

In this issue:
... Our Communities

- 2** Putting med students under the microscope
- 3** Postgrad programs mark major milestone
- 4** CCC Community Profile: Sioux Lookout & Temiskaming Shores
- 5** Workshop improves Aboriginal ICE module
- 6** "La grande séduction" dans le Nord de l'Ontario
- 6** Les francophones et les 'francophiles' célèbrent le fait français
- 7** Faculty Profile: Dr. Silvana Spadafora
- 8** Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario: NOSM Summer Medical Student Research



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2007 admissions interviews held

It is often said, the hardest part about medical school is getting in. While that may be an exaggeration, selecting the right student is a difficult and challenging process, both for the

applicant, and the school.

This is doubly the case at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, which has a clear social mandate to the peoples and communities of the North.

To achieve this high standard NOSM uses an intensive admissions process. It involves an initial screening, followed by an interview. NOSM recently completed the interviews for next year's class. It involved 415 separate candidates.

"With so many applicants interviewed over two weekends, this is a huge logistical exercise and a great challenge for all involved," says Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM's Founding Dean. "Many students, faculty and staff members, as well as individuals from the communities of Northern Ontario (not just Sudbury and Thunder Bay), contribute considerable time and effort to the success of the

Continued on p. 3

School attracts significant funds

While medical schools are all about health and well-being, they are also significant economic engines. The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is proving this point with recent funding announcements totalling over a \$½-million in new money.

This money will go to support initiatives such as the new Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program, Interprofessional Education Programs (IPEP) and Rehabilitation Studies.

"These are great news stories for the entire North," says NOSM Founding Dean Dr. Roger Strasser. "It shows the School's continued commitment to the principles of interdisciplinary education, but it also shows how the School is creating whole

Continued on p. 7

NOSM Students give talk in New Zealand

What began as a small research project turned into a journey that took Lana Potts and Nicole Beauvais across Canada, and to the other side of the world.

In doing so, these two Charter Class members taught people about some of the injustices suffered by Canada's Aboriginal people. But in this teaching, Beauvais and Potts also learned about the wisdom, strength and pride of Indigenous Peoples from all over this planet.

"In New Zealand I came to understand that we are part of something much greater," says Beauvais. "Sometimes at medical school, you can get so lost in the details, you can forget why you are here. Going to New Zealand allowed me to step back and remember why I am working so hard."

Continued on p. 5



Charter Class student Lana Potts takes the big plunge over a waterfall while enjoying some relaxing time during her recent visit to New Zealand.

Putting med students under the microscope

The Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR) is collaborating with NOSM on a multi-year tracking study of the students and (eventually) graduates of NOSM.

This study will follow the students as they progress from undergraduate medical education, to residency training, to medical practice. The objective is to observe the actual career path NOSM students follow.

Nathalie Cloutier is a research associate at CRaNHR, and is involved in the NOSM project. She says that while there have been similar

studies done elsewhere, the School offers a unique opportunity. "NOSM is a brand new medical school. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to track the students from day one, and find out how they progress through their education and career."

As Cloutier explains, there is a growing, but small, body of research which shows that training physicians in non-urban settings prepares them to practice in Northern or rural communities. The CRaNHR study will run over a long term to really test this hypothesis. By

finding out how the students fare at NOSM, where the graduates work, what they do, and how they practice medicine, CRaNHR expects to add to this growing body of research.

"Since NOSM has a special mandate to train physicians to work in rural and Northern areas, it is important to find out how this mandate will be fulfilled," says Cloutier. "This study will hopefully contribute to this body of research by providing new evidence from a unique Canadian medical education experiment. It will hopefully strengthen our understanding about rural/northern medical education."

The findings of this study will have implications not just for NOSM, but also for medical education and rural medicine in the rest of Canada, and around the world.

The study actually began in 2005 with the arrival of NOSM's Charter Class. CRaNHR has just completed surveying the second cohort of first-year students.

"The cooperation we have received from the students has been incredible," says Cloutier. "CRaNHR and NOSM researchers really appreciate the support from the students in completing the surveys and participating in the interviews."

