Northern Ontario School of Medicine
École de médecine du Nord de l’Ontario

Partnership Opportunities in Research
GATHERING

Da Vinci Centre
340 South Waterloo Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario
November 4-5-6, 2008
Welcome to Partnership Opportunities in Research

Creating and sustaining working research partnerships and relationships within Northern Ontario, including First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples, is of primary importance to researchers. We are confident in a research process which respects protocol and all information sharing which may enhance both researchers and research initiatives. We have an excellent opportunity to travel forward with research endeavours in a genuine manner and with a respectable commitment for all of Northern Ontario.

NOSM understands that there is a fine line between sharing information and exploiting Traditional Knowledge. We hope this gathering can assist all involved with truly understanding this boundary. We would expect that one rule of engagement is adhered to; that is to respect one another. As this gathering will have diverse attendance, we must consider that all discussions are to be conducted with dignity for all.

Research at NOSM is reflective of the School’s mandate which is to be socially accountable to the diverse cultures of Northern Ontario. The School’s unique research program targets areas that have a direct relevance to Northern populations. The key theme of NOSM research is tackling the questions of importance to improving the health of the people and communities of the North.

We would like to sincerely thank all who are participating in the Partnership Opportunities In Research and those on the organizing committee that have dedicated many hours to ensure that each of us enjoys an exceptional conference over the next three days. Please enjoy the conference and the networking opportunities that it has to offer!

Sincerely,

Dr. ROGER STRASSER  
NOSM Founding Dean

Dr. GREG ROSS  
NOSM Associate Dean, Research

NOSM Founding Dean  
Dr. ROGER STRASSER

NOSM Associate Dean, Research  
Dr. GREG ROSS
Introduction

Research initiatives in Northern Ontario potentially include a broad range of topics, including studies into cancer and lifestyle, remote geophysical analysis to determine mineral potential, sampling of boreal plants for medicinal properties, or the impact of internet-based technologies on remote First Nations. Fundamental principles for all types of research have been identified, but have yet to be universally understood, accepted or implemented. We need to delve deeper into First Nation, Inuit and Métis, herein known as The People, issues and concerns pertaining to research partnerships.

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) has a social accountability mandate which includes a commitment to research focused on improving the health of people and communities in Northern Ontario. NOSM medical students begin learning about The People in their first year, during the course Module 106, which includes 32 northern host communities. The communities invite students to stay for a month to learn The People’s methodologies.

By definition, the NOSM Research Unit is focused on generating new knowledge and are somewhat aware of The Peoples needs. We are invited at times to participate in research activities (initiated by funding partners, other academic organizations, non-governmental sponsors, and others) and work to ensure that these activities are relevant and appropriate when The People’s communities are involved.

NOSM has a duty as a medical school in Northern Ontario to work collaboratively as a partner with communities to increase knowledge and awareness so that research issues affecting The Peoples communities or their traditional territories are determined by the communities. As a result, NOSM intends to use a partnership/collaborative approach early on to engage with communities.
Principal Objectives for A Pan-Northern Gathering “Partnership Opportunities in Research”

- The primary mission of this gathering should be for all participants to engage in the exchange of dialogue;
- Increase awareness of research types/topics, potential benefits, advantages and disadvantages, research ethics as presently understood, as well as best practices for Aboriginal peoples responding to or participating in research initiatives;
- Increase awareness of medical research at NOSM;
- Collaboratively discuss and determine acceptable framework of how NOSM can serve as a partner and assist Aboriginal communities in the design and development, and benefit-sharing and implementation of research projects;
- Discuss ways to increase awareness of partnership opportunities in research for communities;
- Present specific research opportunities for consideration, including existing projects, as well as new initiatives being proposed;
- Researchers need to learn from Aboriginal people how best to conduct research involving Aboriginal communities. Hopefully, partnerships will be created with Aboriginal communities and organizations for suitable research initiatives.

