

Spring 2008

Volume 7, Issue II

Northern Passages

Newsletter of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine

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Northern Ontario
School of Medicine

West Campus
Lakehead University
955 Oliver Road
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1

Tel: 807-766-7300
Fax: 807-766-7370

East Campus
Laurentian University
935 Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, ON P3E 2C6

Tel: 705-675-4883
Fax: 705-675-4858

School launches new website

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine now has a new look, and a new name, when it comes to its place on the World Wide Web. As of May 1, 2008 NOSM's new website will www.nosm.ca.

As Kim Daynard, NOSM's Director of Communications explains, it's not only the look that is changing. This new site is easier to use, more engaging to interact with, and better able to serve the various communities within the School.

"We're really pleased with the new look and design," says Daynard. "The site features a contemporary design, with easy navigation and expanded functionality. There is a greatly expanded focus on our communities, including our Aboriginal and Francophone partners."

In addition to the updated content and photographs, www.nosm.ca will be far easier to navigate and use.

For example, there will be an easier to read "coming events" section, a more effective search tool, and a way to subscribe to the School's various publications (such as this one).



A sample image of NOSM's redesigned website.

Daynard says the existing website address (www.normed.ca) will continue to operate, as will existing email addresses.

World conference comes to NOSM

An international gathering of innovative minds in medical education is taking place at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, June 8 to 14, 2008. Experts from around the world

will be coming to Northern Ontario as part of the inaugural International Conference on Community Engaged Medical Education in the North (ICEMEN).

"Quite literally, the world is coming to Northern Ontario," says NOSM Founding Dean Dr. Roger Strasser. "We've got people coming from Canada, the US, Australia, Europe, Scandinavia, South Africa – pretty much everywhere."

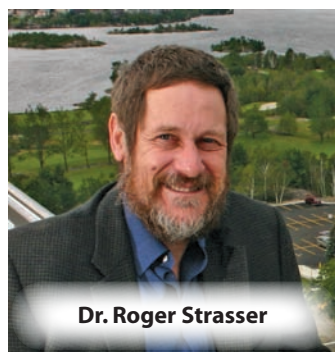
This five-day event is co-hosted by NOSM and Flinders University of Australia. Attendees will explore the practicalities of delivering community based

medical education programs. Participants will also be able to update their rural clinical skills, in collaboration with the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada.

As Strasser explains, a major participant of this event will be NOSM itself. Conference attendees will spend the first two days in Sudbury. They then travel to Thunder Bay via bus, stopping in a number of NOSM communities along the way.

"What better way to highlight that our communities are full partners in the School," says Strasser. "NOSM is a fully

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Dr. Roger Strasser

Staff and Elders see 'Through our Eyes'

Staff members and Elders associated with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine recently attended Lakehead University's 2008 Aboriginal Awareness Centre Elder's Conference, "Through Our Eyes".

"The most memorable experience of the gathering for me was to hear the young man, Ron Maadamin, speak," says Sam Senecal, Regional Aboriginal Community Coordinator at NOSM. "He spoke of the need for the Red Man to help their White Brothers and Sisters

to find their way back from destruction and to help protect Mother Earth."

Senecal also enjoyed interacting with the Elders. He especially appreciated their sense of humour and their laid back approach to everything going on around them.

Although the conference was organized by Lakehead University's Aboriginal Awareness Centre, NOSM contributed financial assistance and also brought in a group of about 35 Elders and helpers from across

Northern Ontario.

"The knowledge I learned during the gathering came from my interaction with the Elder Albert Maadamin," Senecal says. "He truly is an Ogitchi twaa Elder."

NOSM's Communications Officer (West) Lisa Kokanie enjoyed meeting Ruby Farrell (Slipperjack), an Aboriginal author whose work she studied in university.

"I have always loved her books and I was really excited to hear her lecture," says Kokanie. "Meeting her, and hearing all about her childhood and the experiences that inspired her to write, was truly amazing."

