

More than
1,400
faculty members
teach learners
across the North.

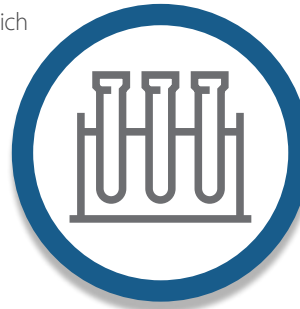
Empowered Faculty

NOSM clinical faculty do a lot more in their roles as physicians than just seeing patients. Of course, their passion to help patients is likely what drew them to practise medicine, but there are many ways that NOSM's clinical faculty contribute to improving the health of the peoples and communities of Northern Ontario, and beyond. They are involved with teaching the next generation of health professionals and conducting health research to better understand how to treat patients. Others may have an interest in administration or designing curriculum to ensure students learn the right skills and knowledge. NOSM faculty across the North complete these tasks to ensure that patients across the region have high quality care, now and in the future. They also devote time to leadership and advocacy to advance issues of their profession, as well as staying up-to-date with their continuing education.

In the last academic year, NOSM's faculty members across the North taught approximately: 260 MD students, 165 residents, 12 dietetic interns, 26 physician assistant learners, 292 visiting learners, and 220 health sciences learners in audiology, speech-language pathology, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy.

Outstanding Research

For many years, Canadian health research took place primarily in large cities, which meant that there were many health questions that were going unanswered in Northern Ontario. For example, how does working in mining or forestry affect one's health? Does living in Northern Ontario mean patients with mental illness have different outcomes? Why are chronic diseases more common in the North? Since opening in 2005, NOSM's research has focused on questions of importance to the health of Northern Ontarians. There are many NOSM faculty members—medical anthropologists, sociologists, biologists, immunologists, physicians, and more—who conduct leading-edge health research in laboratories, as well as in many community settings across the North.



Since 2010, the Northern Ontario Academic Medical Association has awarded **more than \$9.5 million to NOSM clinical faculty** to conduct health research in Northern Ontario. This research directly contributes to exploring and finding ways to improve the health of the North.

NOSM currently has three research chairs. These researchers were awarded these positions based on the contributions they have made through their work and knowledge of their field of speciality:

- Dr. Douglas Boreham, Bruce Power Chair in Radiation and Health
- Dr. Gregory Ross, Discovery Air Fire Services Chair in Environment and Health Surveillance
- Dr. Sheldon Tobe, Heart and Stroke Foundation - NOSM Chair in Aboriginal and Rural Health



The Road Ahead

Although NOSM has recorded a number of successful milestones since opening its doors in 2005, there is still much work to be done. Northern Ontario continues to face a broad range of challenges, such as: communities that continue to struggle with maintaining medical services; the growing demand for health-care services; the continued need for culturally safe health care; the prevalence of chronic disease; unfavourable social determinants of health; the strain of clinical and teaching responsibilities on health professionals; and, the shortage of comprehensive health services for rural, remote, Francophone, and Indigenous communities.

Community Collaboration

Serving Francophone and Indigenous patients is an important part of being a health professional in many Northern Ontario communities. Learners have the option of completing placements in French-speaking communities with Francophone faculty members. In addition, students who self-identify as Francophone can access their textbooks in French, and French language classes are offered to all medical students who would like to expand their language skills to better serve their future patients. Indigenous and Francophone peoples across the North have been heavily involved with the School since its early stages of development. NOSM encourages Indigenous and Francophone students in high school and university to consider health careers, and supports them throughout their journey to becoming health professionals. Indigenous cultural competency training and time with Elders are available on campus for all learners, staff, and faculty. The School also hosts regular sweat lodges, community partnership gatherings, and Indigenous language classes for all those interested in participating.

Educational Excellence

NOSM is involved with teaching a wide array of health professional learners, including medical students, residents, dietitians, physician assistants, medical physicists, audiologists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, and speech-language pathologists.

526 MDs
have graduated
from NOSM.

123
Registered Dietitians
have graduated from NOSM's
Northern Ontario Dietetic
Internship Program since the
internship began in 2007.

Approximately
92% of NOSM
MD students
are from
Northern Ontario.

329
residents
have completed
NOSM's
9 postgraduate
programs.

Since 2011, more than 160 NOSM-educated family doctors now practice in Northern Ontario, which translates to better access to care for approximately 190,000 Northern Ontarians.