Based at Laurentian and Lakehead Universities, CRaNHR is an interdisciplinary research centre, nationally recognized for its research on rural and northern health issues, including many studies on rural physicians and rural medical education.

Clerkship program a world leader

When the members of NOSM's Charter Class begin their third year of study they will once again be leading the world in medical education innovation.

The third year of medical school is traditionally spent at large teaching hospitals in major urban centres. Students usually undertake four to six week clerkship rotations, with each one focusing on a different medical specialty.

Through the Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC), NOSM is turning this approach on its head. Instead of sending students to large urban teaching hospital all 56 of NOSM's third-year medical students will spend their academic year, living and learning, in 10 communities across Northern Ontario.

As visiting professor Dr. Lucie Walters from Flinders University in Adelaide Australia says, this makes NOSM a global leader when it comes to integrated community medical education.

"NOSM is unique in the world," she said during her recent symposium presentation on integrated community clerkships. "There are many medical schools that offer community-based programs, but none have all students experience the community-based learning in their third year."

Continued on p. 4

Upcoming NOSM Symposia

Times: 12:00 – 13:30 Eastern, 11:00 – 12:30 Central

The NOSM Symposium Series consists of presentations provided by nationally and internationally recognized experts. Presenters are selected by the Heads of the Clinical Sciences, Medical Sciences and Human Sciences Divisions at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

The Division Heads identify presenters who promote the exchange of information on key topical issues, developments and trends in medicine and

medical education. The Symposium Series enables communities, students, academics and researchers to network and explore opportunities to collaborate. The NOSM Symposium sessions are open to the public and are presented live, via video conference and as webcasts. For further information go to www.normed.ca or contact Sherry Carlucci at 705-662-7257 or sherry.carlucci@normed.ca.

April 19, 2007

Speaker: Dr. John Coyle, Harvard Medical School

Topic: Mental Illness and Schizophrenia

April 26, 2007

Speaker: Dr. Paul Worley, Flinders University, Australia

Topic: Innovation in Medical Education: The Place of the Comprehensive Community Clerkship

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Speaker: Dr. Roger Strasser, et al

Topic: NOSM Update

Postgrad programs mark major milestone

February was an important month for the Postgraduate Medical Education programs of NOSM, as the School hosted its first Canadian Residency Matching Service (CaRMS) interviews for the Family Medicine Residents of the Canadian Shield (RoCS) program. Interviews were held in both the Northeast and Northwest.



Dr. Maureen Topps

Dr. Maureen Topps is Associate Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education at NOSM. She expressed the magnitude of the NOSM Family Medicine RoCS interview process, saying many individuals worked very hard to achieve this major milestone.

"As this is the first new residency program for a Canadian medical school in thirty years, it was of great importance for us to be able to

organize, and execute, a successful interview weekend," she says. "My thanks go out to the many who helped make it work."

Over 100 interviews were conducted for NOSM's family medicine residency positions. Interviews were conducted in both Sudbury and Thunder Bay, with a number of applicants interviewing at both locations.

Medical school graduates from Canada and beyond, travel across the country to visit the residency programs to which they have

applied. Upon completion of their interviews at the different schools, the applicants submit a ranked list of their desired postgraduate programs to CaRMS.

At the same time, each postgraduate program also submits a ranked list of their preferred candidates. Using the CaRMS matching process, suitable candidates are then connected with desired programs.

NOSM's applicants were hosted at both locations by postgraduate faculty and staff, as well as members of the cities who will be part of the residents' training rotations. This includes Sudbury, Thunder Bay, North Bay, Timmins and Sault Ste Marie, as well as current residents who played a major role in organizing the interview weekend and promoting the benefits of training in the North.

The School also assisted in specialty residency interviews, as NOSM provides administrative support to the Northern Stream Specialty Program Residencies currently under the accreditation of University of Ottawa and McMaster University. Collaborating very closely with these respective universities, NOSM helps to deliver specialty training in internal medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, anesthesiology, psychiatry and orthopedics.

Upon completion of the first round of residency matching, NOSM was successful in filling the majority of both its family medicine and specialty medicine positions. The School expects to fill most of its remaining spots with the upcoming second match iteration.