Kokanie adds that the wide range of people and age groups at the conference allowed an opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas and to share stories about the past.

"I was happy to see that the audience included people of all ages as it is important to pass down the stories and traditions so they are not lost for future generations," says Kokanie.

The mid-March Elders Conference was a first for Robin George-Peltier, administrative assistant, Aboriginal Affairs. She says it was like nothing like she had imagined.

"I found it emotionally touching meeting others from other northern Aboriginal communities," says George-Peltier. "Even though we were from all over Northern Ontario and speak different languages and dialects, we are very much alike."



A gathering of participants at Lakehead University's 2008 Aboriginal Awareness Centre Elder's Conference entitled, "Through Our Eyes".

Libraries merge to better serve clients

It may have a new name, and a new acronym, but the raison d'être of the Northern Ontario Health Information Network (NOHIN) remains the same: to support the learning needs and goals of health-care professionals across Northern Ontario.

"We're not changing any of the services or resources people have come to expect from their library, we're just making it better," explains Patty Fink, Acting Director of NOHIN.

As of February 1st, 2008, the Health Information Resource Centre (HIRC) and the Northern Ontario Virtual Library (NOVL) merged to form NOHIN. As Fink explains, this new organization is like a one-stop-shop for students, faculty, researchers and health-care practitioners of Northern Ontario.

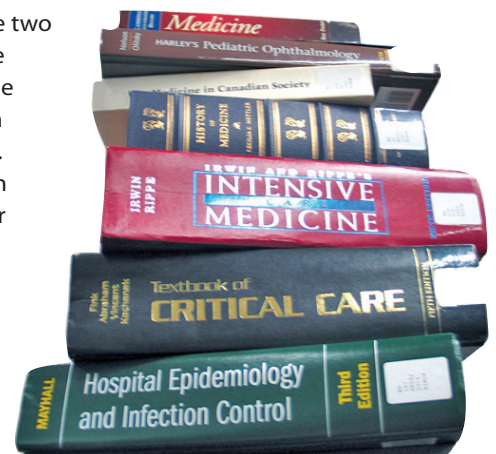
In the past NOSM's students, faculty and researchers used the services of HIRC for their library needs. At the same time NOVL was there to serve the information needs of practicing clinicians.

As Fink points out, the needs of a medical student is very

different than a practicing clinician, or than a biomedical researcher.

"By bringing these two libraries together we are able to merge the financial and human resources," says Fink. "This should result in enhanced service for everyone."

For more information about NOHIN, go to the new website: www.nosm.ca/library.



L'EMNO assiste au Sommet de la santé en français

L'importance de la compétence culturelle a été un thème clé du récent Sommet régional sur la santé pour les Francophones du Nord de l'Ontario.

communautés.»

« La participation, les débats et l'engagement de toutes les personnes présentes prouvent que nous nous approchons à grands pas de ces objectifs. »

Au programme des sessions du sommet, tenues à Thunder Bay et à Timmins en mars et avril, figuraient des conférenciers et des participants de l'Ontario et du Québec. Ces événements ont rassemblé des organismes communautaires, des établissements d'enseignement et de soins, des professionnels et des membres du public.

Dans les deux villes, il y a eu des invités et des experts ainsi que des tables rondes sur diverses questions entourant la prestation de services de santé de qualité dans les communautés francophones du Nord de l'Ontario.

Selon Rémi Beaudoin,

directeur général du RLISS du nord-est, les sessions auront des retombées positives sur la prestation des services dans les communautés : « Pendant ce sommet, nous avons tous entendu un message clair qui influencera certainement le fonctionnement des RLISS à l'avenir ».



Ce sommet, constitué de deux sessions et commandité en partie par l'EMNO, était axé sur la santé de la population et des communautés francophones du Nord.

Il a été organisé principalement par le Réseau francophone de santé du Nord de l'Ontario et les réseaux locaux d'intégration des services de santé (RLISS) du nord-est et du nord-ouest.

