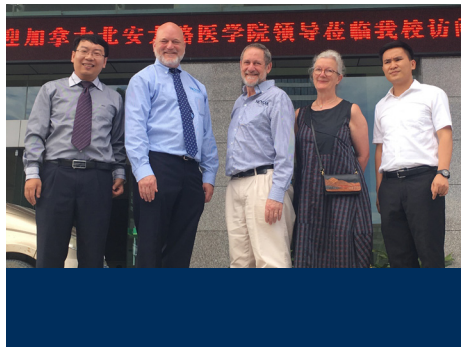


# UNITED WITH A COMMON GOAL

## NOSM Partners with YouJiang Medical University for Nationalities for Health Equity in China



Northern Ontario  
School of Medicine  
École de médecine  
du Nord de l'Ontario  
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*To those who don't know YouJiang Medical University for Nationalities (YMUN) in the region of Guangxi, China, it might be easy to see YMUN and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) as worlds apart. But to those familiar with the two schools, it's clear that they have much in common.*

In the southwestern region of China, 60 per cent of Guangxi's population is rural, with a largely agriculture-based economy. Like Northern Ontario, the people of Guangxi suffer from poorer health outcomes than other parts of the country, and have significant challenges with physician recruitment and retention. Similar to NOSM's mandate to serve the Francophone and Indigenous populations of Northern Ontario, YMUN is working to improve the health of the region, which includes a high number of ethnic minorities in the region. This led to the YMUN's adoption of "for Nationalities" in its title in 1978.

In order to serve the people of their region, YouJiang Medical University for Nationalities is trying to increase the capacity for their staff and faculty to conduct high quality

education and improve the proportion of their graduates who decide to practice in underserved communities in the region.

The staff of YMUN visited a number of international schools to investigate potential educational strategies that they could implement to improve the health of the people of their region. In December 2015, a group of four staff and faculty members from YMUN visited NOSM: Associate Professor Xianggang Wei, Head of the Faculty of International Education; Professor Pinhu Liao, President of the University, Qijiang Zhou, Director of the President's Office; and Professor Yujin Tang, CEO of the Guangxi Hospital and Professor of Orthopedic Surgery. NOSM was the only Canadian school that the delegation visited.



In July of 2016, Dr. Roger Strasser, Dean and CEO of NOSM, Dr. Sarah Strasser, previous Associate Vice President, Academics and Interprofessional Practice at Health Sciences North, and Dr. David Marsh, NOSM's Deputy Dean and Associate Dean of Community Engagement visited YMUN to form an official collaboration with NOSM. The collaboration allows for up to two YMUN students to visit NOSM to learn first-hand how the School is responsive to the needs of the



people and communities of the region. This experience would introduce them to the high-quality education in Northern Ontario, and encourage them to take a community-engaged approach to education, research, and practice upon their return to Guangxi. In addition, the parties discussed the potential for faculty and staff exchanges between the two universities to support YMUN's development of a high-quality education that improves the health of the region. In the future, the collaboration may also involve clinical faculty from YMUN completing a portion of Masters or PhD programs (either in person or electronically) through NOSM's graduate studies program, which is currently in development.

"We are honoured to partner with YouJiang Medical University for Nationalities in pursuit of their educational goals, and sincerely look forward to welcoming our first set of students," says Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean. "It is very exciting that NOSM can play a role in helping rural people—both in Northern Ontario and around the world—get the care that they need."