Cont. from p. 1

Visiting professor learns from NOSM admissions process

interview weekends.

"Thank you for your participation."

The School uses a process developed by McMaster University's medical school known as the multiple mini interview (MMI). It involves a series of short, structured interviews that assess personal traits or qualities of each applicant.

Each mini interview provides a candidate with two minutes to read a question or a scenario, and then mentally prepare before entering the interview room.

Upon entering, the candidate has eight minutes of dialogue with the interviewer. This pattern is repeated through a circuit of stations.

NOSM is one of a select few medical schools using the MMI, which is why Dr. Margot Story from Monash University in Australia was so interested to see it in operation. Her medical school is planning to implement the MMI.

"I was incredibly impressed with how everything went like clock-work," says Story, who is an Associate Professor at Monash.

"There is clearly a lot of pre-organization that is required to make it run so smoothly."

Story says there are plenty of practical lessons she will be able to take back to Australia, but one that really stands out is the use of senior students as interviewers. This, she says, was not something they had planned to do.

"The candidates really seemed to appreciate having the second-year students there. They really added to the process," she says. "The senior students also seemed to appreciate the opportunity."

NOSM received 2,274 applications for the 2007 intake. This is 10% more than each of the last two years. As with last year, 60% of those interviewed this year are female. Amongst the 415, there are 85 (20.5%) self identified as Francophone, and 31 (7.4%) self identified as Aboriginal.

The Admissions Committee will now be assessing all candidates information. The first round of offers for the 56 selected candidates will be sent out May 15. Orientation Week for the 2007 first-year class begins on August 20.



Dr. Margot Story

Comprehensive Community Clerkships workshop held

As part of the development of the CCC, and in recognition of NOSM's global leadership role in this area, the School hosted an international workshop last summer. Under the guidance of Vice-Dean Dr. Dan Hunt, the event involved experts from across Canada, the US and Australia.

As Hunt says, "Through this workshop, and ongoing research projects, we hope to stimulate discussion around this innovative approach to medical education."

Progress on this international collaboration continues, with possible future meetings being held at Harvard University in Boston.

Here in Northern Ontario the School is working hard to prepare for the coming third year. To this end, NOSM recently held a retreat entitled *Working and Living Together*. The session brought together clinical faculty, and community members, from the 10 CCC communities, as well as NOSM faculty and staff from both campuses.

Over the coming issues of *Northern Passages* we will highlight the 10 CCC communities, beginning with Sioux Lookout and Temiskaming Shores in this issue.

CCC Community Profile: Sioux Lookout

Located on Pelican Lake, some 365 km northwest of Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout is an important economic hub for 29 First Nation communities and nearly 30,000 people.

The city gets its name from nearby Sioux Mountain, which in the late 1700's, was used by Ojibway to watch for Sioux warriors who were coming to ambush them. As the story goes, the Ojibway used the lookout to spot the Sioux as they approached. The Ojibway were then able to ambush and kill all but one of the invading Sioux.

Present day Sioux Lookout was incorporated in 1912. The city boasts a significant business sector that includes retail, transportation, communications and forestry. It also serves as the primary health care centre for people of this region. This includes the Nishnawbe-Aski communities north of Sioux Lookout, the Treaty #3 community of Lac Seul First Nation, and residents of Pickle Lake and Savant Lake.

Beginning in September, 2007 Sioux Lookout will be home to four, third-year medical students as part of the School's Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC). They will be based at the Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre.

"Meno Ya Win" is an Oji-Cree phrase that means "health, wellness, well-being." The Centre is a fully accredited facility with 36 acute care beds, five chronic care beds and a 20 bed extended care unit. Roger Walker, CEO of the Centre, says it is vital that places like Sioux Lookout be part of the School's CCC program.

"Our professional staff will provide comprehensive, patient-centred training, allowing the students to observe, learn and participate in the care of patients in a distinctively Northern environment," he says.

During their eight months in Sioux Lookout, students will be taught by local physicians, and other NOSM faculty members. Working with physician site coordinator Dr. Joanne Fry will be other members of the Local NOSM Group (LNG). The LNG is there to assist students' integration into Sioux Lookout through orientation, relevant information and introductions to other community members.

Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Founding Dean, says the people and communities of the North are integral to the success of the Comprehensive Community Clerkships.

"The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is committed to building partnerships with the communities and health organizations of Northern Ontario. The Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre, local physicians, other health care providers and other community members are welcomed partners," he says.

CCC Community Profile: Temiskaming Shores

Temiskaming Shores is a new city in Northeastern Ontario with very old roots. Created by the amalgamation of the Town of New Liskeard, the Town of Haileybury, and the Township of Dymond in 2004, it is located along the southern edge of the Clay Belt area, near the Quebec border on the shores of Lake Timiskaming.

With a direct population of nearly 11,000, and a catchment area of approximately 25,000, the Temiskaming Hospital is a bustling and busy place. It is here that four of NOSM's third-year students will be based during the coming Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC).

John West is the Temiskaming Hospital Board Chair. He is proud to be a part of a community-based medical school. "Integrating students in communities such as Temiskaming Shores is key to the development of physicians who understand and appreciate medical practice in Northern communities," he says.

The hospital is a modern 59-bed facility with a full range of inpatient and outpatient medical services. Medical staff includes 19 family practitioners, two general surgeons, an internist, three general practitioner anesthetists, and approximately 30 visiting specialists.

These specialists provide consultations in: otolaryngology, paediatrics, cardiology, neurology, orthopedics, ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynaecology, psychiatry, nephrology, orthotics, and physical and rehabilitative medicine.

Dr. Don Davies is the NOSM Physician Lead at the Hospital. He says the key aspect of the CCC is the patient-centered training students will receive. "This will allow the students to observe, learn and participate in the care of patients in a distinctively Northern environment," he says.

In preparation for the arrival of NOSM's CCC students, meetings are under way with local physicians, and other community members, who will make up Temiskaming Shores' Local NOSM Group (LNG). This group of eight to 12 individuals will act as an important link between the community and the students.

Workshop improves Aboriginal ICE module

Integration, Community-based and Culturally-focused, are more than just bumper stickers for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. They are the core of the School's educational approach.

Integrated Community Experience modules (ICE) involve students getting direct exposure to the various Northern Ontario communities.

None is more eye opening than ICE-106, which has first-year students spending four weeks, living and learning, in remote and rural Aboriginal communities in Northern Ontario.

During last year's ICE Joshane Fiddler decided to video the students' day-to-day experiences in Sandy Lake, beginning with their arrival at the airport.

"I just showed up with the camera," said Fiddler, who is Sandy Lake's Local Community Coordinator (LCC) for NOSM. "It was all completely spontaneous."

Fiddler video taped the students in various situations, including their first meeting with Chief and Council, their first shopping experience – where they were shocked at the grocery prices – and during a telehealth checkup.

This video was given to all Sandy Lake students, and was recently featured as part of this year's ICE-106 preparatory workshop that was held recently. The workshop, entitled "Sharing Experiences", brought representatives of the 28 Aboriginal ICE communities together, to discuss lessons learned from 2006, and how to make 2007 even better.

One of those lessons includes allowing the students more time for community activities.

"Doctors constantly have a tremendous demand on their time," says Dr. Dan Hunt, Vice Dean of Academic Activities. "Learning to manage these demands is an important lesson for our students, but last year's student's told us they couldn't get away to look at the community because they had too much to do.

"And they were right!"

Based on this feedback, the workshop participants recommended a slightly less hectic schedule for ICE students this year. This will allow them to participate more freely in community activities.

During the workshop the first-year students had an opportunity to meet their LCC's for the upcoming ICE. Then the group heard from a

couple of second-year students who shared their experiences.

"The students came back after [last year's] ICE-106 saying they really had a life-changing

speaking to the Workshop participants. "They were different people. You have no idea of the changes and impacts you had on our students."



Participants discuss various ways to improve the ICE-106 module during a recent workshop.

Orpah McKenzie, Director of Aboriginal Affairs at NOSM, agrees. "Immersion in these remote, rural Aboriginal communities broadens students' cultural awareness and strengthens their communications skills. These are integral skills for effective medical practice in Northern Ontario."

