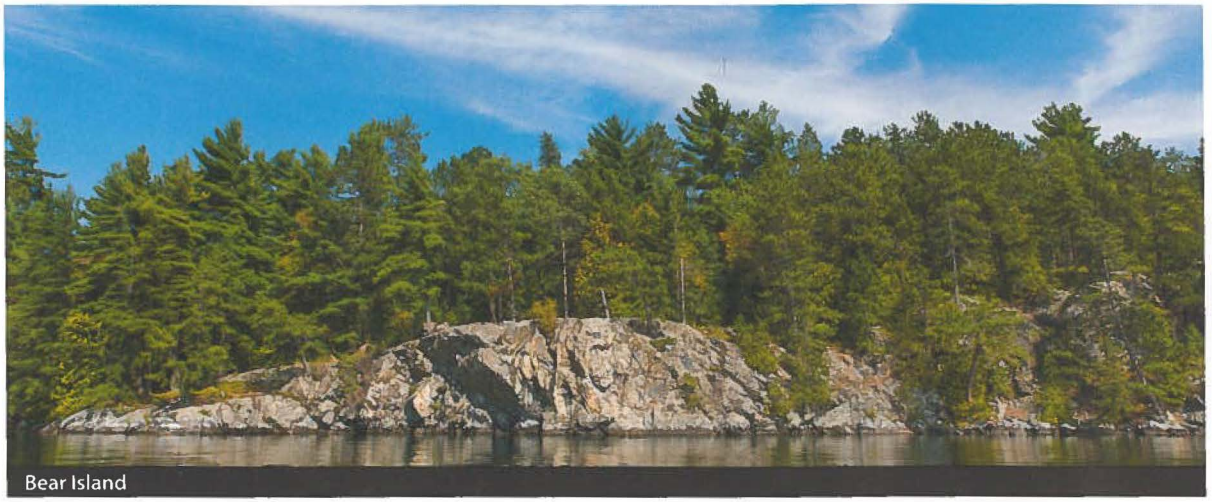
Third-year NOSM medical students Adam Bignucolo and Jen Meisner.

> **"The Amazing Race orientation day really allowed our new students to meet the individuals and preceptors they would be living and working with for eight months. It was also a fun and entertaining way to acquaint the students to the area."**
>
> **Melanie Verrier**
> **NOSM Site Administrative Coordinator**



Pete's Dam, Temiskaming Shores

Life in a Remote Aboriginal Community


Bear Island


Lake Temagami

First-year medical students at NOSM spend four weeks in an Aboriginal community during their Integrated Clinical Experience (ICE). Each of the host communities has a Local Community Coordinator (LCC) to help orient the learners and support them during their placement. Jessica Mattias, Social Services Supervisor at the Family Healing and Wellness Centre, was the LCC for Temagami First Nation in 2013. Located on Bear Island in the heart of Lake Temagami, the community is home to 250 permanent residents, with over 750 residents living off the island.

The close-knit community of Bear Island has welcomed two first-year NOSM medical students each spring since 2006. This is a particularly challenging time of year for community members travelling and those wanting to visit Bear Island. The spring "break up" of ice on the lake makes it difficult to get to and from the island; depending on ice conditions, community members may use a truck, snowmachine, airboat, or boat to cross the lake. "Students learn from their trip across the lake about the realities of how the community members of Bear Island live on a regular basis. When you see a First Nations person at the ER, you don't know what they went through to get there," explains Roger Assiniwe, a community member and former LCC. "They've already had a long trip just to get to the mainland."

The four-week placement provides many opportunities for medical students to learn about Aboriginal culture to become more culturally sensitive physicians. Bear Island community members welcome them into the Doreen Potts Health Centre, daycare centre, Elders' centre, schools, and band office. "For the first two weeks, the students are quite nervous. With time, they are able to meet people, figure out who is related to whom, and they begin to feel more comfortable. The medical students we had in 2013 were really accepted by the community and made to feel at home—so much so that they came back to visit after they completed their placement," says Mattias.

"Cultural awareness is a big part of what we hope the medical students will take back after four weeks in our community. Most importantly, we want the students to see that our reserve is not like the stereotypes they may have seen on television. We hope the knowledge we have shared and the beauty of the community will be beneficial wherever their careers may take them."

Jessica Mattias
NOSM Local Community Coordinator


Roger Assiniwe and Jessica Mattias

Summer Camps Inspire Youth



In July, NOSM hosted its seventh annual Summer Health Sciences Camp (SHSC) at the West Campus at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and the East Campus at Laurentian University in Sudbury. High school students from across the North have the opportunity to participate and learn about health careers. The camps provide students with an opportunity to explore the Aboriginal and Francophone cultures of Northern Ontario, experience hands-on health-related activities, and benefit from mentorship of current medical students at NOSM.

One of the SHSC mentors in 2013 was Maria Sokolova, a second-year NOSM medical student. Maria was 16 years old and going into Grade 12 at Lockerby Composite School when she participated in NOSM's first Summer Health Sciences Camp in Sudbury in 2007. "We looked at x-rays, watched videos of surgeries, and practiced putting casts on one another. Having time to speak with medical students was the highlight for me. I asked what it meant to them to be medical students, how they got there, and about the challenges they faced," says Sokolova.

Sokolova was born in Moscow and, at the age of 11, came to Sudbury with her family. Her involvement at the camp as a high school student encouraged her to pursue a career in medicine.

"Attending the first summer camp at NOSM really opened my eyes to the possibilities in medicine. I knew from that point on that I wanted to be a doctor, and now I'm making that dream a reality."

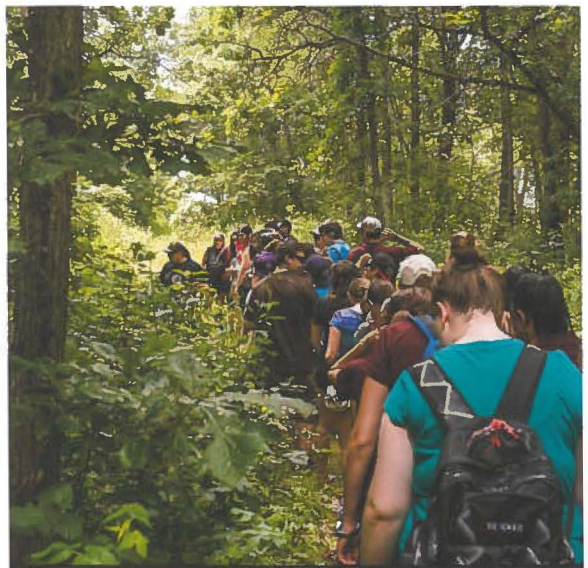
Maria Sokolova
Second-Year NOSM Medical Student



Students participate in casting session.



Sharing traditional Aboriginal medicine with youth.



Engaging students in a medicine walk.

