

NORTHERN PASSAGES

VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 2

BRINGING TOGETHER
NORTHERN FACULTY

HONOURING OUR STARS WITH
AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

NOSM LEARNERS SKYPE WITH
CANADIAN ASTRONAUT

ADMISSIONS
BEHIND THE SCENES



Northern Ontario
School of Medicine
École de médecine
du Nord de l'Ontario
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NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser (left) with NOSM faculty members and former charter classmates, Drs. Adam Moir, Megan Messenger, Rob Pastre, and Kim Varty.



ON THE COVER: BRINGING TOGETHER NOSM FACULTY

In the spring of 2005, Adam Moir was eagerly awaiting news of whether or not he'd be accepted to the newly created Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) as a member of the Charter Class. Ten years later, Dr. Adam Moir, NOSM alumnus and family physician in Dryden, reunited with a few classmates—now all practising physicians—at NOSM's annual faculty development conference.

Former classmates and NOSM faculty members, Drs. Adam Moir, Megan Messenger, Rob Pastre, and Kim Varty attended Northern Constellations 2015 in Sudbury on March 27 - 28, 2015. The conference is a unique opportunity for all NOSM faculty to further develop their knowledge and skills in medical education, academic leadership, and scholarship.

Given the distributed nature of the School and the importance of face-to-face opportunities for networking and collaboration, Moir sees this conference as a way to reconnect with his colleagues. "Across Northern Ontario, there are people I consider my NOSM family. Those I met while still a medical student doing community placements or during a rotation in residency," explains Moir. "Others I may sit with on a committee or currently work with through my practice. Even if they did not graduate from NOSM, there is a sense of belonging, collegiality, and idea sharing amongst those attending."

Moir is pleased to have colleagues attend his presentations. "I used to be a medical

student attending their talks, and now they are attending my presentations. I find it really helps me to be a better speaker and teacher when I receive feedback on my teaching from my teachers. I was able to attend Dr. James Goertzen's presentation. He has years of experience honing his skills as a presenter, so I was able to pick up things just by watching him in his session," explains Moir. "Drs. Mike Kirlew and Pierre Mikhail are two of the best presenters I have ever seen, and I've attended conferences across Canada. They are exceptional speakers and they are here at NOSM. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to work and teach alongside them."

NOSM's Northern Constellations faculty development conference is like no other. While medical schools are often challenged to bring faculty together for a conference, this fourth annual event brought together 257 faculty, staff, and learners from across NOSM's wider campus of Northern Ontario. Three plenary presentations given by Drs. Karl Stobbe, Carol-anne Moulton, and Michael Kaufmann were highlights of Northern Constellations, as were the 37 different interactive workshops given by NOSM faculty and staff.

"The diverse Northern Constellations program is the result of the commitment and expertise of the many conference presenters along with their passion for educational excellence," says Dr. James Goertzen, conference organizer and NOSM's Medical Director of Faculty Development.

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Newsletter of the Northern
Ontario School of Medicine



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FEEDBACK

We welcome feedback and suggestions about *Northern Passages*. What stories would you like to read about your medical school? Send ideas to communications@nosm.ca.



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Cover Photo: Dr. Adam Moir,
NOSM alumnus and family physician
in Dryden.

Dr. David Mutrie (left) receives the inaugural Physician Clinical Teachers' Association Leadership Award from Dr. Rayudu Koka.



FACULTY AND LEARNER AWARDS OF EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP

NOSM faculty members and learners are making outstanding contributions across the School's wider campus of Northern Ontario. Faculty and learners were presented with Awards of Education and Scholarship on March 27, 2015 at NOSM's faculty development conference, Northern Constellations.

Faculty award recipients, nominated by their peers, exemplify the criteria of the awards program. Among many attributes of an award recipient, these faculty members: contribute directly and indirectly to providing students with exceptional experiences; promote leadership and personal growth; foster respect and collaboration; are trusted and respected by their peers; and, exhibit a commitment to NOSM's social accountability mandate.

Learner Awards of Education and Scholarship recipients demonstrate a commitment to becoming—among other things—a communicator, a health advocate, a scholar, a professional, and a positive role model, while also working towards the realization of NOSM's social accountability mandate.

Dr. David Mutrie was the inaugural recipient of the Physician Clinical Teachers' Association Leadership Award.

Congratulations to all award nominees and recipients!

