



Northern Ontario
School of Medicine
École de médecine
du Nord de l'Ontario
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Northern PASSAGES

Newsletter of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine



NOSM and
Northern
Francophone
Communities

PAGE 4



Awards of
Excellence for
Students and
Faculty

PAGE 5



NOSM Co-Hosts
International
Conference in
Australia

PAGE 8



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2010: An Award Winning Year for NOSM

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is thrilled to have been the recipient of several provincial, national, and international awards in 2010, demonstrating that NOSM is being recognized among Canadian and international medical schools as truly unique and innovative.

The School's Health Sciences Library (HSL) and several partner organizations collaborating on an initiative entitled "Project Conifer" were the recipients of the 2010 Ontario Library Association's (OLA) Divisional Awards in February 2010. The *Award for Special Achievement* was presented for planning and implementing a library program which serves as a model to other institutions and for its innovative and

collaborative approach to adopting an open source library system.

In April 2010, the *2010 Rural Medical Education Award* was presented to NOSM by the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC). Each year, the SRPC confers the Rural Medical Education Award to an undergraduate medical education program which has excelled in graduating physicians heading toward a career in rural medicine.

Also in April 2010, the School was awarded three 2010 Global Best Awards by the International Partnership Network (IPN). Global Best Awards celebrate outstanding and effective business, education, and community organization partnerships that

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Continued on next page

Physician Assistant Program Applications Are Being Accepted Now

Individuals interested in applying to the Bachelor of Science Physician Assistant degree program are encouraged to apply before the deadline of April 1, 2011. Physician Assistants (PAs) are skilled health professionals who work as physician extenders in a variety of health-care settings, providing patient/client care under supervision of a licensed physician. The specific scope of practice of the PA is directly related to the scope of practice of the supervising physician and the individual competencies of the PA.

Examples include:

- Conducting patient interviews
- Performing physical examinations
- Performing procedures delegated to them by a physician
- Providing counselling on preventive health care

The program is based in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine. Training is delivered by the Consortium of PA Education, comprised of the University of Toronto, the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, and NOSM, with the degree conferred by the University of Toronto.

The Consortium offers students a balance in academic and clinical orientation, extensive access to health-care relevant resources, and a curriculum delivery model that maximizes rural training throughout Ontario. The program is a distance and distributed education program with the majority of the program delivered on-line.

The Consortium of PA Education will consider applications from individuals who have completed a minimum of two years of university study and have the required recent health-care experience. For further information, or to apply, please visit www.nosm.ca/pa.



Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean and Dr. Maureen Topps, NOSM Senior Associate Dean, East Campus, and Associate Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education accept the 2010 IPAC/Deloitte Public Sector Leadership Award Gold - Education Category.

NOSM's Award Winning Year continued from page 1...

have a significant impact on the communities in which they operate. NOSM received the *Global Best Award for Building Learning Communities, Americas Regional Winner, and Overall Global Winner.*

These awards recognize the successful relationships the School has built with Aboriginal community partners to facilitate the Aboriginal Integrated Community Experience (ICE) in the NOSM M.D. program. All first-year students spend one month living and learning in rural and remote Aboriginal communities as part of the ICE component of NOSM's undergraduate curriculum. The students learn about the delivery of health-care services, heighten their cultural competency, increase their understanding of issues affecting Aboriginal peoples, and gain new insights regarding their emerging roles as future physicians. This cultural immersion experience, unique to NOSM, was developed and is implemented with the participation of Aboriginal community partners across Northern Ontario.

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine was also thrilled to receive the *2010 IPAC/Deloitte Public Sector Leadership Awards Gold - Education Category* award in November 2010. (Ryerson University and Memorial

University were awarded silver and bronze, respectively, in the same category.) This award represents richly deserved recognition of the hard work, commitment and accomplishments of all NOSM leaders, particularly the School's Senior Leadership Group.

These numerous awards speak to both the high calibre of NOSM graduates, and the hard work of NOSM's staff and faculty who are committed to the School's overall mission of educating skilled physicians and health professionals who are innovative, resourceful, sensitive, and who understand the rigours and rewards of medical practice in Northern, rural, and culturally diverse settings.