Un diplômé francophone exerce maintenant à Timmins

« La formation dans le Nord m'a fait apprécier le nombre de personnes qui bénéficient des services de santé en français. Il y a beaucoup de francophones qui maîtrisent peu l'anglais. Il est bon pour eux de recevoir des soins dans une langue qu'ils comprennent et parlent. Je suis fier d'offrir des services en français dans une communauté francophone. »

Dr Paul Miron, médecin de famille
Diplômé du programme de formation médicale de l'EMNO



L'EMNO a été créée en partant du principe que les étudiants seront enclins à exercer dans les communautés où ils ont été formés. C'est certainement le cas pour le Dr Paul Miron, diplômé de l'EMNO, et pour la ville de Timmins. Pendant huit mois dans cette ville au cours de sa troisième année de médecine, il a pu s'instruire en français, sa langue maternelle. Originaire de Verner (un village francophone rural en dehors de Sudbury), il rêvait d'aider les gens du Nord de l'Ontario à améliorer leur santé et leur qualité de vie, mais il ne savait pas dans quelle ville il élirait domicile. C'est pendant son externat communautaire polyvalent de troisième année qu'il a décidé qu'il s'établirait à Timmins après sa résidence en médecine familiale.

En exercice depuis peu, le Dr Miron est « heureux d'être dans le Nord et de dire que je suis diplômé de l'EMNO ». Il partage son enthousiasme avec ses patients mais aussi avec des étudiants car il fait maintenant partie du corps professoral de l'École. « L'enseignement me permet de me tenir au courant des nouveautés et des progrès et m'aide à fournir les meilleurs soins possibles à mes patients, tout en apportant à mon tour une contribution à l'EMNO et à ses étudiants. »

Francophone Grad Now Practising in Timmins

"Training in the North helped me appreciate just how many people benefit from health services in French. There are a lot of Francophones who speak very little English. To be able to receive care in a language they speak and understand means that patients can be more at ease. I pride myself in offering French services to a French-speaking community."

Dr. Paul Miron, Family Physician
Graduate of NOSM's MD Program

NOSM was developed on the premise that students will be inspired to practise in communities where they learn. This was certainly the case with NOSM graduate Dr. Paul Miron and the community of Timmins. While completing the third year of the MD program in Timmins, Miron was able to learn in French, his mother tongue. Originally from Verner (a rural Francophone community outside of Sudbury), Miron knew that he wanted to follow his dream of helping Northern Ontarians improve their health and quality of life, but was not sure which community he would call home. As a result of this third-year Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC) experience, he decided to establish his practice in Timmins upon the completion of his Family Medicine residency.

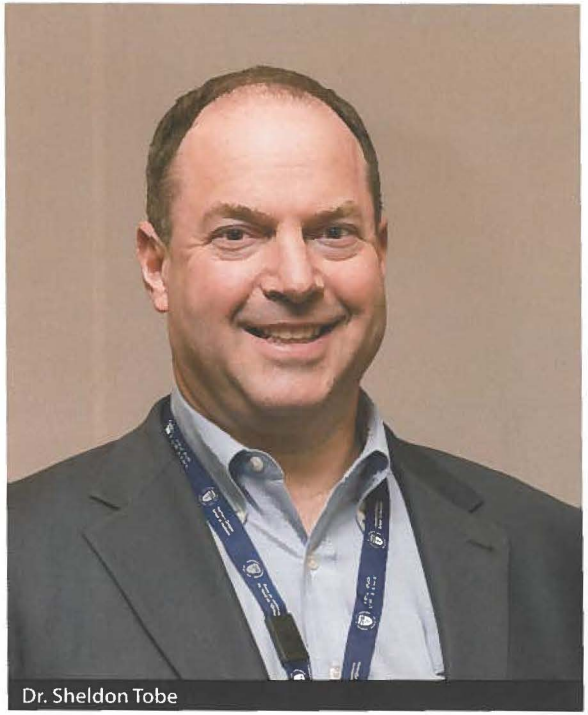
As a newly-practising physician, Miron reports: "I am happy to be in the North, and happy to say that I graduated from NOSM." He shares this enthusiasm with his patients, but also with students as a NOSM faculty member. "Teaching ensures that I stay current with new knowledge and information," he says. "Staying up to date helps me provide the best patient care I can, while giving back to NOSM and its students."

Outstanding Research



"Few researchers have the privilege of telling a neighbour about their research and getting back a genuinely excited response. When NOSM researchers tell Northern Ontarians about our projects, we are instantly engaged in interesting, thoughtful discussions. To me, that defines research that is important. It has the potential to impact the lives of everyone around us. We are so fortunate to work in at School built on a foundation of social accountability, and have our communities as partners in our research activities."

Dr. Greg Ross
NOSM Associate Dean, Research


Dr. Sheldon Tobe

New Research Chair in Aboriginal and Rural Health

On September 9, NOSM, the Heart and Stroke Foundation (HSF), and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) introduced Dr. Sheldon Tobe as the new HSF/NOSM Chair in Aboriginal and Rural Health. A total of $3 million in funding from HSF and the MTCU, equally shared, has established an endowment that will support the research endeavours of the Chair.

Tobe's research focuses on improving the lives of people who are at risk of, or who have been diagnosed with, kidney disease by focusing on the diagnosis and control of hypertension. He works closely with many Canadian Aboriginal communities on research projects looking at blood-pressure management and introducing chronic-disease management programs for cardiovascular risk reduction.

Tobe's proposed research in the role of HSF/NOSM Chair in Rural and Aboriginal Health will focus on improving cardiovascular outcomes, reducing mortality, and increasing quality of life for people with, or at risk of, developing cardiovascular-renal disease.

Additionally, through the generosity of TD Bank Group, the HSF has secured a $100,000 gift that will support second-year NOSM medical students in conducting research in Aboriginal communities. Over the summers of 2014, 2015, and 2016, eight medical students will be funded to return to a community in which they have already lived to address a unique cardiovascular research concern that the community itself has identified.

Northern Health Research Conference

On June 7 - 8, NOSM and the North Bay Regional Health Centre (NBRHC) combined their conferences (Northern Health Research Conference, and the NBRHC Research Conference) into a single event. In its eighth year, NOSM's NHRC once again provided an opportunity for researchers to engage with their peers, collaborate, and develop partnerships.

Keynote speaker Dr. Franco J. Vaccarino, a widely published and internationally recognized researcher, presented on the topic of "Neuroscience and Discovery Research: Implications for our Understanding of Substance Use Disorders." As in previous years, there were over 30 oral presentations on many topics relevant to the people and communities of Northern Ontario, including research topics such as "Smoking Cessation in Patients with Cancer" and "Population and Public Health: Exploring the Roles and Challenges of Nurses Working within Rural and Remote Northern Canadian Communities." In addition, over 30 poster presentations were on display for participants to view.

Held at Canadore College, the two-day conference attracted more than 120 health-care professionals, academics, and learners from across the North, as well visitors from other provinces and countries.

The 2014 Northern Health Research Conference will be held in Sioux Lookout, in collaboration with the Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre.


Dr. Franco J. Vaccarino

NOSM Researcher Works with Communities to Understand Bacterial Infections


Drs. Marina Ulanova and Eli Nix

According to research conducted by NOSM Associate Professor Dr. Marina Ulanova, infections caused by haemophilus influenzae type A (HIA)—a bacterial pathogen that can cause serious invasive infections such as meningitis—occur at much higher rates among First Nations people compared to the rest of the population in northwestern Ontario.