Following the presentation of awards, NOSM faculty were recognized for their successful promotions. Those promoted in 2014 were asked to stand, followed by all faculty members who had been promoted since their time with NOSM. The many successes of NOSM's programs are testament to the excellence of the staff, faculty, and learners.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING RECIPIENTS OF THE PEER-NOMINATED AWARDS OF EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP:

- ★ Dr. Harshad Telang (Academic Leader)
- ★ Dr. Jack Haggarty (Clinical Scholar)
- ★ Dr. Lee Toner (Clinical Teacher)
- ★ Dr. Alexandria Peel (Learner Advocate/Leader)
- ★ Dr. Aaron Rothstein (Learner Peer Teaching)
- ★ Mr. John Coccimiglio (Learner Scholar Activity)
- ★ Dr. Frank Nigro (Learner Nominated Teacher)

HONOURING OUR

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Staff Awards of Excellence

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine's Awards of Excellence program for staff members was created in 2008 to acknowledge and express appreciation for outstanding contributions made by staff members in the pursuit of the School's vision of *Innovative education and research for a healthier North*. Staff members are nominated by colleagues, managers, faculty members, Board members, and NOSM learners. This is the seventh time NOSM has presented the staff Awards of Excellence. This year there were 59 nominations received, with a total of 87 different individuals nominated.

On February 26, 2015—during the Hollywood awards season—the awards ceremony was held with a theme of “Honouring our Stars.” This special event acknowledges all nominees who have shown themselves to be shining stars among their colleagues.

The late Marc Cocol was recognized posthumously with a NOSM Award of Excellence in the Inspiration category. Following Cocol's nomination being read aloud, the Technology and Information Management Support team at NOSM at Laurentian University in Sudbury accepted the award on behalf of Cocol to an emotional standing ovation from his colleagues.

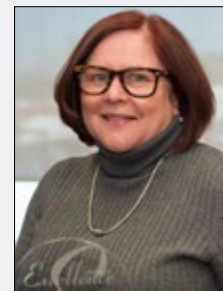
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PEER-NOMINATED AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS:



Innovation
Kirsten Benson



Leadership
Jennifer Fawcett



Team Player
Karen Tokaryk



Inspiration
Marc Cocol
(recognized posthumously)



Positive Attitude
Heather Kivi



Team Effort
Health Sciences Library consisting of Alanna Campbell, Carol Delorme, Donna Brown, Jennifer Dumond, Marian Diamond, Michael McArthur, Sophie Regalado, and Jessie Belanger.



Reliability
Carol Delorme



Service Excellence
Jason Lind

STARS

In addition, employees are recognized for their continuous years of commitment to the School through the Years of Service program.

(As of December 31, 2014)

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| ★ Jonny Barnstorf | ★ Dr. David MacLean |
| ★ Robert Bertrand | ★ Lyne Morvan |
| ★ Sharon Boudreau | ★ Kathy Pirone |
| ★ Nicole Cardinal | ★ Catherine Powell |
| ★ Patty Fink | ★ Jamie Robertson |
| ★ Dr. Geoffrey Hudson | ★ Dr. Brian Ross |
| ★ Steve Kelly | ★ Dr. Greg Ross |
| ★ Dr. Tom Kovala | ★ Dr. Zacharias Suntres |
| ★ Dr. Carita Lannér | ★ Dr. TC Tai |
| ★ Don Mackie | ★ Grace Vita |

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| ★ Kellyann Babey | ★ Catherine Duchesne |
| ★ Kathleen Beatty | ★ Dr. Elaine Hogard |
| ★ Katherine Biasiol | ★ Michael Martyn |
| ★ Melissa Brûlé | ★ Sally Monague |
| ★ Miriam Cain | ★ Susan Morhart |
| ★ Alanna Campbell | |
| ★ Carrie Cybulski | |
| ★ Dr. Tim Dubé | |



Honouring
Our Stars

IN MEMORIAM Joshua Peltier



NOSM was deeply saddened by the passing of Joshua Peltier on April 20, 2015. Josh was a member of the Wikwemikong First Nation on Manitoulin Island, and through his work with the Debajehmujig Storytellers ("Debaj"), he welcomed many

opportunities to get involved with NOSM learners, faculty, staff, and Board members.

