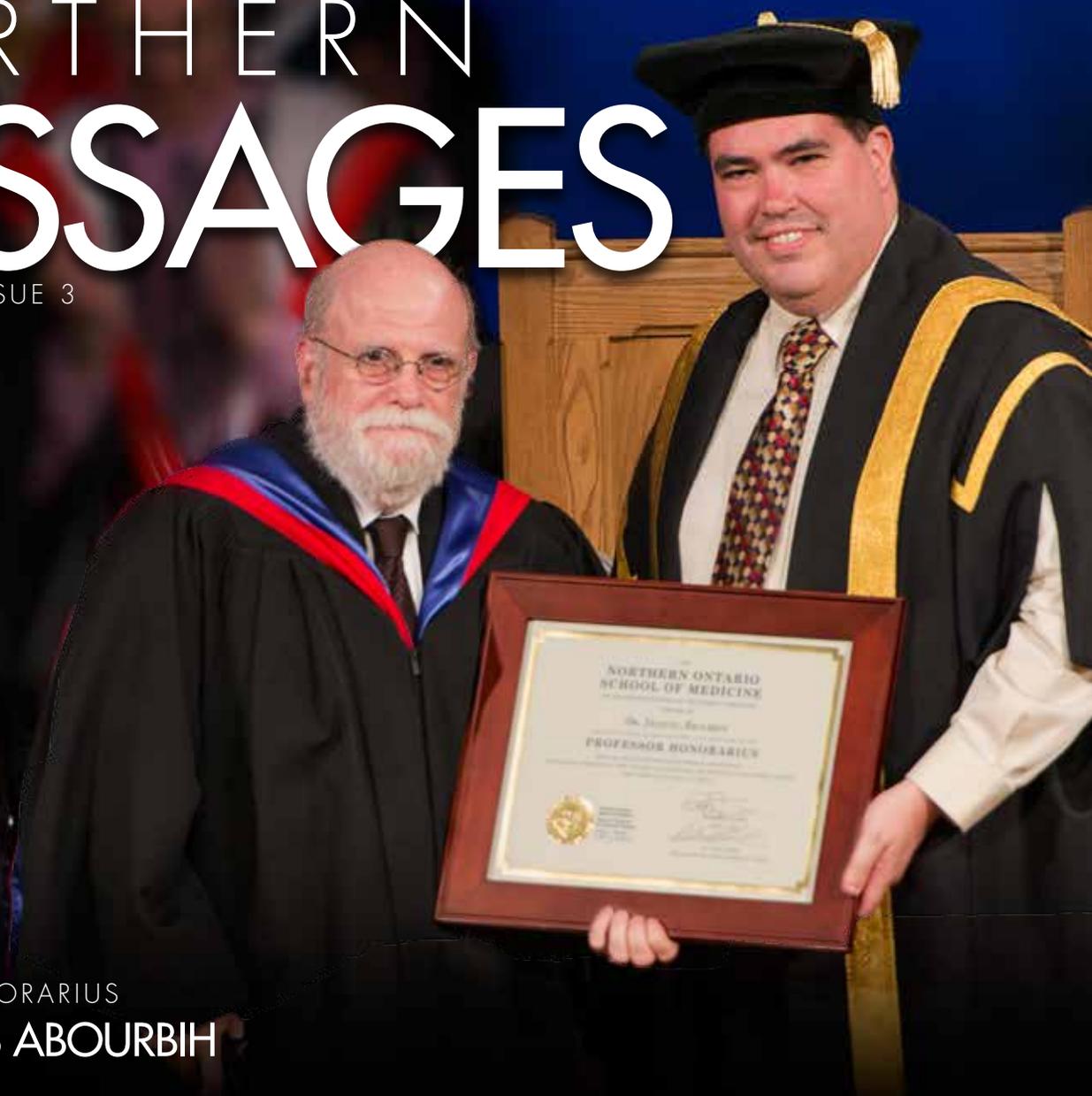


# NORTHERN PASSAGES

VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 3



PROFESSOR HONORARIUS  
**DR. JACQUES ABOURBIH**

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TWO NEW  
**SENIOR APPOINTMENTS**