Over the last two years, postdoctoral fellow Dr. Eli Nix has been investigating antibodies of the people of northwestern Ontario: how many antibodies a person has that react to the bacteria, and how effective a person's antibodies are at killing the bacteria.

Through his research, Nix hopes to build long-term relationships with First Nations communities affected by HIA. "We're invested in research that is done in a culturally competent and appropriate way," explains Nix.

"We've actually stumbled upon something really exciting. What we have found is that First Nations people have more potent antibodies than non First Nations, which is the opposite of what we expected. Our working hypothesis now is that there is a higher circulation of the bacteria among these groups. This has the effect of boosting your immune system if you're healthy, but also inciting higher rates of infection among people with weakened immune systems."

Dr. Eli Nix
NOSM Postdoctoral Fellow

$96,000 Awarded to Medical Students for Research

The eighth annual NOSM Dean's Summer Medical Student Research Awards were awarded to 16 medical students in July. The awards, valued at $6,000 each, provide opportunities for students to engage with the School's knowledgeable faculty and partake in scholarly activity. The number of NOSM's 2013 Dean's Summer Medical Student Research Awards has doubled from 2012. "We encourage opportunities for medical students to conduct research projects at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine," says Dr. Greg Ross, NOSM's Associate Dean of Research. "These awards benefit three distinct populations: students, who are able to participate in research and engage with faculty; faculty, who often identify that they enjoy fresh perspectives and varied opportunities for teaching; and the people of Northern Ontario, for whom our research is intended."

Research to Improve LGBTQ Health Education

Second-year NOSM medical student Cara Collins, originally from North Bay, was one of the Dean's Summer Medical Student Research Awards recipients. According to Collins and her research supervisor Dr. Stacey Ritz, disclosing sexual orientation is often a difficult part of seeking medical treatment for people who identify as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer). Many members of the LGBTQ community report negative experiences when coming out to their health-care provider, and small changes in medical practice can make a big difference. As a result of the award, Collins was able to dedicate her summer to researching attitudes and beliefs of NOSM learners, residents, and faculty, while also undertaking an analysis of NOSM curriculum on the topic. Once her research project is complete, Collins is looking forward to contributing to curriculum development at NOSM, and providing feedback to NOSM students, residents, and faculty regarding ways to improve patient care.

Faster Testing for Blue-Green Algae



Musky Bay, French River

Each year, northeastern Ontarians face the closure of their waterways due to the presence of cyanobacteria, known commonly as blue-green algae. Although lakes are routinely tested for the bacteria, the current testing procedure leaves a week between the time the water is tested, and the time the waterway is closed.

NOSM Researcher Dr. Joe Eibl and his colleague Gerry Dignard of Canadian Shield Consultants are developing a new, faster method of screening waterways for blue-green algae blooms. Their research suggests that blue-green algae can be identified aerially, using photographic technology that visualizes pigments of the live bacteria. Currently in the validation stage, Eibl and Dignard are hoping to create an off-the-shelf technology that can be used quite broadly across the North. Working to ultimately improve the health of Northern Ontario waterways and the people who rely on them, Eibl and Dignard's next steps will be to investigate how to prevent blue-green algae blooms all together.

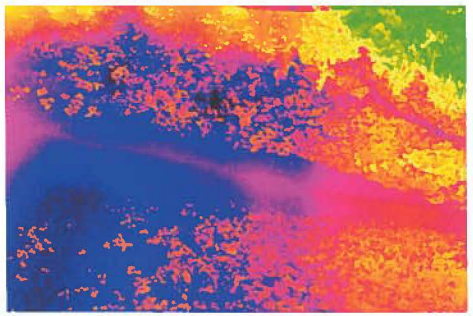


Using aerial surveillance (provided by Canadian Shield Consultants), Eibl and his colleagues assess levels of blue-green algae using photographic technology.

"We are pioneering novel technology that we are then combining with existing photographic technology, used in the resource industry. This allows us to detect the chlorophyll in the blue-green algae very quickly. Quicker identification would mean significantly reduced risk of exposure and illness to the surrounding communities."

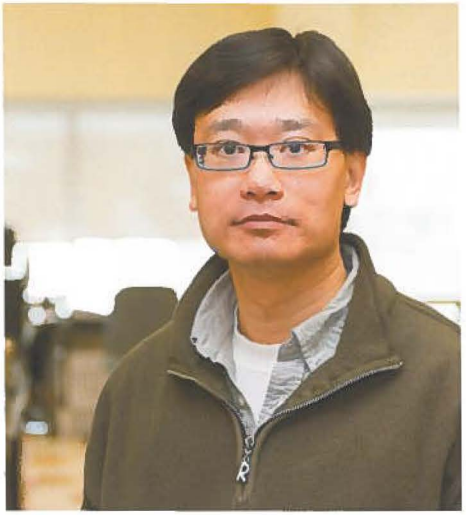
Dr. Joe Eibl
NOSM Research Lab Coordinator and Postdoctoral Fellow





Waterway (top) is identified as contaminated with blue-green algae via photographic technology (rendered image below). A change in pigment quickly identifies potential algal blooms.

Researcher Examines High Blood Pressure



High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, affects one in four adults globally, causing a quarter of the world's population to be at an increased risk of stroke and cardiovascular diseases such as heart attacks. In North America, hypertension affects 70 percent of the adult population over the age of 60. With statistics like these, it is no wonder that NOSM Associate Professor Dr. TC Tai has dedicated his life's work to hypertension research.

Tai is investigating how hypertension is developed and maintained by studying genes that may be linked to hypertension. Although there are many factors that influence hypertension, he is also researching how environmental factors (such as chronic stress and fetal stress during development) can lead to hypertension. Tai believes he and his team will be able to devise therapeutic strategies that will minimize hypertension development.

"I am based in the North, but collaborate with researchers around the world. The innovative work researchers are doing in Northern Ontario has put NOSM on the map. In nine short years, NOSM researchers have gained international reputations as leaders in our fields. It's been quite an exciting evolution."

Dr. TC Tai
NOSM Researcher and Associate Professor

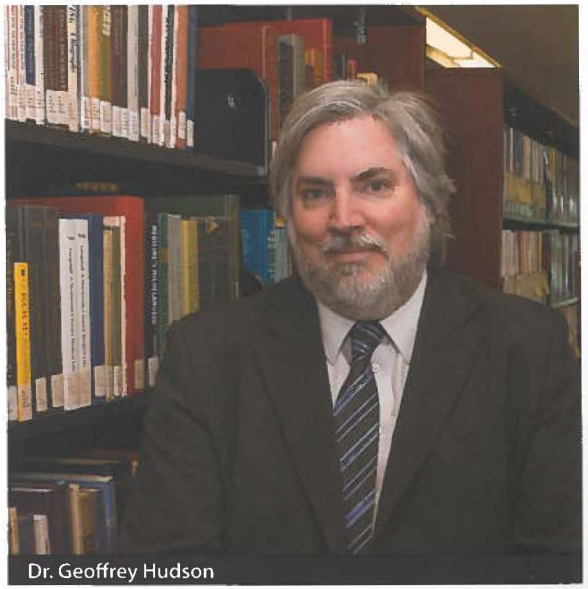
Medical School Professor Investigates Shifting Perspectives of Disability

Associate Professor and social historian of medicine, Dr. Geoffrey Hudson is currently undertaking a number of research projects relating to the history of disability.