Desired Key Outcomes of Gathering

- New partnerships which provide benefits to participating communities.
- Better recognition and understanding by all parties of the meaning of research and research terms.
- Better understanding of perceived benefits of research and how benefits can be shared.
- Increased understanding of the risks and negative aspects of research.
- A series of events which will contribute to an ongoing process.
### ARRIVAL - November 3, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | Gathering Sign-In  
Travelodge Airlane - Lobby  
Landmark Inn - Fireside Room |

### AGENDA

#### DAY 1 - November 4, 2008 - Da Vinci Centre, Michelangelo Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast / Gathering Sign-In</td>
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| 8:30 a.m. | Opening Prayer  
Josias Fiddler |
| 8:30 a.m. | Welcoming/Opening Remarks  
Roger Strasser |
| 8:30 a.m. | Gathering Opening Moderator  
Chris LaFontaine |
| 9:00 a.m. | Topic 1: Cultural Engagement, Pedagogy and Methodologies  
Goyce Kakegamic  
Ernie Kwandibens |
| 10:30 a.m. | Health Break |
| 10:45 a.m. | Return to Topic 1 |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | Topic 2: Research Ethics and Etiquette  
Marion Maar  
Ron Wakegijik |
| 2:30 p.m. | Health Break |
| 2:45 p.m. | Return to Topic 2 |
| 4:00 p.m. | Closing Prayer and Adjournment for Day 1  
Josias Fiddler |
| 5:00 p.m. | Dinner |
### Day 2 - November 5, 2008 - Da Vinci Centre, Michelangelo Room

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast / Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Prayer</td>
<td>Josias Fiddler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Topic 3: Issues and Barriers</td>
<td>Lorrilee McGregor, Peggy Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Health Break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Return to Topic 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Topic 4: Bio-Prospecting</td>
<td>Greg Ross, George Duckworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Health Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Return to Topic 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing Prayer and Adjournment for Day</td>
<td>Josias Fiddler</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Entertainment: Comedian Don Burnstick</td>
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### Day 3 - November 6, 2008 - Da Vinci Centre, Michelangelo Room

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Prayer</td>
<td>Josias Fiddler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Topic 5: Community Engagement for Cancer Care Research</td>
<td>John McLaughlan, Nancy Lightfoot</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Health Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Return to Topic 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Topic 6: Mutual Benefits</td>
<td>Bev Sabourin, David Henry</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Health Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Return to Topic 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing Prayer and Adjournment of Gathering</td>
<td>Josias Fiddler</td>
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A retired Deputy Grand Chief of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Goyce Kakegamic is one of NOSM’s formative visionaries. Born in Keewaywin First Nation and raised traditionally on the land, Mr. Kakegamic is a talented artist whose work can be viewed in art galleries and private collections around the world.

Mr. Kwandibens is a Traditional Elder and is an Advisor to Northern Ontario School of Medicine. He has been instructed to conduct Traditional Ceremonies, as well as Cultural Teachings in healing practices.

Goyce Kakegamic

Ernie Kwandibens
(Migisi Keewayunh, Loon Clan)

Cultural Engagement, Pedagogy and Methodologies

To properly engage The People’s and their respective cultures it would benefit researchers to learn and implement the communities’ pedagogy and methodologies. The pedagogy of The People’s has separate sets of values, principles and systems in comparison to that of mainstream population. By uncovering the methodologies, researchers can engage the community at a higher level. This act alone would inspire The People’s by simply showing due respect, which in turn opens a path to further partnerships.
Dr. Marion Maar is a medical anthropologist and assistant professor at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Her teaching and research focus is in the area of culturally competent care, e-health and Aboriginal community health issues.

Mr. Wakegijig was instrumental in organizing the first Medicine Persons Gathering/Healing Conference at Dreamer’s Rock, Whitefish River First Nation. He has been instructed as a Pipe Carrier and Ceremonial Leader by the Plains Cree Elders from Saskatchewan. He routinely lectures at Universities throughout Canada.

He lectures or presents on various topics including the collaborative use of Traditional and Western Medicine and continues to participate as Guest Presenter in various Medical School events, including the Summer Science camps.

Research Ethics and Protocol

The People’s have been observing the land for millennia and this must be seen as research. Learning and implementing these historical ethics will confer respect to The People’s and their intellectual abilities, as well as respecting the land and environment. Understanding the protocol enshrined in an alternative world view will enhance researchers’ abilities to learn cultural protocol. The People’s have many types of ethics and protocols which differ from that of the mainstream population. Respecting the customs of The People’s with which researchers are involved expands the potential for new relationships and trust for new partnerships.
Lorrilee McGregor, M.A., is an Anishinaabe-kwe from Whitefish River First Nation, where she lives and works. Ms. McGregor earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto, focusing her studies on environment and resource management. Her Master of Arts degree is in Environment & Community from Antioch University in Seattle, Washington where she focused on Indigenous Knowledge.