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CREATING A CLIMATE OF  
**UNDERSTANDING**

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CURRICULUM INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNERS  
**BEHIND THE SCENES**

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Northern Ontario  
School of Medicine  
École de médecine  
du Nord de l'Ontario  
پ.ن.ا.م. س.م.  
L'Université Laurentienne

## ON THE COVER

On June 3, Dr. Jacques Abourbih was awarded the title of Professor Honorarius during the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's (NOSM) Laurentian University convocation in Sudbury. Upon retirement, a Professor who is considered to have made outstanding contributions to NOSM in a stipendiary or joint appointment, may be awarded the title of Professor Honorarius.

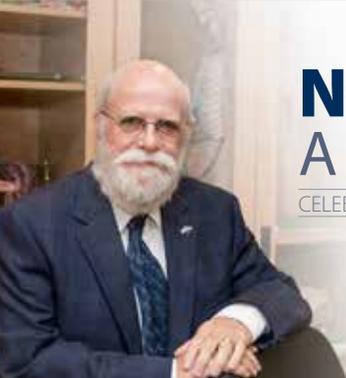
During his nine years at NOSM, Abourbih has been instrumental in shaping the School's MD curriculum. Among his many educational achievements, Abourbih was heavily involved in refining NOSM's MD model of distributed, community-engaged medical education, along with the School's flagship program, the third-year Comprehensive Community Clerkship. He sat on and chaired numerous educational committees and authored copious educational materials used in the delivery and evaluation of NOSM's program.

In addition to the substantial role he has had on the School, Abourbih has received many awards, including: an Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Canadian Association for Medical Education's Certificate of Merit, and two student-nominated NOSM Faculty Awards.

"I moved to Sudbury with my family in 1981 with the intention to remain for only four years," says Dr. Jacques Abourbih, Professor Honorarius. "We fell in love with the North and the life experiences it offered. More than anything else, the rewards of contributing to the care of patients in an underserved area was one of the decisive factors that swayed my decision to remain in Northern Ontario. Over my years, I saw this community evolve to become today a centre of excellence for care and medical education as well as research."

Cover Photo: Dr. Jacques Abourbih (left) with Mr. Dominic Giroux, President of Laurentian University and Chair of NOSM's Board of Directors (right).

**A tribute to Dr. Abourbih**



## NOSM Honours A tribute to Dr. Abourbih

CELEBRATING AN EXCEPTIONAL PHYSICIAN, EDUCATOR, AND LEADER

**Monday, October 6, 2014  
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Hellenic Centre, 486 Ester Street, Sudbury

Tickets are \$50.00 each and can be purchased by contacting Kathy Needham at 705-662-7154 or via email to [kneedham@nosm.ca](mailto:kneedham@nosm.ca).

## NEW LOOK FOR NORTHERN PASSAGES

NOSM has published *Northern Passages*, the School's external newsletter, since 2002. This month, we roll out a brand-new redesign! *Northern Passages* will continue to

be published four times a year, however we have changed our bilingual layout for easier reading. This fresh new layout allows us to write longer and more in-depth articles on topics relevant to the people and communities of Northern Ontario. We hope you enjoy the newly revitalized *Northern Passages*!



# NORTHERN PASSAGES

Newsletter of the Northern  
Ontario School of Medicine



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## FEEDBACK

We welcome feedback and suggestions about *Northern Passages*. NOSM is a school for all individuals and communities of Northern Ontario. What stories would you like to read about your medical school? Send ideas to [communications@nosm.ca](mailto:communications@nosm.ca).