One project is called "Advocating for Full Citizenship: Disabled Persons, Health and Social Policy, and the Ontario Government, 1975-1995." The goal: to broaden our understanding of the development of disability policy and its impact on health. There is a significant Northern Ontario component to it.

According to Hudson, disability research provides an analytical tool through which we can better understand how society operates. "Traditionally, disabled folks have been regarded as people who needed to be fixed or changed, so that they fit into society. The new social theory of disability provides a different perspective. Rather than fixing the disabled to fit in, the focus has shifted to changing what we do to enable the participation of people with disabilities at every level of society."

Hudson's research has been widely published, and he has been active in writing parts of the School's MD curriculum along with colleagues. Hudson has, for example, written case-based learning sessions, one of which has medical students discuss new theories about disability. "Ultimately, it's about social justice," says Hudson. "It's about treating disabled people in ways that respect their dignity and their rights to participate in community life."



Dr. Geoffrey Hudson

NODIP Experiences Shape RDs Career

"NODIP ensures Dietetic Interns have as rich an experience as possible, building on individual interests and focusing on learning needs. Another huge benefit is networking with other RDs in the North. Dietetics is a really small profession, especially in the North, so it is great to come out of the program with many contacts."

Erin Reyce, RD, Public Health Dietitian
Graduate of NOSM's
Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program



Erin Reyce, Public Health Dietitian with the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, graduated from the Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program at NOSM in August 2008. Reyce is one of over 50 NODIP graduates employed as a Registered Dietitian (RD) in Northern Ontario. Reyce has been involved in collaborating with Aboriginal organizations on a diabetes prevention project.

To inform the direction of the project, Reyce and her colleagues conducted interviews with staff from First Nations and Aboriginal organizations to learn about the food security and food access issues Aboriginal peoples face. This helped identify gaps in programming as well as training needs of staff. The collaboration has since been working on a variety of nutrition and physical activity initiatives—with public health staff supporting a community kitchens project promoting the use of slow cookers and the implementation of local Good Food Box programs.

Reyce credits the extensive orientation to public health with NODIP as key to her interest in community-based nutrition projects, particularly working with Aboriginal peoples and communities.

Painless Alternative to Surgery



It has been quite a journey, but Fort William-raised Dr. Naana Jumah, NOSM Assistant Professor in Women's Health, has finally returned home to Thunder Bay. Jumah stumbled upon a love of medicine while completing her PhD at Oxford University in medical engineering, and decided to retrain to become a gynecologist.

Jumah is currently working in Thunder Bay both as a clinician and a researcher, investigating a novel way of treating painful uterine fibroids. Fibroids affect almost half of women, and when symptomatic, require surgery. Jumah is researching alternative approach—the use of High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU)—to treat the fibroids as an alternative to surgery. Rather than emitting low-energy ultrasound waves commonly used during pregnancy, HIFU uses high-energy waves that heat and shrink the fibroids over time. The Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) is currently the only centre in Canada using HIFU to treat symptomatic fibroids. If all goes well with Jumah's trial, she is hopeful that similar methods can be used in other clinical applications, such as in the treatment of prostate cancer and painful bone metastases.

"This project appeals to my technical side—I get to investigate the technical capabilities of the new use of ultrasound, and look at what's involved from an engineering perspective. And as a clinician, I am excited to provide women with non-surgical, effective options to help them feel better. I love being able to work on the design of this project, while also seeing how the treatment changes the lives of my patients."

Dr. Naana Jumah
NOSM Assistant Professor, Women's Health

Health Professional Education Goes Wild



WildER Med participants learn to create and sustain a fire, an essential survival skill.

WildER Med is an educational experience like no other in Canada, held each fall on Manitoulin Island. Health-care professionals and outdoor enthusiasts learn medical, navigational, and survival skills. Consolidating knowledge from WildER Med lectures and workshops, participants orienteer through bush and swamp to find and assist standardized patients (representatives from Debajehmujig Storytellers and the Aboriginal Theatre Company) who are trained to portray a true-to-life medical situation, ranging from open chest wounds to anaphylactic shock.

With funding from the Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association's Innovation Fund, NOSM faculty members Drs. Maurianne Reade, Nick Jeeves, Marion Maar, and Ms. Tara Rollins, along with NOSM MD student Heather Anne Smith have been researching the impact of the WildER Med program—a non-traditional, wilderness-based educational experience—on the acquisition of interprofessional competencies.

"Work in health care occurs increasingly in multidisciplinary teams, yet little direct training or education is applied to helping people work most effectively within these environments," says Jeeves. "We want to know if participation in multidisciplinary teams is enough to enable acquisition and retention of interprofessional competencies?"

The WildER Med research team has evidence to suggest that wilderness medicine may transform health-care delivery by offering authentic learning opportunities to enhance interprofessional collaboration. "We teach wilderness medicine, but really, the program is about working with limited resources," says Reade. "It's about lateral thinking, communication skills, and working under pressure for the benefit of our patients, our neighbours, and whomever we come across who needs help."

> "Some say, 'I work in a clinic. Why do I need to learn this?' Well, you could be canoeing on your holidays, or driving down the road and see an accident. You might be an exceptional health professional, but how will you react if you don't have cell reception, a saline drip, or a suture kit? WildER Med teaches people to be resourceful, and use what they can find around them to help someone in need."
>
> **Bill Cranston**
> **Paramedic on Manitoulin Island and member of the WildER team**

