

# NORTHERN PASSAGES

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A NORTHERN DREAM

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POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION  
BEHIND THE SCENES

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CARMS BOARD

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PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

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School of Medicine  
École de médecine  
du Nord de l'Ontario  
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**Pictured:** Tournament Director Hal Mogg (shown third from left), along with tournament organizers and NOSM medical students, unveiled a hockey banner to recognize the more than \$25,000 that the Bring a Doctor Home Hockey Tournament raised last year in support of student bursaries.

## ON THE COVER: ADVANCING A NORTHERN DREAM

Ten years ago, Hal Mogg wanted to make a difference in his community. In response to the physician shortage in his hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, Mogg started the Bring a Doctor Home Hockey Tournament to raise money to support NOSM-trained physicians born and raised in the Sault. Little did he know that ten years later, the tournament would have raised more than a quarter million dollars in support of Northern-trained physicians.

Each year, staff, retirees, and volunteers from Essar Steel Algoma and interested community members collect pledges to participate in the annual Bring a Doctor Home Hockey Tournament. For one week every January, they are organized into teams and face off on the ice for a chance to win the Bring a Doctor Home Hockey Cup—as well as the associated bragging rights. But the real victory lies within the funds raised in association with the tournament. In the last ten years, the Bring a Doctor Home Hockey Tournament has raised more than \$270,000 for student bursaries for NOSM students who hail from the Sault.

Both NOSM and the Bring a Doctor Home Hockey Tournament celebrate their tenth anniversaries in 2015, with great excitement that their hard work is making a difference. Over the last decade, Sault Ste. Marie has recruited 18 NOSM-trained health professionals, in addition to hosting many NOSM MD students, residents, and allied

health learners. Most rewarding, perhaps, is that for the first time this year, NOSM-trained physicians and past recipients of the Bring a Doctor Home Bursary are now returning home to the Sault to practise—just as Hal and his collaborators hoped they would.

“When I started this tournament ten years ago, I would say, ‘I want to start a hockey tournament and a bursary at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine,’ to which everyone would respond, ‘Oh yeah—hockey!’” reflects Hal Mogg, Tournament Director and employee of Essar Steel Algoma. “But now, I am approached by people in the street who have heard about the cause and simply want to donate money. These students are our children and grandchildren, and are returning home to fill a shortage that is shared by all Northern communities.”

“It is apt that we kick off NOSM’s tenth anniversary celebrations with the Bring a Doctor Home Hockey Tournament in Sault Ste. Marie, the community where NOSM held its very first curriculum workshop back in 2003—before the School even opened its doors,” says Dr. David Marsh, Deputy Dean and Associate Dean, Community Engagement. “We owe much of the success of the School to the communities with whom we work, and we are so grateful to Hal and his collaborators for the exceptional work they have done in Sault Ste. Marie over the last ten years.”

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Newsletter of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine



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*Cover Photo: NOSM medical student, Kelly Graff, playing in the 2015 Bring a Doctor Home Hockey Tournament.*





## NOSM PROGRAM DIRECTOR PUBLISHES PSYCHIATRY REVIEW

NOSM Associate Professor and Program Director, Postgraduate Psychiatry, Dr. Kuppuswami Shivakumar (shown above), recently wrote a book titled *Psychiatry Review for Canadian Doctors*. Published in December 2014, Shivakumar's guide aims to assist psychiatry residents preparing for the certification exam offered by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). Featuring 200 multiple-choice questions and 20

Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) case scenarios, Shivakumar covers the main topics and question formats that residents will see on the exam.

*Psychiatry Review for Canadian Doctors* is written exclusively for residents studying for the RCPSC psychiatry exam and can be purchased in hardcopy or as an ebook.



## RECOGNIZING WORLD AIDS DAY

On World AIDS Day, December 1, 2014, local officers of NOSM's medical student-led Reproductive and Sexual Health Group circulated a newsletter with various resources regarding HIV and AIDS. In addition to the awareness campaign, the group held a photo contest in which learners from across all NOSM's sites were encouraged to take a photo wearing red in support of HIV/AIDS education and awareness.