« Nous avons deux objectifs très importants, explique Marc Bédard, le directeur général du Réseau francophone. Nous voulons mobiliser tous les partenaires et les engager dans la collaboration pour la santé des Francophones. Nous voulons aussi améliorer la gestion et la prévention des maladies chroniques dans nos

Clinical teachers' association launched

The NOSM Physician Clinical Teachers Association is up and running with an elected board and a new set of bylaws.

Dr. Richard Denton is President of the new association. He says the group is actively working on funding negotiations with the government, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and NOSM.

"We have been meeting almost weekly by teleconference and video conference to do this work," explains Denton. "We are also looking at non-financial incentives and participation, to encourage our staff so that they feel appreciated."

Denton says the association is already working on recommendations to improve the promotion system for clinical faculty, and are encouraging members to become active in research and administration. They also want to create an appeal process, to have elections rather than appointments, to advertise for positions, and to allow for tenure for members.

"We are working hand in hand with the NOSM Faculty Association which has given us help and expertise," says Denton. "We are working on a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations to strengthen both."

For more information contact Richard Denton, President of the NOSM Physicians Clinical Teachers Association at richard.denton@normed.ca.

Students attend History of Medicine conference

Thirteen people from NOSM travelled to Alberta this past March to take part in the annual History of Medicine Days Conference, hosted by the University of Calgary Medical School.

As in past years, NOSM students presented papers on various topics, ranging from Arabic medicine to social accountability. Many of the School's presenters were selected for top honours by the judges.

Dr. Geoffrey Hudson (D.Phil.) is NOSM's Historian of Medicine and Assistant Professor of Human Sciences. He says he is pleased NOSM students continue to be well represented at this important national conference.

"This year we had more students giving papers than from any other Canadian medical school," says Hudson. "We had students representing all three years, and from both campuses, giving presentations. All were well received."

Funding for student travel is provided, in part, by a five year grant (2005-2010) awarded to Dr. Hudson and Dr. Patricia Jasen (History Dept., Lakehead), from Associated Medical Services Inc. (www.ams-inc.on.ca). The grant money is matched by the School.

In past years the Calgary conference has acted as a springboard, with a number of NOSM students then being invited to present at other events.

In 2005, Charter Class members Nicole Beauvais and Lana Potts received an award for second overall best paper at Calgary for "Solving the Indian Problem: Tuberculosis



The group from NOSM which attended the 2008 History of Medicine Days Conference at the University of Calgary. (back row, left to right) David Harris, Jennifer Zymantas, Jennifer McPail, Kyle Cullingham, Megan Wickett, Geoffrey Hudson, Kashif Ahmed. (front row, left to right) Arianne St. Jacques, Anna Maria Soviero, Kimberly Varty, Lynne Noel De Tilly, Linda Bakovic, Carolyn Stark.

in the Canadian Residential School System". These two students went on to take versions of this paper to a number of national and international venues, including the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress in New Zealand.

"History provides inspiration, professional socialization, and above all, a way of critical thinking," says Hudson. "Many of modern medicine's preoccupations have deep roots in the past, and learning about the history of medicine helps students understand its present configuration."

This year's presenters were:

- Sheena Belisle: Birth and North American Aboriginal Peoples.
- Kashif Ahmed: Arabic Medicine: Contributions and influence.
- Lynn Noel de Tilly and Megan Wickett:

From Rags to Wings - History of menses management throughout the ages.

- Kyle Cullingham and David Harris: Henry Dunant's Vision and the Power of Humanity.
- Carolyn Stark and Linda Bakovic: Stethoscopes and Diapers - The dual role of mother and medical student.
- Arianne St. Jacques and Anna Maria Soviero: Doctors for the People - The history of medical education and the current role of social accountability.
- Kim Varty: Leaving on a Jet Plane for a House Call - A review of the implementation of cultural competency in medical education.
- Jennifer McPhail and Jennifer Zymantas: Working in Northern Canada as a Nurse - The Life of Vera Roberts.