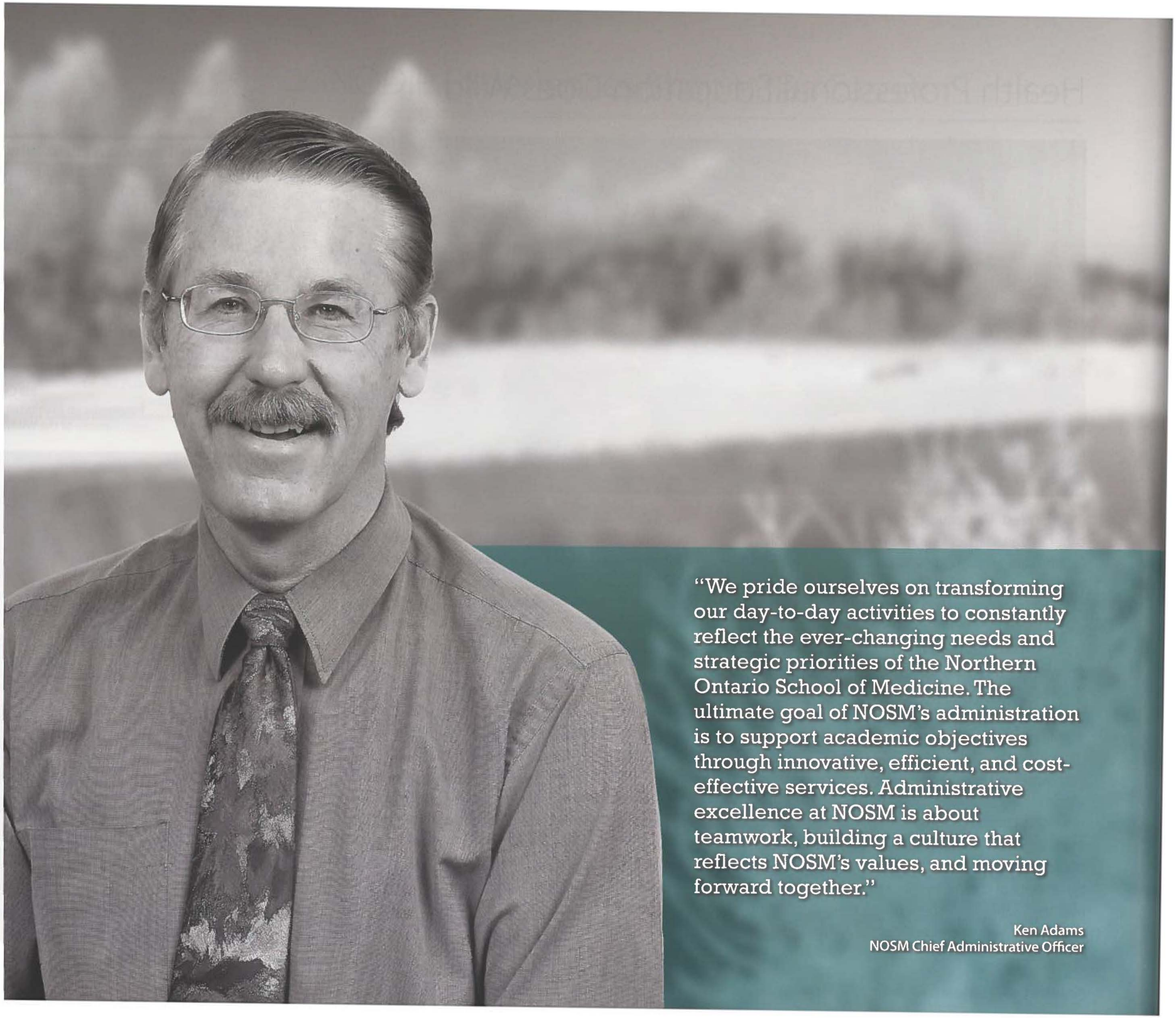


Using scant resources, participants construct a sling.



Participants practice attending to wilderness emergencies.

Organizational Effectiveness



"We pride ourselves on transforming our day-to-day activities to constantly reflect the ever-changing needs and strategic priorities of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. The ultimate goal of NOSM's administration is to support academic objectives through innovative, efficient, and cost-effective services. Administrative excellence at NOSM is about teamwork, building a culture that reflects NOSM's values, and moving forward together."

Ken Adams
NOSM Chief Administrative Officer

NOSM Dean Reappointed Until 2019


Dr. Roger Strasser

Dr. Roger Strasser, Dean of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, has been reappointed for a five-year term as Dean beginning on July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2019. The recommendation to renew Dr. Strasser for an additional five-year term was approved by the Boards of NOSM, Laurentian University, and Lakehead University.

"In just eight years, NOSM has grown from being Canada's newest medical school to a national and international leader in innovative health professional education," said Dominic Giroux, Chair of NOSM's Board of Directors and President of Laurentian University. "As NOSM moves into the latter part of this decade under Dr. Strasser's leadership, we look forward to the development of the future strategic directions for the School, as well as exciting momentum in research and fundraising."

"I am pleased to congratulate Dr. Roger Strasser on his reappointment, and look forward to the continued success of NOSM under his leadership," said Dr. Brian J.R. Stevenson, Vice-Chair of NOSM's Board of Directors and President of Lakehead University.

"It has been very rewarding to witness the difference NOSM is making to the health of people and communities across Northern Ontario."

Dr. Brian J.R.Stevenson
Vice-Chair of NOSM's Board of Directors and President of Lakehead University

Sweden Delegation Visits NOSM for Answers

Similar to Northern Ontario, communities in northern Sweden are experiencing severe shortages of health professionals. Approximately 40 percent of family physician positions are vacant in the region—a significant challenge that educators, administrators, and policy makers in Sweden are having a difficult time addressing.

A delegation of eight medical educators and service providers travelled to NOSM from October 7-9 to learn from the medical school's successful model of distributed, socially accountable medical education. They met with a variety of individuals and units at NOSM to discover how the School's holistic strategy has positively impacted recruitment in Northern Ontario.

"We heard Dr. Roger Strasser speak about NOSM in Sweden about a year ago," says Dr. Herbert Sandstörm, Associate Professor at Umeå University in Sweden. "His talk about the Northern Ontario School of Medicine really piqued our interest at looking at the successes of NOSM, and how a similar model might help us in Sweden."


Senior leaders welcome Swedish delegation (left to right): Dr. Olov Rolandsson, Dr. Herbert Sandstrom, Dr. David Marsh, Marcus Claesson, Dr. Roger Strasser, Eva-Lena Holmkvist Parkstrom, Dr. Hakan Larsson, and Dr. Markus Kallioinen

Dr. Janice Willett Appointed Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs

> "I look forward to continuing work with NOSM's 1,300 faculty in pursuit of excellence in academics, support of our programs and learners, and in improving opportunities for academic development and satisfaction.
>
> **Dr. Janice Willett**
> **NOSM Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs**



In November, Dr. Janice Willett was appointed NOSM's Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs. Ensuring that NOSM's faculty members have the support they require to enhance their teaching, research, and other scholarly activities, Willett is responsible for the leadership of NOSM's Faculty Affairs portfolio, including the Continuing Education and Professional Development (CEPD) program. Willett was appointed Head of the Clinical Sciences Division at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine in 2010 and Chair of NOSM's Academic Council in 2012.

Willett has been in medical practice for 24 years. She is a medical graduate of the University of Western Ontario, London, where she completed postgraduate training in the specialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has practised in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario since 1992 with her husband, who is a surgeon.



Farewell to Dr. Lisa Graves, Former Associate Dean, UME

NOSM congratulates and bids adieu to Dr. Lisa Graves who has been appointed the Chief of Family and Community Medicine at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, effective January 2014.

During her time as Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) at NOSM, Graves provided strong and effective leadership, and saw the UME program through significant challenges, including an expanding class size, the full Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS)/Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) Accreditation Site Visit, and the Institutional Quality Assurance Process review. Attaining full MD program accreditation for the maximum available eight years was a phenomenal achievement, which is a huge credit to Graves and the teams who worked with her.

Thank you to Dr. Graves for her tremendous contribution to NOSM.