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## GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

Early summer is a time of great celebration at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine as learners complete their health-professional programs and physicians (left), dietitians (centre), and physician assistants (right) transition into practise.

On May 30 in Thunder Bay and June 3 in Sudbury, the NOSM class of 2014 graduated with a joint MD degree from Lakehead University and Laurentian University. The convocation ceremonies include the hooding of graduates and recitation of the Physician's Oath.

At the Lakehead University convocation, Dr. Arnie Aberman was awarded an honorary 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. The late Dr. John Augustine was recognized for his pioneering role in establishing the Northwestern Ontario Medical Program, advocating for the creation of NOSM, and for his service as an early NOSM Board member.

At the Laurentian University convocation, Dr. Jacques Abourbih was awarded the title of Professor Honorarius in recognition of his invaluable contributions to NOSM's MD model of distributed, community-engaged medical education.

The third class of Physician Assistants graduated on June 3 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.

On July 24, the newest class of Registered Dietitians completed the Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program. Ceremonies were held via videoconference in four locations across the North including Barrie, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

The first completion of NOSM's General Surgery residency program, as well as the family medicine and other residency programs, took place through the spring and early summer.

Congratulations to all new alumni on your accomplishments! Sincerest thanks to all individuals and communities across NOSM's wider campus of Northern Ontario for helping to train the School's newest health-care professional graduates.



Left to right, Darlyn Hansen (TG InnerSelves), Maria Sokolova (NOSM medical student), Dr. Jacques Abourbih (NOSM Professor Honorarius), Rita O'Link (TG InnerSelves), Jenna Webber (NOSM medical student), and Kathleen Beatty (NOSM Director of Equity and Quality) stand in unity.

## CREATING A CLIMATE OF UNDERSTANDING

**Submitted by: Jenna Webber, second-year NOSM medical student**

On July 15, the Ontario Human Rights Commission's launch of the *Policy on preventing discrimination because of gender identity and gender expression* at the Steelworkers Hall in Sudbury.

The goals of this policy are to: promote recognition of the inherent dignity and worth of trans people; provide for equal rights and opportunities without discrimination and harassment because of gender identity and gender expression; and, create a climate of understanding and mutual respect, so that trans people feel they belong in the community.

NOSM faculty, staff, and medical students were on hand to show support of this policy and its efforts to address issues related to LGBTQ health and well-being. Missing from this photo but present to support the event was Dr. Stacey Ritz, NOSM Associate Professor.



## CHARTING A COURSE FOR NOSM'S FUTURE

Opening its doors in 2005, NOSM is closely approaching its tenth anniversary. While the last ten years have proven to be very exciting for medical education and research in the North, the School is committed to ongoing innovation and excellence.



Dr. David Marsh engages the audience in community visits across the North.

Together, NOSM and the people and communities of Northern Ontario are designing future directions for the School through the development of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan.

The year of 2014 has been, and will continue to be, devoted to Strategic Planning at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. As the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan draws to a close, the School is looking to strengthen and solidify the programs and administrative processes currently in place. The vision for the future at NOSM would not be complete without the input and guidance of the people and communities of the North.

From May to September 2014, NOSM staff and senior administrators are travelling to more than 50 rural, remote, Francophone, and Aboriginal communities across the North to meet with individuals, organizations, health-care professionals, and clinical faculty to discuss the ongoing needs in their communities. The input provides important guidance and sets priorities for NOSM's future. All feedback is extensively recorded, and will inform the direction that the School takes for the next five years.

# NOSM STRATEGIC PLAN 2015/2020



The Northern Ontario School of Medicine wants your input.

We want to develop a new Strategic Plan for the School that meets the needs of the people and communities of Northern Ontario.

Please share your views to help NOSM define a path forward to the year 2020.

**NOSMSP2020.CA**



Scan to go directly to NOSM's Strategic Plan website.