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine has a great deal of support from community members, learners, faculty, and staff, which is what makes its success possible, but also truly extraordinary. The School brings together over 70 community partners, nearly 800 clinical, human, and medical sciences stipendiary faculty, and over 200 employees who are collaborating to achieve the vision outlined in NOSM's 2010 - 2015 Strategic Plan, which is *Innovative Education and Research for a Healthier North.*



The Strasser CUP

Contributed by NOSM M.D. Students,
Jeff Heringer and Michael Mason

THE STORY OF THE STRASSER CUP IS SOMEWHAT MYTHICAL, IN THAT NO ONE REALLY KNOWS FOR SURE JUST HOW IT CAME TO BE. SCHOLARS MAINTAIN THAT IT ORIGINATED DURING THE SECOND YEAR OF NOSM'S EXISTENCE. AT THE TIME, NOSM HAD ONLY FIRST AND SECOND YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS. THESE HAPPEN TO BE THE ONLY TWO CLASSES TO HAVE GRADUATED FROM NOSM TO DATE... **LEGENDS YOU MIGHT SAY.** EACH CAMPUS TOOK TURNS HOSTING A CLASS RETREAT WHERE A SCRUM HOCKEY GAME WAS PLAYED TO PASS THE TIME, AND PROVIDE SOME ATHLETIC AND MENTAL RELIEF FROM THE DAILY RIGOURS OF THE NOSM CURRICULUM. LITTLE DID THEY KNOW AT THE TIME THAT THESE TWO SCRUB HOCKEY GAMES WOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR A SINGLE ANNUAL GAME WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE M.D. SECOND YEAR ACADEMIC WEEK.

NOSM's West medical students hosted the first official Strasser Cup game in front of a sold-out crowd where Jeff Matte took game most valuable player (MVP) honours. Later that same year, the East medical students hosted in Sudbury; hungry for revenge, several match penalties and game misconducts were given out. The East stood victorious and David Janhunen took home MVP honours. David still leads NOSM hockey players in penalties, with over 560 minutes in the box.

A fresh group of first year players to enter NOSM in the 2007-08 year brought new ideas. A trophy to showcase the bragging rights of the winners was born, and it became aptly known as the Strasser Cup, named after our fearless and always influential Dean. That year, a new NOSM superstar was born as the East team won the Strasser Cup on home ice. Richard Nadeau took home game MVP honours, and is still in possession of the NOSM goal scoring title to this day.

The 2008-09 season saw four classes participate in the game, which was held in Thunder Bay. Dani Garon and Katie Carten paced the West attack, while Richard Nadeau (East) and Jesse Zrobback (West) paced the Sudbury attack. Jesse

decided he would play for the East Campus team as they were a bit short handed; he chose more ice time over his Thunder Bay teammates — and he is still yet to be forgiven in NOSM locker rooms. The West came out on top, evening the series at 2-2 and bringing the Strasser Cup to Thunder Bay for the first time in the trophy's existence. Buki Ayeni, a first time hockey player, took home MVP honours.

The 2009-10 season marked yet another first for the Strasser Cup tradition. The West hosted, and it was an absolute slaughtering on home ice. Despite a strong effort by the Sudbury crew, the Thunder Bay crew cruised to an easy 17-1 victory behind some solid goal tending by Andrew Ross (West). Scott Heidman (East) got Sudbury on the board early with an end-to-end dangle, finishing upstairs for the early lead. That was all the offense they could muster though as a poised defensive corps anchored by Mike Mason and John Beduhn (West) put up a wall, while the balanced West offensive took over. Game MVP honours went to Neema Dadgostar (West) for his stong abilities.

To date, the West holds a 3-2 series lead, with two straight victories. They look for a three-peat this year to display their utter dominance over the East. ▣

NOSM and Northern Francophone Communities: Networking... The Key to Communication

In order to engage community partners for tomorrow's health, there must be a fundamental strength within each of the individual communities. "Health: A Community Issue" is a multi-themed project which aims to promote concrete initiatives in order to broaden the Health Community Network.