Welcome New Assistant Deans



Dr. David MacLean, Assistant Dean, Research
Dr. David MacLean was named Assistant Dean of Research on July 1. In this role, MacLean is working to foster NOSM's research culture, promote excellence and innovation, and encourage research activities that positively impact the health of those living in Northern communities.



Dr. Owen Prowse, Assistant Dean, Admissions
Named Assistant Dean of Admissions on August 1, Dr. Owen Prowse is responsible for all aspects of planning, implementing, and evaluating NOSM's MD admissions process, as well as for the recruitment of applicants to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

Staff, Faculty, and Learner Excellence

NOSM's Awards of Excellence celebrate staff, faculty, and learners of the School across the North who, through their individual efforts and accomplishments, have contributed to NOSM's vision of *Innovative education and research for a healthier North.*

"What makes these Awards of Excellence extra special is that they are peer- and learner-nominated," says Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean. "These individuals have shown themselves to be shining examples among those who work with and learn from them, and serve as a true testament to the dedication of so many to the School's vision."

Recipients of the Staff Awards of Excellence (Peer Nominated)

- Innovation — Robyn Braid
- Inspiration — Kim Daynard
- Leadership — Dr. Catherine Cervin
- Positive Attitude — Darren Foulds
- Reliability — Marian Diamond
- Service Excellence — Donna Brown
- Team Player — Kimberley Larkin
- Team Effort — Admissions (Cathy Gosselin, Julie Pacifico, and Cortney St. Jean)



Faculty and learner award recipients (left to right): Samuel Peters, Crystal Morra, Dr. Mauriane Reade, and Mallory Granholm.

Recipients of the Faculty Awards of Excellence (Learner Nominated)

- Dr. Maurianne Reade — Clinical Faculty Member
- Crystal Morra, RD — NODIP Preceptor

Recipients of the Learner Awards of Excellence (Peer Nominated)

- Mallory Granholm
- Samuel Peters

NOSM's Years of Service program, launched in 2012, recognizes individual employees for continuous years of dedication and commitment to the School.

Congratulations and thank you to all recipients for their service.

10 Years of Service

- Marlene Bodson
- Rita Campbell
- Kristy Côté
- Mike Korolenko
- Nicole Lauzon
- Joe Lipinski
- Deborah Modin
- Sherry Mongeau
- Kathryn Needham

5 Years of Service

- Ken Adams
- Gayle Adams-Carpino
- Sue Berry
- John Dabous
- Demetrios Demetrakopoulos
- Marian Diamond
- Nova Donaldson
- Mark Facca
- John Friesen
- Catherine Jones
- Kate Kearney
- Tracy Laird
- Allison Law
- Michael Lenardon
- Teena McLaren
- Joseph Modi
- Julie Rendell
- Elise Rheaume
- Rachel Schaaf
- Yuk-Sem Won



Staff award recipients (left to right): Marian Diamond, Cathy Gosselin, Julie Pacifico, Donna Brown, Kim Daynard, Darren Foulds, Kimberley Larkin, Robyn Braid, Cortney St. Jean, and Dr. Catherine Cervin

Loosely Inspired by Us

"Loosely based on the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, the location is both a central character and defines the ambience... Let's just say *Hard Rock Medical* (created by Derek Diorio and Smith Corindia) is a fine surprise in the medical-drama genre and well worth your time."

John Doyle
***The Globe and Mail*, February 18, 2014**

"To me, *Hard Rock Medical* is more than a TV show; it's a reflection of many of my realities here in the North."

Actor Stéphane Paquette
(who plays Charlie Rivière in *Hard Rock Medical*)
***Huffington Post Canada*, July 19, 2013**

"Unapologetically northern in scope, the 30-minute episodes deal with things actual med school students at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine might face."

Jenny Jelen
***Northern Life*, June 4, 2013**

Extracting buckshot from the back of a hunter's head in a mosquito-infested tent may not sound like medical school. But that's an example of the day-to-day reality of the medical students in the TVO drama *Hard Rock Medical*, a new series that is loosely inspired by NOSM. The 13-episode first season tells the story of the fictional Northern Ontario medical school's unorthodox approach, where students interact with hunters, trappers, miners, and other colourful Northerners, as part of their studies.

"*Hard Rock Medical* shines a light on the health-care challenges in Northern Ontario that were the motivation for developing NOSM's unique model of medical education," says Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean. "At the same time, the series places the rewards of learning in Northern Ontario at the heart of its story. We're pleased that *Hard Rock Medical* reflects NOSM's sentiment—Northern Ontario is an exciting place to live and learn."

A Canadian-Australian co-production, the series aired during the summer of 2013. *Hard Rock Medical* is being televised on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) across Canada and on National Indigenous Television (NITV) in Australia in 2014.



NOSM staff, faculty, family, and friends view the advanced screening of *Hard Rock Medical* in Sudbury.

Special Advance Screening of *Hard Rock Medical*

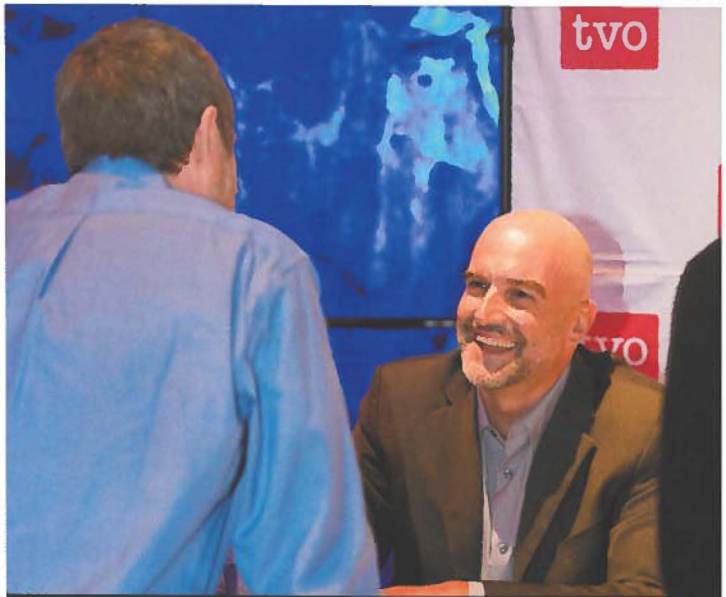
On June 5, staff, faculty, and friends of NOSM visited the SilverCity Cinemas in Sudbury and Thunder Bay to preview the first two episodes of the television series that was inspired by the School.

Series writer Smith Corindia and cast member Jamie Spilchuk (who plays medical student Cameron Cahill) were on hand at the advance screening of *Hard Rock Medical* in Thunder Bay to answer questions from the audience. In Sudbury, co-creator, producer, director and writer Derek Diorio and cast member Stéphane Paquette (who plays medical student Charlie Rivière) spoke about their experiences of being part of the production.

Medical student interview scene from *Hard Rock Medical* with (from left) Patrick McKenna as Dr. Fraser Healy, Kyra Harper as Dr. Julie Cardinal, Christian Laurin as Dr. Raymond Dallaire, and Danielle Bourgon as Dr. Louise Helvi.