NOSM's students will be participating in several placements in various northern Ontario communities over their four years of medical education, ranging from remote fly-in First

Nation communities to small and mid-sized towns, to the largest cities.

experience," says Dr. Joel Lanphear, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education,

[Cont. from p. 1](#)

Students' research project uncovers another dark residential school story

The journey for Beauvais and Potts began in 2005 when they started work on a research project for Dr. Geoffrey Hudson, Historian of Medicine & Assistant Professor, Human Sciences at NOSM.

The two students decided to look at the historic question of tuberculosis in Canadian residential schools. Their research resulted in the paper titled, "Solving the Indian Problem": Tuberculosis in the Canadian Residential School System.

Their research revealed yet another dark chapter in the whole residential school saga. Despite the grand rhetoric of the Canadian government, Beauvais and Potts found residential schools were perfect breeding grounds for many infectious diseases. The one they focused on was tuberculosis.

As they state in their report, "Statistics reported in 1907 state that 24% of all Indian residential school children died of tuberculosis – and these are just the reported deaths."

With the support of the School, and a grant from Associated Medical Services Inc., Beauvais and Potts went to Alberta to present their paper at the 15th annual *History of Medicine Days* put on by the University of Calgary, Faculty of Medicine.

It was there that the journey really took off. Beauvais and Potts won the award for Second Best overall paper. They were then invited to present their findings to the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada annual meeting in Ottawa in October, 2006.

Their work generated a lot of discussion. They were encouraged by many Elders to keep telling this important story, so the two decided to submit their abstract to PRIDoC (Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress).

"What happened next was beyond our wildest imaginations," says Potts. The two were invited to present at the December, 2006 PRIDoC convention in Rotorua, New Zealand.

In New Zealand Beauvais and Potts found a strong and receptive audience for their research. They received much praise and support for tackling such a difficult topic.

“La grande séduction” dans le Nord de l’Ontario

Soyez au rendez-vous les 21 et 22 septembre 2007 à l’École de médecine du Nord de l’Ontario. Le Groupe témoin francophone ainsi que l’École de médecine du Nord de l’Ontario sont à préparer le deuxième symposium francophone dont le sujet principal traitera du thème de « La grande séduction ».

Comme vous le savez sans doute, ce charmant film aborde, de façon comique, un sujet qui est très pertinent pour nombreuses de nos communautés du Nord – la pénurie de médecins (et de professionnels de la santé en général). Alors nous aborderons, à notre tour, ce thème de « RECRUTEMENT ET RÉTENTION » à tous les niveaux soit les étudiants et résidents, les médecins ainsi que les communautés francophones du Nord afin de répondre aux besoins de soins de santé en français de qualité.

Ce grand thème de recrutement sera divisé en trois grands blocs :
A) Encourager les étudiants et résidents à faire demande à l’EMNO
B) Préparer les communautés à recevoir les étudiants et résidents
C) Préparer les communautés à attirer et à recruter les médecins
Dans les mois qui suivront le symposium, soyez aux aguets pour une plus grande édition du bulletin de l’EMNO soit le Northern Passages qui présentera les détails et les faits saillants du symposium.
Vérifiez vos courriels régulièrement pour plus de renseignements au sujet du Symposium 2007.

Pour plus des renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec Danielle Barbeau-Rodrigue, coordonnatrice aux affaires francophones et à l’éducation interprofessionnelle de l’EMNO à danielle.barbeau-rodrigue@normed.ca.

Les francophones et les ‘francophiles’ célèbrent le fait français

Cette soirée a été l’occasion de célébrer la communauté francophone de l’EMNO à Thunder Bay, et était ouverte à tout le monde, a déclaré le D^r Marc Blayney, vice-doyen aux activités professionnelles.

Cet événement organisé pendant la semaine d’études à Thunder Bay a regroupé des résidents en médecine, des étudiants, des membres du corps professoral et des médecins praticiens francophones du Nord. Le D^r Blayney a expliqué que le but était de se réunir et de parler de l’exercice de la médecine en français dans le Nord de l’Ontario.