## IN MEMORIAM - DR. WILLIAM FAY

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. William 'Liam' Fay on Friday, November 14, 2014. Born in Ireland, Fay received the title of 'youngest student to have been accepted and graduate from medical school at the University College of Dublin,' having been accepted at the age of 17. Following his residency in Gibraltar, Fay immigrated to Canada with his wife and daughter and later

moved to Sudbury where he began practising nephrology. As Associate Professor in Internal Medicine, Fay supported NOSM learners in nephrology and internal medicine. Fay's contributions to the health of Northern Ontarians and his dedication to NOSM learners will continue to be an inspiration to all who knew him.



## 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.*

*Becoming a physician in Canada is a two-stage process. Medical students first graduate from an MD program. This is followed by the completion of postgraduate medical education training. In the final year of the MD program, medical students submit applications to undertake their residency education at a medical school anywhere in Canada. Upon successful completion of their residency, residents receive an independent licence to practice as a physician in a specific specialty (family medicine, pediatrics, general surgery, etc). NOSM's Postgraduate Program Coordinators Catherine Duchesne and Jennifer Morris are two of seven program coordinators providing support for the School's residency programs.*

**Catherine Duchesne (CD):** Working out of the medical school building at Laurentian University in Sudbury, I support the Pediatric and Psychiatry residency programs. I assist the program directors, site directors, residents, and all faculty involved with the programs to ensure training needs are met.

**Jennifer Morris (JM):** My role is similar to Cathy's, but I support Family Medicine from NOSM at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. I also provide support for the Family Medicine Rural Streams and third-year residents in Enhanced Skills training.

**CD:** Jennifer and I are both very committed to our programs—to make sure that we meet the accreditation standards and also support our learners during their residency. I have been working with the Pediatric program since November 2011 and the Psychiatry program since March 2013. The Pediatric program is in its fourth year as an accredited program at NOSM.

At the end of this academic year, I'm excited to say the program will have four pediatrics residents graduating!

**JM:** I have been in this role with Family Medicine since June 2014. Residency is a part of medical training that doesn't take place in our medical school buildings. The rural stream residents I work with complete their training in smaller rural, remote, Aboriginal, and/or Francophone communities. It's exciting for me to be able to help these new doctors complete the training needed for them to transition into practice.

**CD:** The most rewarding part of my role is when we get exciting news like we did recently. NOSM's pediatric program received word from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada that they only require their next full review of the program in six years; this is a validation of the program's strength and stability. This really confirms that all the hard work put into the program was recognized and that it is really moving forward. If a recent medical school graduate is applying to be a Pediatric resident, NOSM is the place to be!



**Catherine Duchesne**  
Postgraduate Program Coordinator



**Jennifer Morris**  
Postgraduate Program Coordinator





Pictured (left to right): David Gravelle, Tracy Sarmiento, Jeanne Murdoch, and Ken Pickering (Rotarian).

## MIDLAND WELCOMED AS NEW COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CLERKSHIP SITE

Submitted by: David Gravelle, NOSM Site Administrative Coordinator and Local NOSM Group Member

Midland is pleased to be added to the complement of communities that host third-year NOSM medical students during their eight-month Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC).

Midland's first two medical students, Tracy Sarmiento and Jeanne Murdoch, attended the Rotary Club Foundation Golf Tournament during their orientation week last fall.

The Rotary Club of Midland is a long-standing supporter of the Southern Georgian Bay Family Physician Recruitment Program's "Rotary Recruitment Through Education" initiative. While in Midland, the NOSM students have attended Rotary Club luncheons and Specialty Enhancement Sessions hosted by Rotary members in the community.

The golf tournament was a great way for Tracy and Jeanne to meet community leaders and learn about the Rotary Club's programs and motto of "Service Above Self."