Working alongside Drs. Maurianne Reade and Shelagh McRae, Josh helped create and portray patient scenarios designed to teach and challenge medical students living and learning on Manitoulin Island. Josh, his wife Jessica, and his colleagues at Debaj also welcomed first-year NOSM medical students to the Debajehmujig Creation Centre in August 2013 during their Orientation Week. Josh, as a member of the internationally renowned Global Savages, performed for the medical students in Manitowaning, which increased the students' appreciation and understanding of the culture and heritage of the Anishnaabek.

"In every place he went, his warmth, humour and open-hearted nature invited people to know more about his culture and heritage, to know more about Debajehmujig, to know more about his large and illustrious extended family. Over the last five years, Josh collaborated extensively with his wife, Jessica Wilde Peltier. Together, they defined a multi-art approach to creation in the visual art department that significantly contributed to the fusion of the company's creation process. For Josh, true creative freedom was experienced by being 'out in nature, creating ephemeral work that eventually goes back to the earth.' He believed and lived his vision of the power and importance of his cultural heritage and its offer of inclusivity."

Debajehmujig Storytellers

We extend our sincere condolences to Josh's partner, Jessica, his daughter Caleja, his colleagues at Debajehmujig, and his family and friends of Wikwemikong First Nation.

During their third year, NOSM medical students acquire practical, patient-centred learning through Comprehensive Community Clerkships (CCC) in one of 15 designated communities. Local NOSM Groups (LNG) facilitate the smooth integration of learners into their communities.

The following updates from four LNGs provide a glimpse into the important function they have in creating supportive environments in which NOSM learners live and learn, whether they are undergraduate medical students, postgraduate residents, or other health professional learners.

Thunder Bay LNG

Submitted by: Brady Lucas, Community Relations Coordinator, City of Thunder Bay, and Thunder Bay LNG Member



The Local NOSM Group and the City of Thunder Bay organized a winter event at Fort William Historical Park on February 22, 2015. Medical students and residents were invited to experience some traditional winter activities that included

dogsledding and snowshoeing. Those in attendance also were able to enjoy the recently crowned Guinness Book of World Records largest snow maze, which spanned a total area of 1,696 square metres.

The winter temperatures were not enough to keep an enthusiastic group from coming out and enjoying these activities. The dogsledding was the most popular event of the day. Boreal Journeys provided a great experience, and many of the participants were able to try the driver's sled and experience what it would be like to command a team of dogs. The dogs were eager

to pull and up to the task of helping provide excitement and smiles for all who participated.

The Local NOSM Group and the City of Thunder Bay would like to thank Boreal Journeys, the Fort William Historical Park, and the team of volunteers for the great day that was enjoyed by many! We would also like to thank all of the participants who braved the cold temperatures and helped make the event a success.

Pictured top left is Joelle Thorgimson, second-year NOSM medical student.

Timmins LNG

Submitted by: Fran Zimmerman, Physician Recruitment Coordinator, Timmins and District Hospital, NOSM Site Administrative Coordinator, and Timmins LNG Member



On February 28, 2015, NOSM learners—including third-year medical students, residents, and physician assistant students—were treated to the fifth annual "L'Eau à la Bouche," a one-of-a-kind dining experience hosted by the Timmins LNG. An added bonus this

year was entertainment provided by members of the Timmins Symphony Orchestra.

With the help of extraordinary home chefs—namely Dr. Larry Malo, Jason Porritt, Dr. Paul Miron, and Peter

Flanjak—a six-course extravaganza was prepared and served to our 20 seated guests by LNG members."

The dinner was exceptional from the atmosphere, attention to detail, unbelievable food, and great company. We certainly felt special to be part of such an evening and continue to feel so very grateful to be embraced by this special community. Can you believe part of the Timmins Symphony played for us? Just, wow!" said Katrina Hickey, third-year NOSM medical student.

Pictured from left to right are third-year NOSM medical students John Tuinema, Trista Lyon, and Luke Hartford.

