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# Northern Passages

Newsletter of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine

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Northern Ontario  
School of Medicine

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The Charter Class was officially welcomed to NOSM at ceremonies on both main campuses in Thunder Bay on August 29 and in Sudbury on September 1, 2005. Class members also received warm greetings in Marathon, Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie as they travelled from Thunder Bay to Sudbury (*More Charter Class news inside*)

## Accreditors impressed with NOSM's progress

The latest step in The School's accreditation process was taken recently with a visit by the Accreditation Secretariat team in September.

The team, made up of Dr. David Hawkins from the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) and Dr. Barbara Barzansky from the Liaison

Committee on Medical Education (LCME) spent two days meeting with staff and faculty. The accreditors came to examine NOSM's progress in dealing with issues

raised from the March, 2005 site visit.

"The comments they made were all extremely favourable," said Dr. Roger Strasser, Founding Dean of NOSM. "They found that NOSM has satisfactorily addressed every one of the issues they assessed.

This is a marvellous achievement, and one we can all be proud of."

The accrediting bodies were so impressed with NOSM's progress they decided to delay the next site visit that was originally planned for next March. This means the next site visit will be in the fall of 2006.

"This is wonderful news," says Dr. Strasser. "The bottom line is that they are so confident of our progress that they decided the March 2006 visit is unnecessary."

CACMS and the LCME

are the recognized accrediting authorities for M.D. programs across Canada and the U.S. All medical schools go through the same process. Through this system, NOSM is recognized as equal to all other medical schools in North America.

*"... they are so confident of our progress that they decided the March 2006 visit is unnecessary."*

Dr. Roger Strasser

# Support for Bursary Fund continues to grow in communities all across Northern Ontario

The people of Northern Ontario have a long-standing reputation as friendly and caring individuals, committed to the communities in which they live. Evidence that such a reputation is well earned comes in the form of support to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine Bursary Fund.

For years, the people of the North worked to ensure that the Northern Ontario School of Medicine became a reality. Now, they are welcoming its students and contributing to their success through the bursary fund.

Across Northern Ontario, cities, towns, municipalities and townships are providing donations to support medical students in the North.

Recently, the directors of the Northwestern Ontario Medical Education Award Fund – a charitable group formed under the auspices of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) – committed to the establishment of a large endowment for NOSM students. This award fund represents many of the communities of Northwestern Ontario.



Wayne Lee, Chair, Community First Credit Union Limited; David Oraziotti, MPP Sault Ste. Marie; Mike O'Neill, Co-Chair - Sault Ste. Marie Bursary Fund Committee; Gregory Peres, CEO Community First Credit Union; Mike Brown, MPP, Algoma - Manitoulin.

In Sault Ste. Marie, a \$50,000 contribution was made by Community First Credit Union

Limited. Chief Executive Officer of the Credit Union Gregory Peres says supporting bursaries for medical students is an investment in the future.

"Attracting new interns and physicians to Northern Ontario will play a vital role in improving health care in our community," he says.

Other contributions have been made by communities, businesses and individuals throughout the region and volunteers from Dryden to Parry Sound have joined the campaign. These ambassadors are fundamental to the success of the campaign and they continue to visit municipalities to discuss contribution options.

To volunteer with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine Bursary Fund Campaign, or to make a contribution, please contact Jennifer Fawcett at 807-766-7310 or Carol Deguire at 705-675-1151, ext. 3452.

## Municipal Support for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine Bursary Fund Campaign (as at September 28, 2005)

Alberton	Magnetewan
Chapleau	North Bay
Chapple	Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands
Coleman	Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
Conmee	Rainy River
Espanola	Sables-Spanish Rivers
Fort Frances	Sault Ste. Marie
Gordon	Spanish
Greater Sudbury	St. Charles
Greenstone	Thunder Bay
Iroquois Falls	Thunder Bay Municipal League
Lavalee	Timmins
Markstay-Warren	

## Upcoming NOSM Symposium

• Thursday, November 17, 2005  
Speaker: Dr. Roger Sandre  
Topic: The Spectrum of HIV Disease in NE Ontario

• Thursday, January 19, 2006  
Speaker: Dr. Anthony Miller  
Topic: Epidemiology

• Thursday, March 23, 2006  
Speaker: Dr. Lindsey Crowshoe  
Topic: Aboriginal Issues

• Thursday, May 18, 2006  
Speaker: Dr. Alan Shepard  
Topic: History of Autopsy

• Thursday, December 15, 2005  
Speaker: Dr. Ronald Baigrie  
Topic: Cardiovascular Disease