Peggy Smith is mixed blood, with Cree ancestry from the James Bay area in northern Ontario. She is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Forestry at Lakehead University and a member of the LU Research Ethics Committee and Aboriginal Management Council which are jointly working on an Aboriginal Research Ethics Protocol for LU researchers.

Issues and Barriers

Many issues and barriers lay amid productive research initiatives. By understanding these issues and barriers, The People’s and researchers can break down these obstructions and mark a new path for research initiatives. One example is the “studied-to-death” syndrome. There are those who feel as though they have been exploited for many generations without any of the data being shared. By removing these barriers and dealing with the issues, we can enhance today’s methods and ideologies of research.
Dr. Greg Ross is the Associate Dean, Research, for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. His research is focussed on Health and the Environment, with a particular interest on degenerative diseases. He has an active drug discovery program.

George Duckworth is employed as a policy officer with the Aboriginal Relations branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources. In this capacity, he has been developing a strategy for the MNR that addresses the consideration of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in natural resource based decision making.

Bio-Prospecting

This initiative is in no way meant to take away or utilize Traditional Knowledge, nor encroach on the sustainability of the environment. Many of today’s most important therapeutic agents are derived from biological sources. The Boreal Bio-prospecting Initiative (BBI) is a collaborative research program which aims to derive new chemical compounds from natural sources. The School uses a random sampling approach to screening new chemicals by testing the biochemical make up of natural products. The program is a joint initiative between a number of Federal, Provincial, academic, industrial and community groups. NOSM is seeking partnership with the People’s communities and involvement in research programs.
Dr. Nancy Lightfoot is the Director of the School of Rural and Northern Health at Laurentian University and is an epidemiologist trained in community health who is interested in: a) cancer surveillance, aetiology, survival, and program evaluation, b) Aboriginal health, c) occupational health related to resource industries, d) environmental health.

Dr. John McLaughlin, Vice President of Population Studies and Surveillance at Cancer Care Ontario is Scientific Director of the Ontario Population Cohort Study.

Community Engagement for Cancer Care Research

Cancer Care Ontario is leading a partnership with other agencies, including the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, for the upcoming launch of the Ontario Population Cohort Study. This is an innovative, province-wide research initiative that aims to improve our understanding of the risk factors that lead to cancer, heart disease and other important chronic diseases. This knowledge will help to develop new and better ways of predicting and preventing disease. The study will follow 150,000 volunteers from across Ontario, aged 35-69, for more than a decade, and will involve the collection of information about individuals, their environment and their communities. The Study also aims to encompass the cultural, ethnic and geographic diversity of the province.

While the Study will be conducted across all of Ontario, NOSM is working closely with its partners to enable and ensure the engagement of people of rural and urban Northern Ontario, with special focus on First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and communities.

It is essential that all prospective research partners are fully aware of the realities involved with researching in First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. Any research projects relating to First Nation, Inuit and Métis health must be initiated by First Nation, Inuit and Métis people communities.
Beverly Anne Sabourin is a First Nations Ojibwe from northwestern Ontario with extensive professional and volunteer experience in aboriginal communities and cross-cultural environments across Canada.

David Henry

Professor David Henry is a physician and clinical pharmacologist. He is an authority on cost effectiveness in drug selection processes. He was a member of the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and Chair of the Economics Sub-committee of PBAC 1993-2001. Professor Henry was instrumental in establishing the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) evaluation process now in use. Professor Henry is currently the President and CEO, of the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) in Toronto; Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Newcastle, Australia.

Bev Sabourin

Mutual Benefits (MB)

Mutual Benefits must be viewed on multilateral levels and must incorporate new ideologies. Benefits, such as accumulative wealth, arising from collaboration in research initiatives, would solely be utilized at the people’s discretion. With this collaboration comes the mutual benefit of sustaining the environment for all future generations to enjoy. Integral to the cumulative benefits is the acknowledgement of Traditional Knowledge, as well as the possibility of amalgamating The People’s ideologies with that of Western ideologies.
Thank You

A sincere thank you to all who contributed to making this gathering a reality. Your participation and thoughtful input is the first step on the road to an ongoing process of sharing knowledge in research endeavours in the north.
List of Invitees

Elders
Senior PTO Representatives
Tribal Council Representatives
Senior Government Representatives
Non-Governmental Funding Agencies
Host Institutions of Research
Research Managers
Health Researchers
Forestry Groups

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