Kenora LNG

Submitted by: Heidi Stepanik, NOSM Site Administrative Coordinator



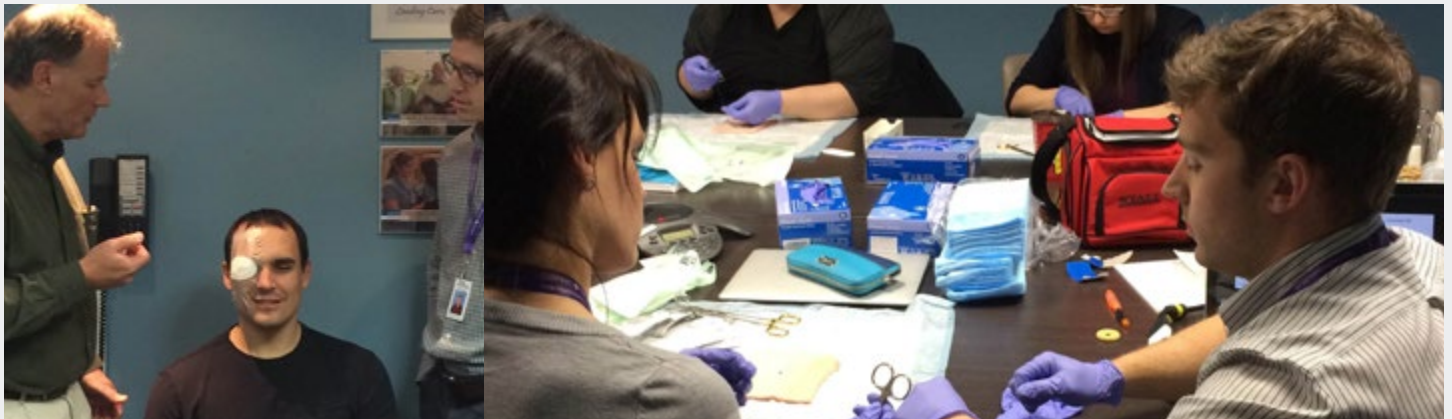
Our Local NOSM Group in Kenora arranged for our third-year NOSM medical students to have a variety of activities take place throughout their eight-month placement. This past September, the medical students participated in a guided fishing day on Lake of the Woods followed by a freshly cooked shore lunch prepared by their guides. It was a wonderful experience, and allowed the medical students living in Kenora to experience what it's like to

be a local and to see for themselves why tourists come to our community. A ski day was arranged at our local Mount Evergreen in February, where the medical students and locals enjoyed downhill and cross-country skiing and sliding with their kids, followed by pizza and hot chocolate in the lodge. A great time was had by all, despite the -35°C temperature!

Pictured left are third-year NOSM medical students Jessica Trent and Shawn Minor.

North Bay LNG

Submitted by: Heather Cobbledick, Communications Specialist, North Bay Regional Health Centre and Ashley Foreman, Medical Affairs Assistant, North Bay Regional Health Centre, NOSM Site Administrative Coordinator, and North Bay LNG Member



Each year, North Bay's eight NOSM medical students are provided the opportunity to arrange one week of academic sessions in February. Between February 9 - 13, 2015, family physicians, specialists, North Bay residents, and hospital staff provided presentations and workshops on a variety of health-care matters to meet the students' interests.

Workshops included wound care, ER scenarios, suturing, and a birthing unit lab simulation. Presentations were made on the topics of ophthalmology, orthopedics, student bullet rounds,

sports medicine, addiction, and obstetrics and gynecology. The academic sessions provided a great opportunity for students to learn and obtain new skills.

"It was a wonderful opportunity being able to interact with and learn from the amazing physicians in this community. We are so grateful for this experience," says Rose Michael, third-year NOSM medical student. "This Academic Week is an experience exclusive to the North Bay CCC clerkship year. It allowed us to further enhance our learning experience

and supplement some of our self-identified learning needs. I cannot express how fortunate we are to have been able to experience an Academic Week during our CCC year," says Michael.

Pictured above left, Dr. Richard Senior, NOSM's CCC Site Liaison Clinician and Family Medicine Residency Site Director on left providing teaching for third-year NOSM medical students Devin Brisson and Michael Watson.

Pictured above right, second-year NOSM family medicine resident, Dr. Jonathan Blackadar assisting third-year NOSM medical student Erin Froot with suturing techniques.



BEHIND THE SCENES

NOSM is a medical school like no other. Get to know the people who make the wheels turn at the School and the vital role they play in the School's vision of Innovative education and research for a healthier North.

NOSM's Office of Admissions supports the School's vision by ensuring the admissions process encourages recruitment of students from Northern Ontario and/or students who have a strong interest in, and aptitude for, practising medicine in Northern urban, rural, and remote communities. Equally important, NOSM is committed to recruiting Aboriginal and Franco-Ontarian students. In March, NOSM held interviews in Thunder Bay and Sudbury for applicants to begin the NOSM MD program this fall. In all, 328 individuals were interviewed from 2,130 applications for 64 spots available in the MD program. Julie Pacifico and Véronique Poirier discuss how they support the School's vision through their respective roles in the Office of Admissions.