« Nous avons eu beaucoup de francophones et de francophiles. Après tout, nous formons un groupe très accueillant, et la nourriture est toujours magnifique dans les activités francophones. »

En tout, 60 étudiants se sont joints à des membres du corps professoral et employés de l’EMNO, à des membres du Groupe

témoin francophone, à un membre du Centre régional des sciences de la santé de Thunder Bay et à quatre médecins francophones établis à

francophone du Nord se trouve dans le nord-est, le nord-ouest possède lui aussi une petite mais dynamique population francophone.

Ce regroupement spécial a permis de nouer des liens pour le présent et, espérons-le, pour l’avenir.

De l’avis du D^r Blayney, le grand nombre d’étudiants francophiles présents était réconfortant; il témoigne de leur désir de se renseigner sur la communauté

francophone afin de mieux servir leurs futurs patients.

Le regroupement était commandité par l’Unité des affaires francophones et le Consortium national de formation en santé (CNFS) – Université Laurentienne. Le CNFS est une alliance stratégique

visant à accroître la présence et la contribution des professionnels et chercheurs francophones du domaine de la santé au Canada.



Thunder Bay. Quoique la majorité de la communauté

Faculty Profile: Dr. Silvana Spadafora

As a medical oncologist Dr. Silvana Spadafora could be excused for having the occasional glum day – except she never does. Spadafora is one of those indomitable spirits that lifts those around her.

It may be cliché, but Spadafora does not sweat the small stuff.

“Life is too short to be bogged down with worries,” she says. “I always try and do the best I can do, and enjoy the life I’m living.”

A big part of Spadafora’s life these days is as Director of Clinical Research and Program Development with the Algoma District Medical Group, and faculty member for internal medicine at NOSM. In many ways, NOSM and Spadafora are a natural fit.

Born in Sault Ste. Marie, Spadafora attended the University of Ottawa where she completed a BSc. and M.D. She then went on with an internship program in internal medicine in 1991, and then a residency program in oncology in 1993.

During her years in Ottawa Spadafora always maintained her close ties with the North, and with Sault Ste. Marie in particular. When the opportunity to return to the city of her birth came up, she took it.

“Leaving the North makes you realize how wonderful it is up here,” she says. “Our time down south was good, but I was thrilled to get back.”

In 1993 Spadafora, along with her husband John Febbraro, moved back to Sault Ste. Marie, and joined the Algoma District Medical Group. Shortly thereafter she began her practice at the Group Health Centre and the Sault Area Hospitals.

Over the years her family has grown. She now has three children: Michela, age 16; Remo who is 13; and Daniella, age 9.

Some of the principal joys of Spadafora’s work have always included teaching and research, so it was natural for her to join the School as soon as she could. Like everyone, Spadafora sees NOSM as a significant development for Northern Ontario.

“This medical school has opened possibilities for all sectors of the North. It is a huge development for everyone up here.”

Helping to build these possibilities is what drew her to NOSM, and like everything in her life, she has taken on the challenge with a positive attitude, incredible energy, and a desire to succeed.



This article was co-authored by Silvana’s daughter, Michela.

HIRC Highlights (Health Information Resource Centre)

Faculty Course Reserves:

To assist in the facilitation of Case-Based Learning (CBL) and Topic-Oriented Sessions (TOS) the HIRC has added *Faculty Reserves* to its collection.

The collection consists of required and additional print resources for CBL and TOS, and can be borrowed by faculty members, upon request, for a period of 8 hours.

Please see HIRC staff for additional information.

*All of the above are available from HIRC’s
www.normed.ca/library
E-mail: askhirc@normed.ca
HIRC East: 705-662-7282, HIRC West: 807-766-7375*

Cont. from p. 1

IPEP, Rehab Studies and Dietetic program receive support

new possibilities for the North.”

Interprofessional education has a strong tradition in Northern Ontario thanks to the efforts of Health Sciences North (HSN) in Thunder Bay, and the Northeastern Ontario Medical Education Corporation (NOMEC) in Sudbury. NOSM is pleased to be the inheritor of these programs.

