Dr. Roger Strasser
Professor of Rural Health, Dean and CEO, NOSM

Dr. Roger Strasser is a leader in the global reform of health professional education. Recognizing the importance of context and community in medical education and research, Dr. Strasser has gained an international reputation for developing and refining novel strategies to train health professionals in and for rural communities. As a result of his formative work in his field, Dr. Strasser has become one of the world’s foremost authorities in rural and socially accountable medical education, as well as a sought-after speaker and advisor.

In September 2002, Dr. Strasser was selected to lead the creation of the first medical school in Canada in over 35 years; the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM). NOSM is the first Canadian medical school established with an explicit social accountability mandate to improve the health of the people and communities of the region it serves. Thanks to its unique model of distributed and community-engaged medical learning, NOSM is supporting recruitment, retention, and socio-economic development in historically underserved communities across the geographically vast region of Northern Ontario. In ten short years, NOSM has grown from a little known school in rural Canada to a leader that other medical schools across the world look to emulate- a testament to both Dr. Strasser's leadership and the strength of the team that has assembled.

In addition to his role as Dean and CEO at NOSM, Dr. Strasser is one of the few Professors of Rural Health in the world. He is leading a growing body of research relating to a socially accountable health professional education, recruitment and retention of health professionals, and rural health service delivery models.

Prior to moving to Northern Ontario in 2002 with his wife of over 30 years, Dr. Sarah Strasser, and their five children, Dr. Roger Strasser was the Head of the Monash University School of Rural Health in Australia and had an international role with the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) as Chair of the Working Party on Rural Practice from 1992-2004.