[Cont. from p. 1](#)

International conference builds on past NOSM events

distributed medical school. Our communities are involved at all levels."

Conference participants will travel to Thunder Bay one of two ways. Some will go via the south route, travel from Greater Sudbury, M'Chigeeng (Manitoulin Island), Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and Thunder Bay. Others will travel the north route, from Greater Sudbury to Timmins, Kapuskasing, Hearst and finally Thunder Bay.

While this is the first ICEMEN, it builds directly from an initial workshop held at NOSM two years ago. In August 2006, a group of deans and medical educators interested in longitudinal clinical education came together in Thunder Bay.

This group, now known as the Consortium of Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships (CLIC), have since met in Cambridge, Massachusetts. CLIC members will carry on their meetings as part of the ICEMEN sessions.

The intent of the conference is, in part, to contrast the traditional institutional method of training medical students, with the new community-based approach. These themes will be highlighted through poster presentations, debates and hypothetical discussions.

The debate, for example, poses the provocative statement: "The Teaching Hospital is Extinct." Taking the opposing sides in this debate will be Dr. Paul Worley, Dean of Flinders, and Dr. Arnie Aberman, former Dean of the University of Toronto medical school.

"Knowing the participants, this should be a rather lively exchange," muses Strasser, who will act as moderator of this event.

For full information, including registration, go to www.nosm.ca and click on the ICEMEN logo. Or, contact Conference Managers Sherry Carlucci (705-662-7257, sherry.carlucci@normed.ca), or Suzanne Lortie-Carlyle (705-662-7263, suzanne.lortie-carlyle@normed.ca).

Founding Dean Summer Medical Student Research Awards

2008 Recipients

Each year the School presents eight medical students with Founding Dean Summer Medical Student Research Awards. Each award is valued at \$6,000.

Speaking at the announcement, Dr. Greg Ross, NOSM's Associate Dean of Research, expressed his enthusiasm for these awards.

"Our students are very excited to begin working on their projects this summer, and I look forward to being there with them,"

said Ross. "The Founding Dean Summer Medical Student Research Awards allow our students to remain in the North for the summer, and gain valuable research experience."

The School is a pioneering faculty of medicine. By educating skilled physicians, and undertaking health research suited to community needs, the School will become a cornerstone of community health care in Northern Ontario.



Brandon Entwistle - Brandon will be examining the outcomes of hip surgery patients which were operated on in a large tertiary institution versus a small community hospital. He will look at a number of factors, including waiting times, morbidity and mortality in these two settings, with the goal of further exploring the relationship between surgical delays and recovery.



Bruce Cook - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is associated with a number of problem behaviours, including neurological dysfunction, in children diagnosed with the syndrome. Bruce will conduct a functional analysis of the types of behaviours associated with FAS, in order to guide appropriate preventions and intervention for treatment



Carolyn Stark - Carolyn is interested in the history of military medical ethics. There may be great challenges faced by military physicians during times of conflict, and this research will use a case-study approach to examine ethical obligations of physicians to act as advocates for health and humanity during time of military missions.



Lynn Noel de Tilly - A suicidal person can come into contact with the law in barricade situations, for which the outcome is often bad. Unfortunately, many can end up in murder-suicide situations when a hostage was present. Lynn will be characterizing the factors influencing the outcomes, with the goal of identifying determinants for successful or poor endings. This information is critical for hostage negotiators, police forces, and other who may be called to play a role in these situations

Stacey Erven - Developmental delays and autism can be detected in children between 12 months and 5 years of age. Ideally, these issues are identified early, in order to implement appropriate interventions. Stacey will be examining the sensitivity and specificity of screening assessments by primary health care physicians, which may benefit children through improvements in physician assessment of developmental delays and autism