Julie Pacifico (JP): As an Admissions Officer, it is my role to interpret admission policies and execute the admission assessment process with accuracy by the cycle-demanded deadlines. I support the Unit in achieving its performance, recruitment, and research goals. Véronique and I are also responsible for ensuring that the Office of Admissions fulfills its responsibilities in a student-centred and culturally safe manner.

Véronique Poirier (VP): I promote NOSM by inspiring interested applicants and teaching them about the School's academic and clinical program opportunities, the admissions criteria, along with the application process. In addition to being the Admissions and Learner Recruitment Officer, I'm also the Coordinator of NOSM's Health Sciences Summer Camp. The summer camp provides youth from Aboriginal, Francophone, rural, and remote communities an opportunity to explore health-care careers and obtain hands-on experience in NOSM's modern and technologically advanced learning settings.

JP: Having been at NOSM since December 2006, my role with the School allows me to play a part in making the North healthier

for me, my family, and for all citizens. I am a resident of Northern Ontario and have been for most of my life. When I see that Northern Ontario has had an increase in the number of health professionals serving its communities, I can see that NOSM's mission is being realized.

VP: Like Julie, I am part of the process that selects Northern Ontario's future medical students. Having been born and raised in Northern Ontario, I'm excited to be involved in youth recruitment. Getting to play an active role with helping young people explore their potential is exciting, whether it is studying medicine or another health-related career offered at NOSM. I've been at NOSM since January 2014, and enjoy seeing learners progress in various stages from inquisitive youth to passionate prospective students, and from dedicated medical students to newly-minted physicians.

JP: When I stand in the entryway of NOSM on the first day of the MD Orientation and see the new students that will begin their studies in medicine, I feel a very real sense of being a part of Northern Ontario's healthier future. Lifelong efforts and dreams are coming to fruition for each of the new medical students. Both Véronique and I have the privilege of being a part of this exciting time in their lives.



Julie Pacifico
Admissions Officer



Véronique Poirier
Admissions and Learner Recruitment
Officer

WORLD FIRST: AUDIOLOGY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE TESTING VIA TELEPRACTICE



Bill Campbell, NOSM Community and Interprofessional Learning (CIL) Facilitator and Audiologist for Superior Hearing Centre in Thunder Bay, accomplished a world first. For the last few years, Campbell has been completing Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) testing via telepractice—a diagnostic that tests an infant's inner ear and brain pathways for hearing. Rather than asking families to travel to Thunder Bay, clients in the far North can travel to Red Lake, Geraldton, Sioux Lookout, Fort Frances, or five other sites in order to identify infant hearing loss that relates to the brain.

When an infant shows signs that they need further testing, the family is connected with a screener in their area (someone who has been trained via the Infant Hearing Program by an audiologist) who can set up the testing. The family arrives for the diagnostics, and the screener preps the baby for the test by connecting them via electrodes to the appropriate equipment. They wait until the baby falls asleep, and then Campbell joins the teleconference and administers the test remotely.

"The training that an audiologist requires in order to do an ABR is a bit specialized and requires much practice for audiologists to keep up their skill level," says Campbell. "There are areas in Northern Ontario that don't always have access to clinicians with this specialty training. Or, sometimes, the birth rate is low enough that there just aren't enough kids to support an audiologist who has this skill."

Since he and his colleagues at Superior Hearing Centre began delivering ABRs via telepractice, they have received positive feedback from clients, but also from NOSM first- and second-year students who spend time with Campbell during their Community and Interprofessional Learning placements.

"One of the real advantages is that, by having NOSM students experience audiology services and see this testing, there's a real savings to the health-care system," says Campbell. "For students who have had these experiences with an audiologist, their referrals later as clinicians become more appropriate due to their knowledge of the screening process and the Ontario Infant Hearing Program. They're also able to give more in-depth information to their patients about what the testing entails, and assist the family in making appropriate decisions about their child's hearing."

2015 NORTHERN HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE

JUNE 4-6, 2015
TIMMINS, ONTARIO

nosm.ca/nhrc



CANADIAN ASTRONAUT SKYPES WITH NOSM LEARNERS

On March 2, 2015, astronaut and former physician Dr. David Saint-Jacques spoke about the Canadian space program, his personal journey to becoming an astronaut, his time as a physician, and why space exploration is moving humanity forward.