• Thursday, February 16, 2006  
Speaker: Dr. Bruce Holub  
Topic: Nutrition Sciences

• Thursday, April 20, 2006  
Speaker: Dr. Mark Gilbert  
Topic: Mind Body Medicine

• Thursday, June 22, 2006  
Speaker: Dr. Roger Strasser  
Topic: NOSM Update



# Northern Ontario School of Medicine



## *The doors are open!*

## A historic time for the students, faculty and staff of Canada's newest medical school

September 13, 2005 marks a historic day for Northern Ontario and indeed the entire country. On this day the Northern Ontario



Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty (left) talking with NOSM student Alexandre Anawati (right) while on a tour of The School's facilities.

School of Medicine officially opened its doors to its Charter Class of 56 students, and Canada officially welcomed NOSM into the family of medical schools.

Over 1100 people on both main campuses took part in the festivities of the Grand Opening Ceremony and Open House on a day sizzling from the excitement.

Dignitaries included His Excellency John Ralston Saul, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, Aboriginal leader Elijah Harper and Dr. Carolyn Bennet, Minister of State for Public Health, were among the featured

speakers. Ontario Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman and Canada's Commissioner of Official Languages Dr. Dyane Adam also

joined the proceedings by videolink.

"Since beginning our work on this project three years ago, the staff of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine has promised to create *A Medical School like no other*," said Dr. Roger Strasser, Founding Dean of NOSM. "We want to reaffirm that promise to the people of Ontario, and to you students of the Charter Class, here today."

All in attendance were treated to an event like no other as the School exhibited its state-of-the-art technology, linking the two main campuses in

Thunder Bay and Sudbury, as well as with a number of smaller communities throughout Northern Ontario.

Shortly before closing the ceremony Dr. Strasser and Premier McGuinty invited the communities linked by videoconference to say a few words.

After all of the formalities had concluded, the guests made their way to a tented outdoor barbeque and a chance to mingle and network with their fellow medical,

science and business professionals of the north over lunch.

The day concluded with a public Open House at both the East Campus at Laurentian University in Sudbury and the West Campus at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

Highlighted by information sessions provided by NOSM staff and faculty, visitors walked through the modern lecture theatres, classrooms, library and laboratories. The School's video and teleconferencing makes NOSM a hub for virtual learning across the North.

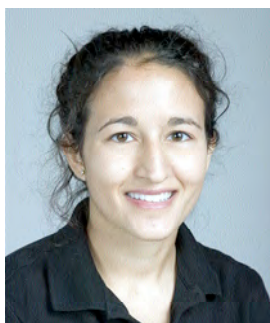
*Go to The School's website ([www.normed.ca](http://www.normed.ca)) for more photographs from the big event.*



Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Founding Dean, addresses the audience during the Opening Day ceremonies via The School's video conferencing system.



# Charter Class - 2005



Adam, Safiya



Adamson, Sandi



Anawati, Alexandre



Ayeni, Oluwole  
(Mody)