Jennifer McPhail - While cancer is a priority health concern identified by many communities and health agencies, information about cancer incidence and its causes in Canadian Aboriginal peoples is sparse. Jennifer will be focused on a number of questions in this project, including ways to identify priorities and developing strategies for conducting ethical research



Safiya Adam - Concepts such as "disability" in children vary with culture, location and time period. Safiya will be examining the history of disabled children's health in Northern Ontario, with the goal of characterizing how changes in health policy have impacted individuals, and our society, over time



Kendra Cote - Kendra is planning to measure the effect of shared mental health services in a primary care setting. The study will evaluate patient satisfaction in a number of facilities, with different funding models, with the goal of identifying factors which influence patient satisfaction.



Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario

NOSM Summer Medical Student Research Awards

2008

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario (HSFO) presented a number of NOSM medical students with annual research awards. Each award is valued at \$6,000. This year, seven students were chosen.

This is the third year for the HSFO NOSM Summer Medical Student Awards program. The program is a five-year commitment valued at nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

"The Heart and Stroke Foundation, in partnership with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, is beginning to make significant inroads in life-saving heart disease and stroke research for the people of Northern Ontario," says Dr. Marco Di Buono, Director, Research, Heart

and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, speaking at the presentation in March. "We are building research capacity in the North by keeping bright, young minds in the region. It is only through effective partnerships like this, made possible in part through the support of TD Bank Financial Group, that we will meet the needs of the entire population of Ontario."

Student research projects supported by the HSFO provide Northern medical students with the opportunity to gain cardiovascular research training while working with an established researcher at NOSM. The projects are carried out all across Northern Ontario.



Kashif Ahmed will be focusing on diabetic care and prevention in Aboriginal communities (Manitoulin District) from both an individual and public health perspective. The collaborative research project will involve six First Nation communities and all physicians in the Manitoulin District. The objective of the study will be to see how the level of care in these populations compares with national guidelines. During the summer, Ahmed will review and analyze charts, conduct literature reviews, identify priorities for improvement in diabetes care and develop an action plan to improve care over the next five years.

Meghan Garnett will be focusing on the prevention and awareness of childhood obesity in North Bay where a community algorithm is being developed for the evaluation and treatment of children and adolescents with obesity. She will be involved in three projects this summer: 1. How children with obesity present to their primary health care provider. 2. The creation of an inventory of services and programs in North Bay that can be used to treat overweight and obese children. 3. Evaluating mechanisms for a multi-disciplinary treatment program for children who are overweight and obese.



Olubukunola (Buki) Ayeni is interested in the heart and its complex functions, particularly in understanding the major cardiovascular diseases as well as risk factors associated with these various heart conditions. Specifically, Ayeni is interested in atherosclerosis and hypertension. He wishes to gain a better understanding of the role and regulation of endothelial cells (cells that line the blood vessels) in vasomotor function (constriction and dilation of the blood vessels) by looking at nitric oxide (a compound in the blood that has many biological properties) and how it is associated in atherosclerosis. He will spend the summer familiarizing himself with laboratory techniques to complete the study, collecting data and conducting an analysis for significant or non-significant findings.



Elizabeth Cooper will be conducting a retrospective study that will address the risk factors of pre-stroke and the disability of patients after stroke in Northern Ontario. The pre-stroke factors that will be examined will be hypertension, TIA, obesity, previous incidences of stroke, diabetes, smoking, peripheral vascular disease and abnormal cholesterol levels. Elizabeth will be reviewing cases of patients who have had a stroke over the last two to five years. The study will determine the risk factors leading to strokes in Aboriginal populations.



Penny Forth will be involved in the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Aboriginal Hypertension Management Program which is a collaborative project with local leaders in two aboriginal communities: Whitefish River and Manitoulin Island. The program will involve the implementation of an evidence-based chronic disease management program. Penny will attend the launch workshop, work with the health services teams and the Foundation to implement and integrate tools, support activities and build client education and awareness to these communities.