Saint-Jacques began the presentation with a video of a Russian Soyuz rocket launch. A culmination of years of training, three astronauts skyrocket at eight kilometres per second into space. Following the 10 minute ride, they jettison the rocket and orbit in the capsule, seeing the amazing view of Earth from outer space for the first time.

The fascinating video set the stage for discussion about staying healthy, preparing for life at the International Space Station (ISS), and how astronauts eat and exercise in space. Using Commander Chris Hadfield's videos from his time at the ISS in the background, Saint-Jacques also spoke passionately about remote medical care, personal memories and observations from his time working in Canada's far North, and his journey to becoming an astronaut.

This event was initiated by Joelle Thorgrimson, a second-year NOSM medical student, when she emailed a request to the Canadian Space Agency on behalf of the School's student-led Space Medicine Interest Group.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

NOSM's faculty, residents, learners, staff members, and community partners 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.



The Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) announced this year's recipients of the 2015 CAME Certificate of Merit which promotes, recognizes, and rewards faculty committed to medical education in Canadian medical schools. Among these deserving recipients is NOSM's **Dr. Lee Toner**. Please join us in congratulating him and others honoured for their commitment to medical education in Canada.



After five years of dedicated service as Section Chair in Family Medicine, we say thank you and farewell to **Dr. Chris Rossi** as she leaves her post. Dr. Rossi is looking forward to moving on to other leadership opportunities, and will continue to focus on her practice. Designing a medical education program for NOSM that was both inclusive and responsive began early, and contributors like Dr. Rossi were there from the start, bringing years of resident teaching experience with her from the Northeastern Ontario Medical Education Corporation (NOMEC). We wish Dr. Rossi all the best.

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) announced on February 19, 2015 that the **Training for Health Equity Network (THEnet)** is the very first recipient of the AFMC - Charles Boelen International Social Accountability Award. NOSM is the only Canadian member of THEnet, a consortium of health-professional schools committed to achieving health equity through education, research, and services responsive to community priorities. Charles Boelen, known as the father of the social accountability concept in medical education, has visited NOSM in the past. Most recently, when Boelen spoke at the NOSM-hosted international medical education conference Rendez-Vous 2012, he said that, "The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is a vivid example of how, from the beginning, an institution can successfully incorporate social accountability into their mandate." The AFMC - Charles Boelen International Social Accountability Award was presented to THEnet during the President's Address and awards ceremony on April 26, 2015 as part of the Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME).

NOSM was honoured for the sixth consecutive year with the **Rural Medical Education Award** at the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) Annual Conference on April 8 - 11, 2015. Each year, the SRPC awards an undergraduate medical program that has excelled matching the most graduates to rural family medicine programs through the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) process. The SRPC conference brought together close to 1,000 rural physicians, students, and residents from across Canada, including NOSM rural physician clinical faculty members, residents, and students as presenters and participants. This year, 62% of NOSM's graduates matched to family medicine, with 31% matched to a rural family medicine residency program.

The Professional Association of Residents of Ontario (PARO) celebrates Excellence Awards annually. **Dr. Roger Sandre**, NOSM Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine, received the 2015 PARO Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award. The award publicly acknowledges the essential role that good clinical teachers play in the training of physicians. NOSM medical student **Martha DiGiuseppe** received the 2015 PARO Citizenship Award. The award recognizes medical students who, in addition to maintaining an adequate academic standing, have made a significant contribution towards improving the general welfare of fellow medical students. Second-year family medicine resident **Dr. Aaron Rothstein** received a Resident Teaching Award. The award honours residents who have provided outstanding clinical teaching experiences to junior housestaff and clinical clerks.



Each year, the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) recognizes passionate, dedicated, and caring medical student leaders across Canada who have made innovative contributions to their schools and communities. In recognition of their achievements, one student from each of the 14 member schools of the CFMS receive a Medical Student Leadership Award consisting of a certificate of recognition and a cash prize. This year, second-year NOSM medical student **Jenna Webber** received the Medical Student Leadership Award at the CFMS annual general meeting in Vancouver on April 25 - 26, 2015.

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



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NOSM CELEBRATES TEN YEARS...

WITH

Thanks

Thanks to the many people, from staff and faculty to community members and donors, who provide invaluable support in the education of health professionals across NOSM's wider campus of Northern Ontario.

We couldn't do it without you.