## TWO NEW SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

NOSM is pleased to announce the appointments of Dr. Penny Moody-Corbett (left) as Associate Dean of Research and NOSM Senior Associate Dean at Lakehead University, and Dr. David Musson (right) as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education.

On July 1, 2014, Moody-Corbett and Musson began their new roles with NOSM, both based in Thunder Bay at Lakehead University.

Moody-Corbett will be responsible for the leadership of NOSM's Research portfolio in the development of collaborative scholarly activity across Northern Ontario. With the goal of addressing the questions of importance to improving the health of the people of the North, Moody-Corbett will provide direction in areas such as administration, funding, project management, and medical research strategy.

"I am passionately interested in health research in Canada. NOSM provides an exciting opportunity to work with communities in non-traditional ways," says Moody-Corbett. "I am looking forward to working with Northern Ontario communities to determine the types of research that will give us the answers we need to provide better health care, better practice, and better service to rural and remote areas."

Musson will lead the planning, development, and assessment of the School's four-year M.D. program.

"I look forward to working with individuals and communities across Northern Ontario, including our Francophone and First Nations' communities as we continue to keep NOSM at the forefront of medical education. A recognition of the importance of patient safety and new technologies, along with a continued commitment to interprofessional learning will be key factors moving forward in the coming years. This is a very exciting time for medical education, and I am thrilled to return to the North and join the outstanding team at NOSM," says Musson.

"It is with excitement that we welcome Dr. Moody-Corbett and Dr. Musson to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine," says Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean. "Both Dr. Moody-Corbett and Dr. Musson bring values, research interests, and breadth of experience that complement NOSM's vision of Innovative education and research for a healthier North. I look forward to working with them to continue improving the health of the people and communities of Northern Ontario, and wish them much success in their new appointments."



## NOSM HONOURED WITH GIFT FROM LAC SEUL FIRST NATION

On June 6, Northern Health Research Conference delegates participated in a community dinner in Lac Seul First Nation. After a dinner of local wild rice, fish, and moose, Chief Clifford Bull welcomed delegates to the community and presented NOSM's Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser, with a painting to commemorate the visit.

The artwork will hang in NOSM's medical school building at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.



## BEHIND THE SCENES

NOSM is a busy, complex place. Get to know the people who make the wheels turn at the School, and the vital role they play in creating a healthier Northern Ontario.

*Curriculum Instructional Designers (CIDs) at NOSM work with faculty members and content experts to develop, deliver, and optimize the curriculum at the School. Within this role, CIDs stay current with medical education methodologies with the goal of assisting faculty develop and design curriculum that is relevant and innovative. Dr. Tim Dubé and John Dabous are CIDs located at NOSM at Laurentian University in Sudbury.*

**Tim Dubé, Ph.D. (TD):** I first joined NOSM in the role of Assistant Curriculum Instructional Designer in December 2005, moved on to public health, only to return as a CID in January 2009. I now hold the position of Senior Curriculum Instructional Designer—part of the Curriculum and Planning Team. In addition, I have a faculty appointment at NOSM as Assistant Professor which includes the facilitation of small-group learning sessions, student assessment, and medical education research. I have recently taken on the responsibilities of Theme 1 Chair, Northern and Rural Health in Undergraduate Medical Education, which supports the development of skills required for training socially accountable medical students who understand, and can respond to the health-care needs of patients in Northern Ontario.

**John Dabous (JD):** This role provides the opportunity to interact with a multitude of different health professionals and content experts in a collaborative and cooperative manner. It has been inspiring to work with individuals who are motivated and committed to educating future physicians for Northern Ontario. I have been a CID for a year, and have just hit my six-year anniversary at NOSM. I started in the anatomy and clinical teaching lab, and then moved on to work in the Office of Assessment. These experiences have allowed me to gain insight about NOSM's unique MD program from different vantage points.