David Harris will be examining inter-professional collaboration between different professional bodies working together to solve specific problems or provide specific services that can be employed in areas such as cardiac rehabilitation, stroke treatment and diabetes treatment. Changes in hierarchical structure of medical care, examining the methods to promote inter-professional collaboration in education, practice and research are two areas that will be addressed in this project. Also, surveys to health care professionals such as doctors, nurses, social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and dietitians will be conducted to better understand inter-professional collaboration. The first half of the project will involve literature reviews on professional collaboration. The second half will involve data collection from communities throughout Northern Ontario outlining key cultural and technical factors encountered with respect to professional collaboration.

Marlon Hagerty will focus on the characterization and expression of a type of receptor, called integrins which are involved in the regulation of vital cardiac functions. Integrin functions are found in various inflammatory conditions. By further understanding the roles of these receptors, and how they interact in stress environments, he will better understand the role they play in cardiac disease.



Staff profile: Ken Adams

For Ken Adams, the relocation from Wayburn, Saskatchewan to Thunder Bay, Ontario is closer to a homecoming than a move. Adams is NOSM's new Associate Dean, Administration, and as he is proud to point out, he really is a Northern Ontario boy.

"The North is very familiar ground for me," he says. "I was born in Valley East (now part of Greater Sudbury), and went to Laurentian [University] where I played hockey. I've lived in Sault Ste. Marie, Red Lake, and North Bay, and have traveled extensively throughout the North, including many of the fly-in communities of the far North.

"Moving back to Thunder Bay is definitely like coming home." Adams lived in Thunder Bay from 2000 to 2006.

Adams comes to NOSM with a wealth of experience in health administration, public policy and organizational management. His most recent position (a job he leaves two days before officially starting at NOSM) is as Vice-President of Finance and Corporate Services for the Sun Country Regional Health Authority (SCRHA) in Saskatchewan.

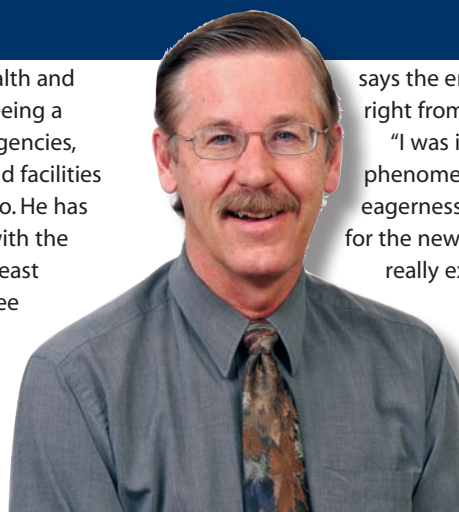
Prior to the SCRHA, Adams was acting Director of the North Region Branch,

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, overseeing a network of hospitals, agencies, community services and facilities across Northern Ontario. He has held senior positions with the Heath District in Southeast Saskatchewan, and three acute-care hospitals in Ontario and Alberta.

All of this is to say, Adams comes well qualified for the challenges of NOSM. So in many ways, this move to NOSM was almost 'meant to be.'

"I was there at the official funding announcement of the School, back in May, 2003," says Adams. "I remember when Ontario Premier Ernie Eves made the news official, standing outside the ATAC building in Thunder Bay."

Even back then Adams was already involved in the development of the School, working on various coordinating committees in his role with the ministry. He



says the enthusiasm was evident right from the beginning.

"I was impressed with the phenomenal support and eagerness all Northerners showed for the new school," says Adams. "I'm really excited to be part of it."

Adams officially began on April 28th, but even before then he was taking holidays from his job at the SCRHA to come and learn his new tasks at NOSM.

"I know I have very large shoes to fill,

taking over from Dorothy Wright, but she is leaving the School in excellent shape." Wright is retiring after six years as the NOSM Chief Administrative Officer.