Stéphane Paquette (actor who portrays Charlie Riviére) and Tamara Maria Duarte (who portrays Gina Russo) discuss their experiences filming *Hard Rock Medical* at the TVO series launch.



NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser, meets *Hard Rock Medical's* Dean, Dr. Raymond Dallaire, played by Christian Laurin.

Staff and Faculty Show Social Accountability Runs Deep

Leading up to the holiday season, NOSM's Healthy Workplace Group (HWG) organized 13 days of celebration, which included a series of activities intended to build camaraderie, encourage team building, contribute to a positive work culture at NOSM, and provide ways for demonstrating spirit among staff and faculty.

All activities, which included cultural celebrations, wreath and door decorating contests, and peer recognition opportunities were created by the HWG to highlight the School's values of innovation, social accountability, collaboration, inclusiveness, and respect.



HWG's activities build camaraderie.

Participation at NOSM's campuses at Laurentian University and Lakehead University was outstanding, and demonstrated the professional and personal commitment staff and faculty have to the communities they serve, as employees looked for ways to make the holidays a little bit brighter for those with less.

Over the course of the 13 days, staff and faculty generously contributed over $5,000 (a combination of cash and donated items in kind) in support of various community organizations, including:

- Guiding Light Food Bank, Sudbury
- New Hope Outreach Services (Samaritan House), Sudbury
- Sudbury Children's Aid Society
- Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society
- Thunder Bay Shelter House
- Thunder Bay Regional Food Distribution Association

"On behalf of the Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay and the families and children we work with, please accept our sincere gratitude for participating in our 2013 Christmas Hamper Program. The generosity and caring spirit of NOSM's staff and faculty touched the hearts of all involved, especially the grateful recipient families."

Rob Richardson, Executive Director and Tabitha Zela, Christmas Program Coordinator The Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society



Sustaining the Future



"A distributed, community-engaged model such as the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's is sustainable thanks to the passion and participation of so many across the North. I have witnessed the devotion of our clinical, human, and medical sciences faculty, whose contributions are vital in working towards a healthier North. Our model requires not only the support of our distributed faculty, but also our staff, communities, donors, and our many partner organizations. NOSM's success proves that when people work together for a better future, we can truly inspire change."

Dr. Janice Willett
NOSM Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs

Student Bursary Recipient Thankful for Community Support

> "Speaking on behalf of all NOSM students, I feel I can say that medical school is not an individual endeavour, but rather one that is accomplished best with the support of friends, family, and community. The *Bring a Doctor Home Bursary* is an exemplary demonstration of this community contribution."
>
> **Dr. Megan Culina**
> **NOSM Family Medicine Resident**



Dr. Megan Culina, now in her first year of NOSM's Family Medicine residency program, was the 2013 recipient of the *Bring a Doctor Home Bursary*, which was created to support medical students at NOSM who hail from Sault Ste. Marie.

For the past eight years, volunteer employees and retirees of Essar Steel Algoma Inc. have come together for a Bring a Doctor Home hockey tournament in support of the medical student bursary. Since 2006, the tournament has raised over $160,000.

"Being the recipient of the *Bring a Doctor Home Bursary* made me feel very proud," says Culina. "Not proud for myself, but for my community. It is so remarkable that the town of Sault Ste. Marie is able to come together and organize such a large event to help support NOSM students in their journey to becoming physicians."

Culina completed her third-year community clerkship in Sault Ste. Marie, where she was born and raised, and attributes this opportunity to reinforcing the fact that Sault Ste. Marie is where she wants to live and work after her training. Culina is grateful for the support—including the financial support received with the *Bring a Doctor Home Bursary*—she has received from her community.



Players support the Bring a Doctor Home tournament.



The Bring a Doctor Home Organizing Committee works tirelessly to raise funds for NOSM students.

MASH Bash Supports NOSM Student Bursary



NOSM's Advancement Unit: Katie Biasiol, Kathy Needham, and Gail Brescia.

A warehouse at Lopes Ltd. was transformed into the 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, where guests enjoyed a live band and auction at NOSM's first MASH Bash.

NOSM is working towards the day when physicians are waiting for patients, and shortages are a thing of the past. For many students, the financial support they receive from the School enables them to follow their dreams of becoming physicians, and helping to improve the health of their communities.

This year, NOSM hosted an event to generate funds for NOSM student bursaries. Inspired by the television series M*A*S*H, NOSM held the inaugural MASH Bash in Coniston (a short drive from Sudbury) on May 3. A warehouse at Lopes Ltd. was transformed into the 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, set in the Korean War. The scene was complete with medical learners in army fatigues, and those in attendance dressed as doctors, nurses, and characters from the series, including Hot Lips Houlihan, Klinger, and Radar.



Dr. Roger Strasser, Gina Kennedy, Dr. Stacey Ritz, and Patty Fink

MASH Bash was a resounding success thanks to the immense amount of time, resources, and energy provided by: Felix Lopes Jr. and Liane Lambert who led the organizing committee that was responsible for planning the event; the countless sponsors who made generous donations in support of NOSM student bursaries; and the medical learners who assisted in making the event as true to the television series as possible.



NOSM medical students with Felix Lopes Jr. (right).

Board of Directors

Mr. Dominic Giroux
Chair, Laurentian University, Sudbury

Dr. Brian J.R. Stevenson
Vice-Chair, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay

Dr. Roger Strasser
Secretary, NOSM Dean and CEO

Dr. Robert Algie
Fort Frances

Ms. Angèle Brunelle
Thunder Bay

Mr. Kevin Cleghorn
Thunder Bay

Dr. Roger Couture
Sudbury

Dr. George Doig
Thunder Bay

Ms. Kathryn Gibson
Sudbury

Mr. James Morris
Sioux Lookout

Dr. Lori Livingston
Thunder Bay

Dr. Louise Logan
Sudbury

Dr. Teresa O'Driscoll
Sioux Lookout

Mr. Ben Petersen
Sudbury

Mr. Tim Pile
Thunder Bay

Ms. Angela Robson
Sudbury

Ms. Carolyn Sinclair
Sudbury

Thank you to NOSM's departing Board members:

Mr. Derek Debassige
M'Chigeeng

Dr. Chris Allison
Thunder Bay

Ms. Tracy Buckler
Thunder Bay

Ms. Jackie Dojack
Thunder Bay

Ms. Debbie Lipscombe
Kenora

Mayor Marianne Matichuk
Sudbury

Ms. Rosie Mosquito
Thunder Bay

Dr. Claire Perreault
Sudbury

Dr. Liane Villano
Sudbury

Board of Directors Meet Face to Face in Fort Frances

NOSM's Board of Directors assesses the overall direction and strategy of the School. By design, its members hail from across Northern Ontario. Although much of the business of the Board is done remotely, the directors meet face to face every May in a different Northern Ontario community. In doing so, the Board can ensure that the decisions they make are reflective of the needs of Northern Ontario faculty members, staff, learners, and local community members.

In 2013, NOSM's Board came together in Fort Frances. While there, they toured La Verendrye General Hospital and the Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services, where NOSM learners undertake training as part of the School's distinctive distributed, community-engaged learning and research model.