One initiative within this project, entitled "Networking: the Key to the Communication," consists of providing an interactive session for communities which informs, empowers and gives the participants tools to focus community capacity building efforts. This, in turn, leads to greater community engagement and a greater sense of community.

Building community capacity is essential to improving the connectivity within the Health Community Network. With this project, the communities are better able to reflect upon who their members are, what they do, what they need, and where they are going as a community and as a part of a Network.

Participants at these interactive sessions complete a Reflective Survey using TurningPoint, computer software that works in conjunction with PowerPoint, allowing interactive presentations. The audience responds using "clickers", hand-held devices. Answers are viewed, displayed, and collected automatically. The technology is effective at increasing audience participation, interest, and interaction.

A further initiative of the project includes a three-tiered written workshop using "Network Brainstorming" exercises. Discussions around the basics of community capacity, sense of community, and building local capacity are facilitated and supported through the design of these activities.

The results are an increased awareness of the need for efficient networking and a better understanding of what makes a community and its members strong, empowered and ready to be engaged members of the Network.

NOSM's most recent community capacity building event was its third Francophone Symposium held in April 2010 which provided opportunities for the School to reinforce its commitment to the Francophone populations of Northern Ontario and to empower Francophone communities to build and maintain crucial relationships with each other and with NOSM.

NOSM's Francophone Affairs staff is preparing the next steps of this project and will therefore be heading out to various Northern communities over the next several months in order to partner communities to build even stronger networks. With its social accountability mandate, NOSM and its Francophone Affairs Unit strive to support initiatives that promote collaboration and relationship building within the Francophone population. If you are interested in participating in such a session, please feel free to contact Anne Bissonnette, Administrative Assistant with the Francophone Affairs Unit at 705-662-7260 or anne.bissonnette@nosm.ca for information about the session near your community.

This project is made possible thanks to the generous financial support of Industry Canada and its Economic Development Initiative through FedNor. ■

L'EMNO et les collectivités francophones du Nord Le réseautage... la clé des communications

Chaque collectivité doit posséder un atout fondamental afin de devenir un partenaire pour la santé de demain. « La santé : Un enjeu communautaire » est un projet à plusieurs thèmes visant à promouvoir des initiatives concrètes afin d'élargir le Réseau communautaire de la santé.

Une initiative qui s'inscrit dans ce projet est intitulée « Le réseautage : La clé des communications ». Elle consiste à offrir une séance interactive qui informe les participants, renforce leur capacité et leur donne des outils pour cibler les activités de renforcement de la capacité communautaire; autant d'atouts qui, à leur tour, entraînent un plus grand engagement communautaire et un meilleur sentiment d'appartenance à la communauté.

Le renforcement de la capacité communautaire est essentiel pour améliorer les liens au sein du Réseau communautaire de la santé. Cette initiative permet aux collectivités de mieux connaître les caractéristiques de leurs membres, ce qu'ils font, ce dont ils ont besoin, et l'orientation qu'ils prennent en tant que collectivité et au sein d'un réseau.

Les participants à ces séances interactives remplissent un questionnaire administré au moyen de Turning Point, un logiciel qui fonctionne avec PowerPoint et permet d'avoir des présentations interactives. Ils répondent aux questions en appuyant sur le bouton d'un dispositif qu'ils tiennent à la main, et leurs réponses sont affichées et recueillies automatiquement. Cette méthode est efficace pour améliorer la participation, l'intérêt et les interactions de l'auditoire.

Une autre initiative du projet inclut un atelier écrit à trois volets reposant sur des exercices de « remue-méninges en réseau ». Le concept de ces activités facilite et appuie les discussions sur les éléments fondamentaux de la capacité communautaire, le sentiment d'appartenance à la communauté et le renforcement de la capacité locale.

Cette initiative fait mieux prendre conscience de la nécessité du réseautage efficace et mieux comprendre ce qui rend la communauté et ses membres forts, habiletés et prêts à devenir des membres engagés du Réseau.