Adams and his wife Susan, who is a school teacher, and their cat Thomas, will be taking up residence in Thunder Bay. They join their two sons Ben and Matt, who are studying at Lakehead University. Their eldest daughter is studying dentistry at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

Annual research conference takes place in North Bay

The School's third annual Northern Health Research Conference (NHRC) takes place May 30 and 31, at Nippissing University in North Bay.

The conference is an opportunity to explore research activities within Northern Ontario arising from community-based activities. It highlights research projects from students, residents and community-based researchers.

Denise Adams is coordinating the event this year. She says research plays a vital role at NOSM, and this event is a way to both foster, and celebrate, the work being done.

"Community-based research is key to fulfilling the mandate of the School," says

Adams. "Research must be relevant to the health, and happiness, of Northern Ontarians. This conference promotes these ideas."

Along with research presentations, each year's conference features a keynote speaker. This year Dr. Joshua Tepper is that person.

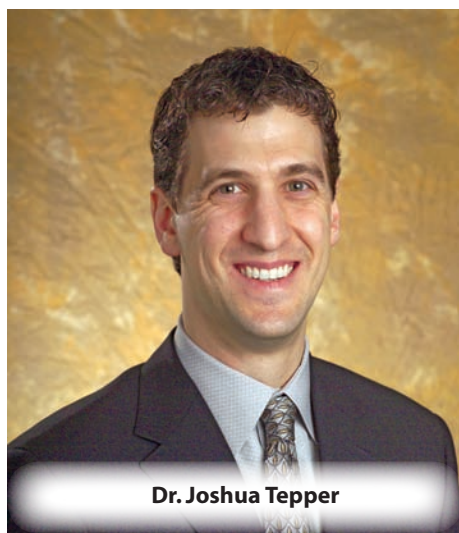
Tepper is a family physician, as well as being an Assistant Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Human Resources Strategy Division. In the past he has been a senior medical officer for Health Canada, an adjunct scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and a research consultant for the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI).

As Adams says, human resources in health care is a huge issue, and one close to the *raison d'être* of NOSM itself. "We've got the person who is at the centre of it all. It should be a very interesting talk."

Each year the NHRC expands in size, and stature. This year is no exception, with over 80 presentations being accepted for exhibit. This includes 33 oral presentations, and 50 posters from researchers and students across Northern Ontario. And to ensure distance is no barrier to potential presenters, NOSM is providing free transportation from Thunder Bay to North Bay (one presenter per abstract).

The past two conferences attracted between 120 and 150 attendees, a number Adams expects to see again this year. Spots are limited, so get your registration in early.

To register, or to get more information, go to the NOSM website (www.nosm.ca) and click on the NHRC link. Or, contact Denise Adams, Tel.: 705-662-7256 or denise.adams@normed.ca.



Dr. Joshua Tepper

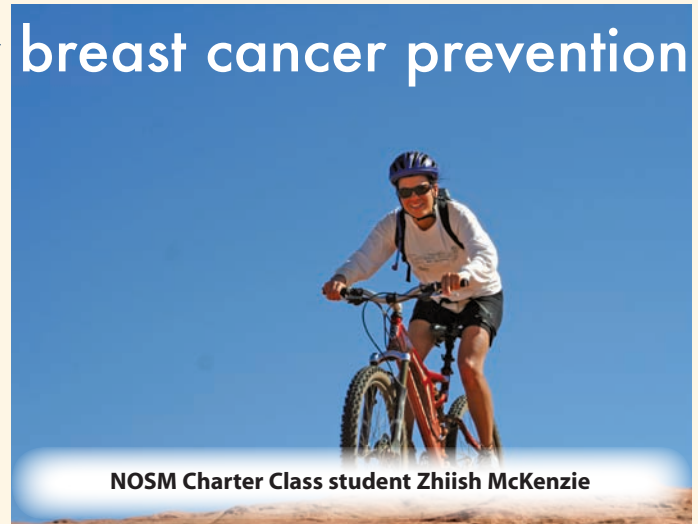
NOSM student pedals for breast cancer prevention

Over the past two summers, Charter Class member Zhiish McKenzie, and her friend Heather Hendrie, have packed up some organic food, jumped on their bikes, and peddled the hilly 1,150 km journey from Banff, AB to Vancouver, BC, all in support of breast cancer research and awareness.