Beauvais, Nicole



Bennett, Mark



Bennett, Nicole



Berardi, Philip



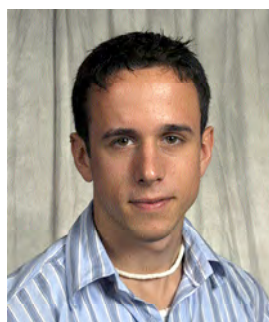
Boissoneau, Mary-  
Lee



Brockerville,  
Melissa



Chehadi, Abdel-  
Kareem



DellaVedova,  
Jonathon



Forester, Kimberley



Frederiksen, Lisa



Furtak, Teresa



Gauvin, Lianne



Giroux, Stephanie



Hamilton, Danielle



Hammell, Jennifer

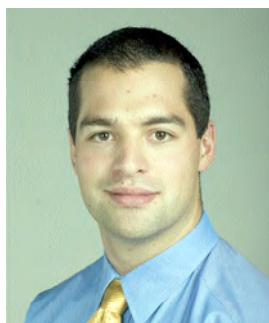


Janhunnen, David





Kember, Laura



Larouche, Jeremie



Maillet, Anne



McFadgen, Lyndsay



McKenzie, Zhiish  
Tracy



Messenger, Megan



Michano-Stewart,  
Tracy



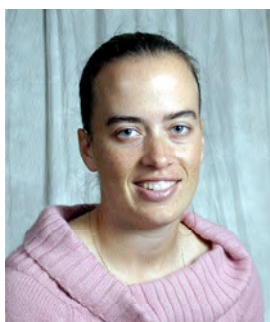
Middaugh, Jeffrey



Mirka, Theresa



Moir, Adam



Moreau, Natalie



Moretti, Jessica



Mozzon, Lise



Pastre, Robert



Perlin, Kimberley



Porter, Justin



Pynten, Will



Quackenbush,  
Benjamin



Ross, Tracey



Roy, Marc-Andre



# Charter Class - 2005



Saari, Stephen



Schoonbaert, Ian



Spencer, Mandy



Spencer, Todd



Spicer, Tara



St. John, Elaine



Tessier, Carole



Thomas, Nell



Van Atte, Jennifer



Varty, Kimberly



Weeks, Colleen



Zavagnin, Nicole

**Note:** four members of the Charter Class are not included in this photographic layout.

## Inaugural Year celebrations will continue

Throughout the remainder of 2005, and continuing until June 2006, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine will commemorate its Inaugural Year with a series of celebrations in communities across Northern Ontario.

These celebrations will recognize the ongoing activities of the School including those of the students, the academic and administrative divisions, research, bursary donors, and affiliations with the medical community. They will also focus on the impact of these activities on communities across the North. In addition, NOSM is on the look out for ongoing activities outside of The School in which NOSM could play a role.

For more information on the Inaugural Year Events of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, or if you wish to include NOSM in a community event hosted by your organization, please contact Joey McColeman @ (705) 662-7275. Inaugural Year events will also be posted on [www.normed.ca](http://www.normed.ca).

# Manitoulin Health Centre a key NOSM partner

Aboriginal communities of Northern Ontario have played a critical role in the creation of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. And now, some of these same communities are stepping up to a whole new challenge, becoming directly involved in

teaching and general education process.

Beginning in April 2006, students from the Charter Class will be undertaking their first Aboriginal community placement. The

challenge of preparing these communities is being led by Martha Musicco, Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Coordinator, and by her team of four Regional Aboriginal Community Coordinators.

Sam Senecal is one of these coordinators. Although he only officially started in August, 2005, he says the job of finding communities is "going like gang busters."

"The response from the communities has been incredible," says Senecal. "Native People understand the need for NOSM and are working hard to make it happen. We are here to help with the details."

Senecal points to the communities of Manitoulin Island – the world's largest fresh water island – as a prime example. He says the various island communities could play

host to up to eight NOSM students during their four-week placement next Spring.

"This will be quite significant for the people of Manitoulin," explained Senecal. "The students will be seen and will be appreciated by the whole community. I expect they will become role models for the young people."

One of the key NOSM partners on Manitoulin is the Little Current Clinic, part of

the Manitoulin Health Centre. Little Current's Native population is dispersed among five communities: Sheshegwaning, Zhiibaahaasing, Whitefish River, Sheguiandah, and Aundeck-Omni-Kaning.

Some health determinants specific to Little Current are poverty and unemployment. It is here NOSM students will get their first exposure to the issues and challenges faced by some of the North's First Nation's people.



## NOSM stands on the shoulders of medical education giants

Although there was no medical school in Northern Ontario before NOSM, the Northwestern Ontario Medical Program (NOMP) and the North Eastern Ontario Medical Education Corporation (NOMECE) were providing clinical education for undergraduate and post graduate learners rotating from medical schools in southern Ontario and elsewhere.

Through NOMECE and NOMP over half the physicians in Northern Ontario have experience and expertise in medical education. The emphasis in these very successful programs has been on the one-on-one Preceptor Model of learning in a clinical setting.

A recent change in funding has meant a transition of NOMP and NOMECE into NOSM. Because NOMECE and NOMP are structured differently, the mechanics and the timetable for each transition are different.

NOMP was established as a unit of McMaster University in the early 1970's. By agreement with McMaster, NOSM has taken over the responsibility for McMaster programs and activities in the northwest. In effect, NOSM is now the agent of McMaster in Northwestern Ontario, replacing NOMP.

During the first weekend of October, a retreat was held which was attended by over 50 physician preceptors and NOSM staff to address the theme "Tackling the Challenge of Transition". A key to the future success of NOSM is to maintain the spirit of NOMP with active participation of physician preceptors in all communities -- large and small, across the North.

NOSM is pleased to welcome Dr. Bill McCready, former Chair of NOMP, to The School as the new Associate Dean, Clinical Affairs.

## Faculty profile: Dr. Chris Kupsh

Dr. Chris Kupsh has called many places home. She has resided in Europe, the United States and other areas of Canada, but for the past 12 years, she has hung her hat in Sudbury. "I think I'm here for good," she says. "Twelve years is the longest I've ever lived in one place, and Sudbury is home now."