L'événement le plus récent de l'EMNO en matière de renforcement de la capacité communautaire a été le troisième symposium pour les francophones, tenu en avril 2010, qui a été pour l'école l'occasion de confirmer son engagement envers les populations francophones du Nord de l'Ontario et de donner aux collectivités francophones les moyens d'établir et de préserver des relations cruciales entre elles et avec l'EMNO.

Le personnel du Bureau des affaires francophones prépare en ce moment les prochaines étapes du projet et se rendra par conséquent dans diverses villes du Nord au cours des prochains mois afin de s'allier avec des collectivités et de renforcer ainsi les réseaux. Fidèle à son imputabilité sociale, par l'entremise du Bureau des affaires francophones, l'EMNO s'efforce d'appuyer des activités qui encouragent la collaboration et l'établissement de relations au sein de la population francophone. Si vous désirez participer à une séance de ce type, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec Anne Bissonnette, adjointe administrative aux affaires francophones, au 705-662-7260 ou à anne.bissonnette@nosm.ca, pour obtenir des renseignements sur la séance offerte le plus près de chez vous.

Le projet est possible grâce au généreux soutien financier d'Industrie Canada, par l'entremise de l'Initiative de développement économique sous l'égide de FedNor. ■

NOSM's Francophone Affairs Team:
Sarah Wall, Yuk-Sem Won,
Anne Bissonnette, and
Danielle Barbeau-Rodrigue



Awards of Excellence

THE ANNUAL NOSM AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE WERE PRESENTED TO NOSM LEARNERS AND FACULTY/ PRECEPTORS AT A BOARD OF DIRECTORS DINNER HELD IN SUDBURY, ONTARIO IN DECEMBER 2010.

Learner recipients:

Tiffany Parsons, Allison Sweeney, Zachary Veitch, and Louisa Marion-Bellemare



Faculty/Preceptor Awards of Excellence recipients include:

- Dr. Yvon Gagnon
- Dr. Tom Kovala
- Dr. Richard Kvas
- Donna Newhouse

Learner Awards of Excellence recipients include:

- Louisa Marion-Bellemare
- Tiffany Parsons
- Allison Sweeney
- Zachary Veitch

Thunder Bay Hosts First MedFest in Canada

On January 20, 2011 over 400 athletes and coaches from across Ontario gathered in Thunder Bay to participate in the 2011 Special Olympics Provincial Winter Games. Twenty-four NOSM medical students and two residents participated in Canada's first ever MedFest at the Special Olympics.

MedFest offers free sports physical and other health screening services to people with intellectual disabilities, helps to recruit new athletes to Special Olympics while retaining existing athletes, and provides physicians, nurses, and other health professionals with training and specialized experience in the examination and assessment of people with intellectual disabilities. MedFest provides health screenings free of charge at Special Olympics competitions around the world. Offered in a welcoming, fun environment, these screenings educate athletes on healthy lifestyle choices and identify problems that may need additional follow-up. ■



NOSM medical students and residents join nursing students, physicians, nurse practitioners, audiologists, pharmacists and a social worker, while volunteering their time at MedFest.

NOSM Faculty and Board Member Named Family Physician of the Year

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine congratulates Dr. William McMullen for being named Northern Ontario's 2010 Family Physician of the Year by the Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP). Dr. McMullen worked hard to establish the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, is a professor of Family Medicine with the School's M.D. Program, and sits on NOSM's Board of Directors. The OCFP recognizes the outstanding dedication of family physicians to their patients, their community, their profession, and the OCFP by presenting this yearly award to seven family physicians - one from each region of the province. ■



SCANNING NOSM IN THE NORTH

NOSM Employees Donate Food and Toys for the Holidays

NOSM staff and faculty organized a toy and food drive during the first two weeks of December 2010 on both the East Campus in Sudbury and the West Campus in Thunder Bay.

In Sudbury, toys collected were donated to the Geneva House, a local women's shelter, and the food was brought to the Sudbury Food Bank.



Danielle Barbeau-Rodrigue, Kimberley Larkin, Melanie Dellaire, and Bryan Stamm pause for a photo at NOSM's East Campus before delivery.