Dr. Claire Perreault, NOSM Assistant Professor, Surgery, participates in face-to-face Board meeting.



Occupational therapy learners Lauren Wou and Paula Voigt were present at the Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services to speak to the Board about their rewarding experiences training in the Fort Frances area where, before 2013, occupational therapy education was not available.



NOSM's Board of Directors experience local cuisine in Fort Frances.

Remembering Dr. Neil McLeod and Elder Louis Waswa

In the spring of 2013, NOSM received news of the passing of two individuals who made vital contributions to the School. Both Dr. Neil McLeod and Elder Louis Waswa will be long remembered at NOSM for their friendship and contributions to the School's development.

Dr. Neil Stanley McLeod

Dr. McLeod had a long and rich involvement with NOSM. He was a founding preceptor to the Northwestern Ontario Medical Program (NOMP) and a member of Lakehead University's Board of Governors. From 2003 to 2011, he sat as a founding member on NOSM's Board of Directors and was integral in the creation and development of the School. Dr. McLeod passed away on April 9.

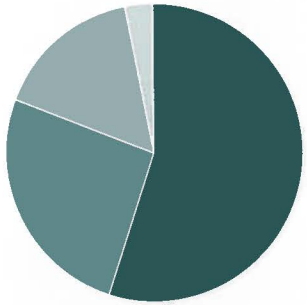
Aboriginal Elder Louis Waswa

Elder Waswa was a long-standing NOSM Elder from Eabamatoong First Nation in Fort Hope. He was largely involved with the Aboriginal Reference Group. During his history with NOSM, Elder Waswa shared his extensive knowledge with many learners, faculty and staff. He was also an Elder and the Director of Legal Services for the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN). Elder Louis Waswa passed to the Spirit on April 16.

Committed to a Balanced Budget

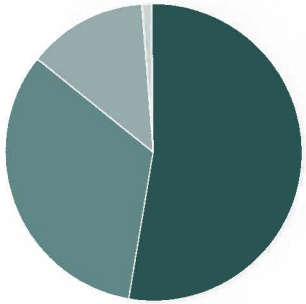
The Northern Ontario School of Medicine maintains a commitment to fiscal responsibility. Operating in an environment of a fixed formula-based funding model provides significant fiscal pressures. An ongoing commitment to cost containment and diligence in the management of discretionary expenditures has enabled NOSM to ensure that its budget is balanced where total revenues are equal to total expenditures.

2012-2013 Financial Overview



Expenses

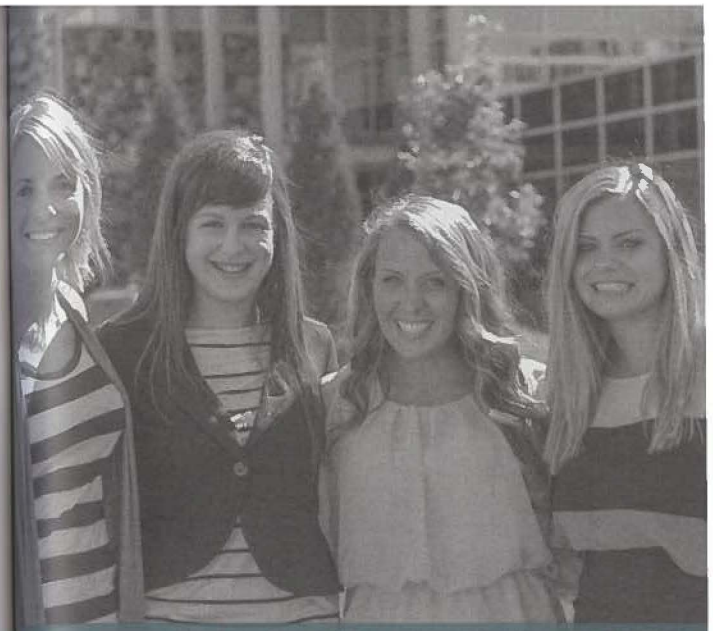
Salaries and Benefits	$22,295,000	55%
Educational Operating Costs	$10,659,000	26%
Other Operating Costs	$6,351,000	16%
Capital Expenditures	$1,345,000	3%



Income

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU)	$21,533,000	53%
Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MoHLTC)	$13,534,000	33%
Tuition and Other Fees	$5,097,000	13%
Other	$486,000	1%

Budgeted Sources of Funding	$40,650,000
Approved Budget Expenditures	$40,650,000



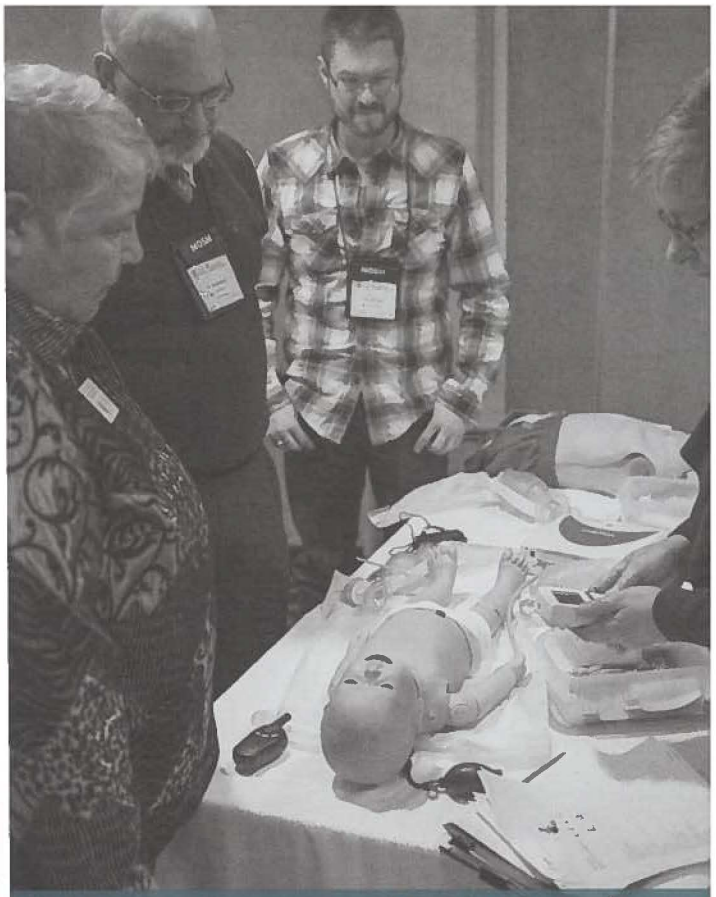
Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program (NODIP) students celebrate the completion of their program.



TVO launch of *Hard Rock Medical,* inspired by NOSM.



MD graduates at NOSM's East Campus at Laurentian University in Sudbury.



Participants learn about simulation with SimBaby at the annual faculty development conference, Northern Constellations.



Aborigional MD graduates at NOSM's West Campus at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.



NOSM welcomes Aboriginal Elders from across the North to the Elders Gathering in Thunder Bay.



NOSM's medical students set the scene at MASH Bash.



Northern Ontario
School of Medicine

École de médecine
du Nord de l'Ontario

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