This summer, the two saddle-sore team members are tuning up their bikes to continue their journey. This time they are pedaling from Vancouver, BC to San Francisco, CA – a 1,500 km distance.

They have named their ride REVOLUTION because they are hoping to transform the current reality of 1 in 9 women having breast cancer. One hundred percent of donations will go to the Pink and Green Ribbon breast education programs promoted by LaLunaLove.

“Pink represents our commitment to creating breast-cancer free communities through promoting healthy breast education and focusing on prevention,” explains McKenzie. “Green reflects our initiative to educate people on the connection between the environment and women’s health and our commitment to preventing cancer by cleaning up and caring for our planet.”



NOSM Charter Class student Zhiish McKenzie

The pair hopes to raise money for LaLunaLove’s Pink and Green Ribbon Health Program Fund, and to draw public attention to the links between the environment and women’s breast health.

For more information, or to make a contribution, go to the website: www.pinkandgreenribbon.com.

SSM hockey tournament supports NOSM bursary program

“He shoots! He scores!” This well known Canadian phrase has taken on a whole new meaning at NOSM, with the establishment of a hockey-supported bursary.

Bring a Doctor Home Bursary, as it is called, was established, in part, by participants of the Algoma Steel Hockey Tournament of Sault Ste. Marie. The tournament recently raised \$17,000 for the bursary, an amount which will be matched, dollar for dollar, by the Ontario Government.

“The Bring a Doctor Home Bursary will help students reduce costs associated with earning a medical degree and, hopefully, encourage those hailing from Northern Ontario who are interested in a medical career to fulfil their dreams,” said Hal Mogg, Algoma Steel Hockey Tournament Director. “We believe this investment will strategically assist Sault Ste. Marie with long-term recruitment of family physicians to Northern Ontario.”



Some of the participants in the Algoma Steel Hockey Tournament.

Dr. Strasser, NOSM’s Founding Dean, was on hand to receive the cheque, and to express his gratitude for the generous donation.

“Contributions to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine Bursary Fund are long-term investments in better health care for Northern Ontarians,” says Strasser. “We are very thankful to the participants of the Algoma Steel Hockey Tournament for this donation and their continued commitment to supporting students hailing from the North who wish to pursue their medical education in the North.”

The Algoma Steel Hockey Tournament is open exclusively to

employees and retirees of the company. Twenty-one teams from various departments, including three teams of retirees, participate in four divisions.

In 2006, the tournament participants collected \$10,500 in donations for students of the medical school, which, with a contribution from Algoma Steel and matching government funding, created the Algoma Steel Bursary in the amount of \$100,000.

Post-grad programs attractive to many

NOSM’s Family Medicine Residents of the Canadian Shield (RoCS) program is seeing continued growth in attracting learners.

Dr. Ric Almond is an Associate Professor and Program Director of RoCS. He says after the recent first round of the Canadian Residency Matching Service, commonly known as CaRMS, NOSM filled 24 of its 32 Family Medicine positions.

“We will have no problem filling our remaining spots, and have 32 new Family Medicine residents training in Northern Ontario for the upcoming year,” says Almond.

According to Almond, there is a growing level of interest from medical residents, including from those outside of the country. “Many have seen the benefits of rural family medicine training with NOSM, and want to change the direction of their training.

“I believe that with the combination of our NOSM Charter Class graduating in 2009, and the continued interest from learners across Canada, we’ll fill our Family Medicine positions in the first round of CaRMS next year.”