**TD:** CIDs frame their approach to curriculum development and review according to adult learning theories, teaching

and learning models, and processes that provide guidelines and frameworks to organize and structure the overall design process. As John alluded to, our team collaborates extensively with many stakeholders across Northern Ontario such as faculty, staff, committees, and working groups in the planning, development, and implementation of academic programs and educational sessions.

**JD:** It is always rewarding to hear about an educational session that was enjoyed by both students and faculty, even though we may not always be directly involved.

**TD:** I appreciate that my roles at NOSM afford me opportunities to network with like-minded researchers and medical educators at local, national, and international levels. I enjoy being a part of many projects whether curricular, teaching and learning, or research. Sometimes these many roles are difficult to balance, but I guess that is self-inflicted.

**JD:** In the fast-paced environment of medical education, Tim and I are constantly being challenged to improve and enhance the teaching and learning experience. This requires a commitment to staying current in the field. It has been a challenge to find time for scholarly activities while still trying to provide a high level of support. However, this is one of the aspects of my role that I enjoy the most.



**John Dabous, M.Sc.**  
Curriculum Instructional Designer



**Tim Dubé, Ph.D.**  
Senior Instructional Designer  
Assistant Professor, Medical Education



## ABORIGINAL NUTRITION FOCUS OF GATHERING

NOSM's Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program (NODIP) learners and staff participated in the 2014 Aboriginal Nutrition Network Gathering at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay on May 13-14, 2014.

**Submitted by: Emily Murray, Aboriginal Nutrition Network Co-Chair and Recent Dietetic Graduate, Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program**

A professional practice group of Dietitians of Canada, the Aboriginal Nutrition Network was founded in 2001. The Network's objectives are to network and share resources with communities; be informed and participate in continuing education opportunities; further develop dietetic training opportunities with a focus on Aboriginal nutrition; become a resource group for government and others; and, raise awareness of Aboriginal nutrition needs.

The 2014 Aboriginal Nutrition Network Gathering focused on revitalizing connections. The gathering celebrated the work of dietitians and health workers across Canada who are promoting nutrition through initiatives that make a difference to health and wellness in Aboriginal communities. Participants heard from speakers who are leaders in community nutrition,

research, and policy work. These special guests shared their experiences and ground-breaking approaches to food security, community engagement, chronic disease, revitalizing traditional foods, and cultural safety.

NOSM is leading the way by providing NODIP learners with the opportunity to spend time in Aboriginal communities across NOSM's wider campus of Northern Ontario. Spending time in community health centres, NODIP students see first-hand the determinants of health in Aboriginal communities.

Having the opportunity to expand our knowledge in this area is very valuable, and we thank Denise Raftis, NODIP Program Manager, for ensuring that each NODIP learner has a successful and enriching learning experience tailored to their needs.



## FORT FRANCES HOSTS THIRD-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS

**Submitted by: Shari Bujold, NOSM Site Administrative Coordinator, Fort Frances**

Fort Frances had the privilege of hosting two NOSM third-year Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC) medical students, Lucas Keffer and Robert Foulds this past academic year.

Throughout the eight-month placement, the medical students were introduced to the community through a variety of events hosted by the Local NOSM Group. Orientation Week was filled with many community luncheons as well as tours of the health-care facilities, the town of Fort Frances and outlying district, as well as a boat tour of Rainy Lake. The students were able to put their golf skills to the test at Nelson Medicine's Annual President's Golf Tournament, which was followed by dinner and awards. Robert took home prizes for a second place finish and the longest drive. The year finished with a well-attended farewell BBQ hosted by Dr. Jason Shack, NOSM's Site Liaison Clinician. Best wishes for the future were conveyed to the students from the community.



Robert Foulds (left) and Lucas Keffer (right) received prints of three local historical islands situated on Rainy Lake upon completion of their placement in Fort Frances.