Recently, NOSM received \$450,000 (\$150,000 per year for three years) in Ontario government funding. According to the government announcement, this money is earmarked, “to facilitate an Interprofessional Education Lead ... to create common strategies, content and resources for clinical teaching and learning for the purpose of promoting the development, implementation and ongoing evaluation of core interprofessional curriculum for health professional students”

This funding will support establishment of the Northern Ontario Interprofessional Education Network.

“IPE is a core value at NOSM,” says Strasser. “Collaboration across

practices and disciplines is built into the very nature of the School’s educational and research programs. It is a key part of the School’s social accountability mandate.

A related program, Rehabilitation Studies (West Campus), has recently been awarded \$96,200 from the MOHLTC Interprofessional Mentorship and Coaching Fund. This will enable the provision of enhanced interprofessional and intraprofessional learning experiences for rehabilitation practitioners in Northwestern Ontario.

In addition to acquiring new knowledge and skills, participants will develop a better understanding of other health provider roles. The overall result will be improved collegiality and collaboration across disciplines.

Finally, NOSM is pleased to support the new Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program. A joint initiative between the School and a Professional Advisory Committee involving multiple health-care organizations throughout Northern Ontario, the program will begin training Dietetic Interns in October, 2007.

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario

NOSM Summer Medical Student Research Award Winners



Alex Anawati will study the impact of stroke programs in Northeastern Ontario on the recovery from acute ischemic strokes and implementation of transient ischemic attack (TIA) protocols on the secondary prevention of cerebrovascular accidents in Northeastern Ontario. The objective and plan of the study will look at the current protocol for TIA and secondary stroke prevention and develop recommendations for increased access to these services by the Northeastern Ontario.

Abdel-Kareem Chehadi is interested in experiencing the impact of heart disease on a personal level by learning about the infrastructure of various hospital settings from bedside to surgery and back. He will learn the logistics and implication of experimental design in both hospital and laboratory environments. He will directly collect specimens from heart surgery patients, help analyze the findings, organize and interpret the data for future use. This project will allow Abdel to learn important lab procedures, be with patients by their bedside and follow them through various hospital settings, including operating suites.



Ching Yeung will be assessing timely treatment options for acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) patients that live at various distances away from tertiary care centers. To reduce death and disability from heart attacks, it is important to receive treatment in a timely manner. Two therapies, fibrinolytic therapy and percutaneous coronary intervention are recommended to be administered within 30 minutes (door to needle time) and 90 minutes (door to balloon time) respectively. The objective of the study is to determine which

Marc-André Roy's interest is two-fold as it relates to stroke and transient ischemic attacks. His first project will examine the impact of stroke programs in a Northern community on recovery from acute ischemic stroke. This study will describe the impact of stroke programs on acute ischemic stroke patient treatment in terms of quality of care received compared to Canadian standards and best practice guidelines. The second project will study the implementation of transient ischemic attack protocols on the secondary prevention of cerebrovascular accidents.



treatment option will provide the most benefit and which option will be sustainable and practical in the northeastern community.



Tracy Michano-Stewart is continuing on a previous summer project, examining issues such as obesity, diabetes and hypertension in Northern Ontario. Her research will take an in depth look at a population of Aboriginal children and identify a longitudinal level of obesity, high blood sugars and hypertension. Risk factors and broader determinants of health will be assessed. A survey of Northern Ontario physicians will determine levels of knowledge, common practices and perceptions of Aboriginal Health care, with a particular focus on

Lise Mozzon will examine the impact cardiovascular disease has on women in Northwestern Ontario. Current data suggests that deaths due to cardiovascular disease in women will continue to rise, while deaths for men are on the decline. Statistics also show mortality rates in Northwestern Ontario continue to be higher than the provincial average. Lise's interest lies in the collaborative development of a regional Women's Heart Health Centre with a local medical centre and their physicians, to address issues like the health promotion and CVD prevention of women, barriers encountered by Aboriginal and Francophone populations, and the development of a referral process program with screening tools to ensure adequate care is delivered.



Aboriginal children. The data will be compared to existing statistics and research. Upon completion of the analysis, recommendations for community health and medical practice with regard to treatment and identification of health issues will be made.