Here is living proof that that a Northern elective as a medical student and residency in the North contribute to retention!

Dr. Kupsh arrived in Northern Ontario as a resident with Northeastern Ontario Family Medicine Program, now Northern Ontario Medical Education Corporation (NOMECE) and now practices in emergency medicine. She is a Preceptor both to medical

students and residents in the North. As a faculty member with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Dr. Kupsh will facilitate clinical sessions with medical students. "In Northern Ontario, physicians must rely more on clinical skills," she explains. "One must be a very skilled physician, and that starts with clinical skills training." She also coordinates Case Based Learning sessions and gives a number of different presentations to residents, nurses, paramedics and medical students.

Students may have to get accustomed to Dr. Kupsh facilitating sessions while in exercise gear. "I always run, walk or bike to the weekly emergency rounds at NOMECE. My colleagues are used to me showing up



sweaty," she laughs. The ability to be this active is one of the many reasons that life in Northern Ontario appeals to Dr. Kupsh.

"There is always something to do. That's one of the bonuses of being in the North. I can cross the street and be at a lake; either swimming in it during the summer, or skiing on it in the winter."





# Appointment of Dr. Marc Blayney

## NOSM's new Vice Dean, *Professional Activities*

School's programs in postgraduate medical education; research; community and professional development; and Francophone affairs. He will focus also on enhancing NOSM's relationships within Laurentian University, and with the Francophone communities, as well as with physicians, hospitals/health services, and Northeastern communities in general.

Dr. Blayney will work closely with Dr. Dan Hunt, NOSM's Vice Dean of Academic Activities to ensure that the School continues to develop as one dynamic learning organization with a strong culture of excellence that is grounded in Northern Ontario.

Dr. Blayney's appointment comes following an extensive search, noted Founding Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser.

"This position required a bilingual professional with a vision to both nurture and expand the School's partnerships and programs. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Blayney join our team. His experience in working with the Francophone community, and practicing as a physician in locations around the globe will be a valued asset to the School."

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) has announced the appointment of Dr. Marc Blayney to the position of Vice Dean, Professional Activities.

Working from the School's East campus at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Dr. Blayney will provide executive level leadership for the

## Upcoming free professional development opportunities in Northern Ontario

### Medical Sciences Seminar Series

Date: October 26, 2005

### Teachers Practice Session (TPS)

Date: November 15, 2005

### Medical Sciences Seminar Series

Date: November 30, 2005

### Palliative Care Rounds

Topic: Symptom Relief Kit

Date: October 25, 2005

### Clinical Update In Palliative Care: Focusing on the Elderly and Wound Care

Date: November 17, 2005

### Teachers Practice Session (TPS)

Date: December 6, 2005

### Northern Ontario History of Health and Medicine Group

Date: October 24, 2005

### Northern Ontario History of Health and Medicine Group

Date: November 18, 2005

### Northern Ontario History of Health and Medicine Group

Date: December 9, 2005

### Teachers Practice Session (TPS)

Date: November 1, 2005

### Operating a Videoconference When Technical Support Is Not Available

Date: November 22, 2005

### NOSM Module 104 Tutorial

Date: December 9, 2005

### Structured Clinical Skills Tutorial

Date: November 2, 2005

### Using Excel for Basic Budget and Graphing Functions

Date: December 13, 2005

### Ovid Tips & Tricks

Date: November 4, 2005

### Conceptual Framework and Evaluation for Clinical Teaching

Date: November 25 and 26, 2005

### Structured Clinical Skills Tutorial

Date: December 14, 2005

### Effective Use of Your Computer Desktop

Date: November 8, 2005

### Google and Beyond

Date: November 25, 2005

### Introduction to the Health Resources in the PALM of Your Hand

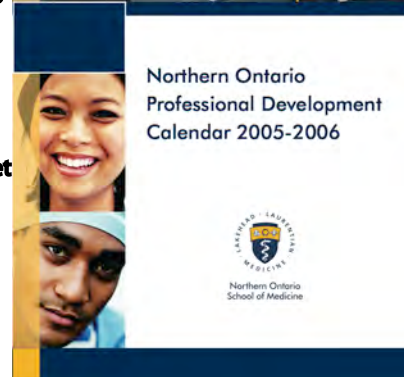
Date: December 16, 2005

### Theme Orientation

Date: November 10, 2005

### Teachers Practice Session (TPS)

Date: November 29, 2005



Full details, including many more learning opportunities, available in this guide. Contact Suzanne Lortie-Carlyle, Faculty Development Coordinator for more information.