The students extended their appreciation to everyone involved with the Local NOSM Group who provided them with an enriching academic experience. It was a pleasure to have Robert and Lucas become a part of our community and we look forward welcoming new medical students in the fall.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Faculty, residents, learners, staff members, and community partners at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine are regularly honoured with awards recognizing innovation, leadership, clinical care, community service, research, and teaching. Congratulations to the following individuals for recognition of their outstanding achievements.

**Dr. Christine Rossi**, NOSM Associate Professor and Section Chair, Family Medicine, received a Professional Association of Residents of Ontario (PARO) 2014 Clinical Teaching Award on May 9 in Toronto. Also nominated for this award were **Drs. Michele Brule** and **Adam Moir**.

In addition, the PARO Trust Fund administers two awards: The Resident Teaching Awards and the Citizenship Awards to medical students. NOSM resident **Dr. Sean Sullivan** and third-year NOSM medical student **Kendra Komsa**, respectively, were recipients of these awards.



**Dr. Rick Senior**, NOSM Assistant Professor, received the Jean Rochefort Teaching award for his work and dedication to teaching and mentoring medical residents and students at the North Bay Regional Health Centre (NBRHC) Physician Recognition Awards event on May 1.

*Pictured: Dr. Donald Fung, NBRHC Chief of Staff & VP of Medical Affairs (left), Dr. Rick Senior (centre), and Melanie Patrie, NOSM medical student (right).*

Second-year NOSM medical student, **Graham Gaylord**, finished second place in the resident/medical student research poster competition at the American Psychiatric Association annual conference in New York on May 3. During the summer of 2013, Gaylord was the recipient of a NOSM Dean's Summer Medical Student Research Award and undertook a project with the supervision of **Dr. Jack Haggarty**.

**Dr. David Clarke**, NOSM Assistant Professor, was the recipient of the University of Toronto's 2013-2014 Hollister King Teaching Practices Preceptor Award. The Hollister King Teaching Practices Awards were established several years ago in honour of Dr. Hollister King—a family physician whose roots were in rural practice. The award is given annually to one preceptor, nominated by his or her Teaching Practices resident, who best exemplifies the four principles of family medicine.

The Ontario Medical Association (OMA) recognized several of NOSM's committed physicians, residents, and medical students in Toronto on April 26.

OMA Life Membership is awarded to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the works of the OMA, the medical profession, and medical science. Congratulations to NOSM Assistant Professor, **Dr. Emmanuel Abara** for this award.

**Dr. Jason MacDonald**, NOSM Internal Medicine Co-Chief Resident, won the OMA Resident Achievement Award. The Resident Achievement Award is awarded for outstanding contribution to the advancement of postgraduate training. Also receiving an award in this category was NOSM Alum, **Dr. Lacey Pitre**.



Third-year NOSM medical student, **Kayla Berst**, was a recipient of the OMA Medical Student Achievement Award, awarded for significant contributions at the political and/or community level that help advance the life and/or education of all medical students.

*Pictured: Kayla Berst (left) with Dr. Ved Tandan, OMA President (right).*

The OMA Community Service Award is presented annually to non-physicians for significant contribution to the health and welfare of the people of a local community, as defined by involvement in community health and public welfare, including length of involvement, roles fulfilled in local organizations, and personal achievements. Congratulations to **Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler** for receiving this award.



**Dr. David Marsh** received the 2013 Physician Achievement Award from the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) Section on Addiction Medicine.

*Pictured: Dr. David Marsh, NOSM Associate Dean, Community Engagement and Senior Associate Dean, Laurentian University.*



**Dr. Janice Willett**, NOSM's Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, was awarded the Dr. William Hutchinson Award at the Sault Area Hospital's Annual General Meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2014. Dr. Willett is a gynecologist who has worked at the Sault Area Hospital since 1992.

*Pictured: Dr. Janice Willett, NOSM Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs.*

If you would like to recognize an award-winning NOSM faculty member, resident, learner, staff member, or community partner, please contact [communications@nosm.ca](mailto:communications@nosm.ca).