In Thunder Bay, toys were donated to the Toys for Tots Campaign organized by the Thunder Bay Professional Firefighters Association and food went to the Regional Food Distribution Association of Northwestern Ontario.



David Thompson, Julie Jerome, Sue Berry, Vin Auld, Nova Donaldson, Cathy Gosselin, Shelby Dunahee, Shanna Duff and Cathy Randus with food and toys collected at NOSM's West Campus.

Zachary Veitch, Jessica Conway, Courtney Carlucci, John Beduhn, Yves Landry, and Laura Caria

NOSM Medical Student Receives Award in Thunder Bay

Congratulations to Tony Valente who was recently honored in a ceremony at Thunder Bay City Hall for the Thunder Bay Medical Student Awards. Newly elected Mayor, Keith Hobbs, presented Valente with a certificate of recognition for his dedication to studentship and his desire to practice in Thunder Bay when he completes his education.

The Thunder Bay Family Medicine Awards recognize and reward local students who are studying to become family physicians and plan to return to Thunder Bay to practice upon the completion of their training.



New Academic Funding

The Academic Health Sciences Centres Alternate Funding Plan (AHSC AFP) provides academic physicians with stable support for their clinical, teaching, and research responsibilities and enables the recruitment and retention of new physician teachers. The Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association (NOAMA) is the governing body for these funds and ensures that funding reaches participating NOSM faculty in an open and transparent manner.

By facilitating the teaching, research, recruitment, leadership, innovation and academic governance of participating physicians NOAMA works with NOSM toward the greater goal of a healthier Northern Ontario. Drs. David Mutrie and William McCready are co-chairs of NOAMA. For more information, please email NOAMA at noama@noama.ca or Dorothy Wright, Executive Director, at dorothy.wright@noama.ca.

NOSM Receives \$100,000 from Barrick Gold Corporation

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine was pleased to receive a gift of \$100,000 from Barrick Gold Corporation – Hemlo Mine as part of a generous donation made to Lakehead University in Thunder Bay on January 17, 2011.

These funds will be used to support a student bursary; upgrade technology infrastructure at the Wilson Memorial Hospital and the Marathon Family Health Centre in Marathon, Ontario; enhance a learner suite in Marathon with exam rooms, and office and study space; and, support a Rural Remote Health Medical Conference.

NOSM's New Aboriginal Cultural Space

In January of 2011, the Aboriginal Affairs Unit held the official opening of the new Aboriginal cultural spaces on both NOSM's East and West Campuses. NOSM Elder Josephine King attended the events in Thunder Bay and NOSM Elder Curtis Hopkins attended in Sudbury. Both Elders were on site for two days to bless the rooms, hold a smudging ceremony, and to welcome staff, faculty, and learners to the spaces.

The spaces will be used to support the "Elder on Campus" program, smudging, spiritual activities, and counseling space for learners, faculty, and staff.



Curtis Hopkins, NOSM Elder, in the new Aboriginal cultural space

Bring a Doctor Home Bursary Raises \$21,000

On January 21, 2011, Hal Mogg and Pat Ruck, co-directors of the "Bring a Doctor Home" hockey tournament, presented the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) with a cheque for \$21,000, which represents the funds raised during the tournament last year. On behalf of NOSM and the School's future students, NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser, expressed his gratitude for the generous donation. "Congratulations and thank you to Hal Mogg and Pat Ruck, and their volunteer team for the outstanding success of the tournament and their financial contribution to the future of health care in Northern Ontario," he said.





Dr. Christine Kupsh and Suzanne Lortie-Carlyle demonstrate simulation equipment.



Simulation Conference

NOSM will be hosting a simulation conference Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14, 2011. Organized by members of the Northern Ontario Simulation in Healthcare Network (NOSH), this conference will showcase the innovative use of simulation in health professional education.

The key themes of the conference focus on team-based training, interprofessional education (IPE), crew resource management (CRM), sustainable and creative approaches to simulator design, simulation in distributed environments, and integrated multimodal simulation activities. The meeting will involve practical demonstrations, workshops, and master classes on using simulation in different educational contexts.

NOSH is a growing network of health professional education providers, including NOSM, that collaborate on all aspects of simulation-based education in the region. NOSH's goals are to improve the sustainability and quality of simulation-based education in Northern Ontario through combining the strengths of the various college, hospital, and university providers to create a single integrated virtual organization. Activities have included sharing equipment, staff, and simulation scenarios, as well as collaborating around joint meetings and events. For more information, please contact Suzanne Lortie-Carlyle at 705-662-7263 or email suzanne.lortie-carlyle@nosm.ca. ■

Interprofessional Education and Game-Based Learning



Participants at NOSM's East Campus in Sudbury included Leila Chorney, Renee Fillier, Sue Ghent, Charlene Piche, Bonnie Gagnon, Carol Cameletti, Ann Kennealy, Debra Anderson, Dr. Eric Bauman, Sandra Kingsbury, and Dr. Christine Kupsh.

In October 2010, NOSM's Continuing Education and Professional Development hosted Dr. Eric Bauman from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Bauman's presentation, entitled *Game-Based Learning: Preparing Teachers and Learners for Behavioral Aspects of Clinical Teamwork, Leadership and Crisis Management*, was hosted at NOSM's East Campus as part of the Interprofessional Education Simulation Series.

The workshop provided a fun, hands-on approach to learning about game-based strategies to prepare students and teachers to take advantage of complex immersive learning environments such as simulation-based learning. Participants were introduced to frameworks and theories related to health sciences

education and participated in various game-play education strategies to promote leadership, team dynamics, crises management, and debriefing.

Future interprofessional education initiatives will incorporate a game-based approach, and a strong collaboration between Dr. Bauman and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine has resulted. David Thompson, NOSM's Interprofessional Education Lead at the West Campus, and Dr. Bauman have been accepted to present on game-based learning and interprofessional education at the 10th Annual International Nursing Simulation/Learning Resources Centers Conference in Florida in June 2011. ■



Contingent of NOSM students, residents, faculty, and employees participate in the 2010 Muster.

NOSM Co-Hosts International Conference on Community Engaged Medical Education

On October 18, 2010 the **Global Community Engaged Medical Education Muster** (“The Muster”) welcomed approximately 200 delegates from around the world to explore developments in Community Engaged Medical Education, Longitudinal Integrated Curricula and Socially Accountable Medical Education. This second international conference, jointly hosted by NOSM and Flinders University, Australia, was held in Barossa Valley, Australia as a follow-up to the successful ICEMEN (International Conference: Community Engaged Medical Education in the North) held in Northern Ontario in 2008.

Community Engagement is the process by which universities build ongoing, permanent relationships with community organizations and individuals to realize a collective vision. The Muster began with a dinner where participants were introduced to the pioneers of community-engaged medical education in rural Australia and welcomed to country by a traditional healer. There was a palpable energy as old friends reacquainted and introduced new colleagues to this community of medical educators. In his presentation, Dr. Arjun Karki reminded participants that a collection of people is a crowd, while a community is the total network of relationships between these people. These important activities, early in the conference, affirmed the connection that community has with people, with action, and with place.

The community engagement theme of the conference explored the connectedness between students and community members and also between medical education programs and the broader communities in which they are situated. Individuals within the general community were acknowledged for their important roles as leaders, key community champions, and for forging relationships with students. There was special recognition for the community of students who learn from educators, clinical preceptors, health professionals, and health care systems that interface with medical schools through clinical placements.

The majority of presenters at The Muster presented case studies of their community engagement with all the levels of community. The stories told at The Muster and the sense

of community which emanated from the entangled relationships of the participants energized the delegates. “The role of this conference was to do more than nurture and sustain us as individuals. It is vital that the process and outcomes of community-engagement are more than articulated. They must be defined and conceptualized in theoretical frameworks which will allow us to translate our experiences into knowledge that can impact on the broad health professional education context, and indeed create the health workforce each international community requires for the future,” said Dr. Lucie Walters, Flinders University.

The next conference will be in 2012, again in Northern Ontario. ▣