As part of their orientation week activities, the medical students also attended the Town of Midland's monthly municipal council meeting. Gravelle, who is also the area's Physician Recruitment Officer, provided council with an update on the Southern Georgian Bay Family Physician Recruitment Program's efforts to attract new doctors to the area, and to announce the new relationship between NOSM and the Midland/Penetanguishene community.

Tracy and Jeanne were warmly received by Midland Council, and posed for a picture where Mayor Gordon McKay presented Mr. Gravelle with the town's annual financial contribution of \$22,000 to support ongoing physician recruitment efforts.

*"While the young women will not have a future as professional golfers, their pathway to medicine is being supported by a very engaged community in Midland and Penetanguishene," jokes David Gravelle, NOSM Site Administrative Coordinator in Midland.*



David Gravelle, Mayor Gordon McKay, Jeanne Murdoch, and Tracy Sarmiento.





## NOSM ASSOCIATE DEANS JOIN CARMS BOARD

Dr. Janice Willett (left), NOSM Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, and Dr. Cathy Cervin (right), NOSM Senior Associate Dean, Laurentian University and Associate Dean of Postgraduate Education, were appointed to the roles of Vice-Chair and Director of the Board of Directors for the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS), respectively, in November 2014.

Final-year medical students applying from across the country visited Sudbury and Thunder Bay taking part in the School's residency program interviews from January 16 through February 7, 2015. Applicants were interviewed for a spot in one of NOSM's nine postgraduate medical education programs: family medicine, public health and preventive medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, anesthesiology, psychiatry, and obstetrics and gynecology. The School will learn of which applicants have matched to NOSM's programs in the Spring, with their residency training to begin in July 2015.

## RESIDENT INTERVIEWS AT NOSM

CaRMS interviews at NOSM took place in Thunder Bay and Sudbury on January 16 through February 7, 2015. Applicants were interviewed for a spot in one of NOSM's nine postgraduate medical education programs: family medicine, public health and preventative medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, anesthesiology, psychiatry, and obstetrics and gynecology. Programs for third-year residents include emergency medicine, family practice anesthesia, enhanced skills in maternity care, and care of the elderly.

## NOSM LEARNERS ADVOCATE FOR PATIENT RIGHTS

During the weekend of November 22-24, 2014, four NOSM students—Allison Webb, Kaylynn Purdy, Michelle Taylor, and Samantha Nordlund (as seen in top right photo)—travelled to Ottawa for National Lobby Day to speak with parliamentary officials about an issue close to their hearts: universal pharmacare.

Through the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS), students from all medical schools come together to organize National Lobby Day in Ottawa, where they speak with Members of Parliament (MP) regarding topics of importance for Canadian patients. This year, they spoke with MPs about a national approach to making pharmaceuticals universal for all Canadians.

"Physicians prescribe medication to patients because they are medically necessary," says Allison Webb, fourth year NOSM student and chair of NOSM's Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee. "Unfortunately, some Canadians aren't taking their medication—

either skipping doses to make the prescription last longer, or not filling their prescription in the first place because they can't afford it. One in ten Canadians cannot afford their medication, and in terms of health, we don't believe that's right."

During the 2014 Lobby Day, Webb, Nordlund, Purdy, and Taylor met with other MD students from across Canada, heard from experts on national pharmacy strategy, and discussed local advocacy efforts. Then, in teams, they spoke with 50 MPs of all parties about making universal pharmacare an election issue in the future.

"As future physicians, it's really important that we are engaged in being health advocates," says Webb. "I see our role as working toward bettering the health of our patients and communities. Gaining exposure during medical school will help us be much more effective advocates for our patients' health as we progress throughout our careers."







Pictured (left to right): Sharona Kanofsky, PA-C, CCPA, CPAEA Board Member, Chris Rhule, MHS, PA-C, CCPA National President, and Kyle Stoomer, CCPA (accepting on Dr. Oukachbi's behalf).

## PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR THUNDER BAY PHYSICIAN

Dr. Salima Oukachbi, NOSM Assistant Professor and hospitalist at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC), recently received the prestigious Canadian Association of Physician Assistant (CAPA) Educator Award. Though unable to attend the award ceremony in Halifax, Nova Scotia in October, Dr. Oukachbi's award was received by Physician Assistant (PA) Kyle Stoomer (TBRHSC) on her behalf.

The CAPA Educator Award honours an individual who has made a significant impact on the education of PAs in Canada. The award recognizes an individual who has been involved in PA

education, either clinically or academically. This may be as a PA program faculty, clinical preceptor, guest facilitator, or course instructor. PAs, physicians, and other health professionals are equally eligible for the award.

"The selection criteria for this prestigious award is quite involved and highlights the outstanding dedication and professionalism that Dr. Salima Oukachbi has exhibited in the education of Physician Assistants at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre," says John Shea, NOSM's PA Clinical Coordinator.

## FAREWELL TO KEN ADAMS



The Northern Ontario School of Medicine has said farewell to Ken Adams, the School's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). "Please join me in congratulating Ken Adams on his appointment to the position of Vice President, College Services at Confederation College," says Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM

Dean. "On behalf of NOSM's Executive Group, staff, and faculty, I thank Ken for his significant contributions to the administration of the School over the last nearly seven years of his service at NOSM, and wish him the very best in his new role." Adams began his new role in January.



## 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.



Congratulations to **Dr. William McCready** in his new role as Chief of Staff at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) effective January 5, 2015. McCready brings extensive experience in medicine, research, and teaching to this role. A nephrologist and internist for more than 30 years, McCready is also a Professor of Medicine at NOSM and the School's former Senior Associate Dean and Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs.

The Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) annually celebrates the outstanding skill, knowledge, and dedication of family doctors across Ontario. In December 2014, the OCFP honoured two NOSM faculty members during an awards celebration in Toronto.



**Dr. Timothy Wehner**, NOSM Assistant Professor in Family Medicine, was named Regional Family Physician of the Year by the OCFP. Wehner has had an interest in rural family medicine since his residency training, which he completed during the inaugural year of the University of Manitoba's MD

and residency program. He is a leader in rural medicine, having tailored his practice to meet the needs of the community of Kenora, where he now practises. He is proud to provide office, emergency, obstetric, inpatient, and long-term care medicine, in addition to providing stress tests, Holter monitoring, vasectomies, caesarean sections, and stroke care. In addition to his busy clinical practice, Wehner also teaches NOSM students and residents, and sits as the inaugural Chair of NOSM's Local Education Group in Kenora.

The late **Dr. Gordon Riddle** was recognized posthumously for his steadfast commitment and service on the OCFP Board from 1993 to 2003 and during his OCFP Presidency from 2001 to 2002. Well known and respected throughout the Muskoka area, Riddle was a dedicated family physician. He practised in the Ottawa area for 25 years before moving to Bracebridge. In 2004, Riddle joined the family physicians in the Archdekin Clinic and became actively involved with medical students as an Assistant Professor at NOSM.

**Scott Chisholm** has been named a "Kick Ass Canadian" for his work as Founder of the Collateral Damage Project. For most of his life, Chisholm has been empowering people by teaching life skills and protecting people by watching over them as a paramedic, eventually becoming a firefighter in his current role with Thunder Bay Fire Rescue. As founder of Collateral Damage, a charitable organization Chisholm launched in 2009, he uses storytelling to create a proactive dialogue about suicide. With the goal of breaking the stigma that surrounds suicide, Chisholm first spoke to NOSM's medical students in November 2011. As a result, NOSM has incorporated mandatory suicide awareness training into the first-year MD curriculum.

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) 2014 Honours and Awards Program offers grants, scholarships, and awards to recognize, and support family physicians, family medicine residents, and medical students committed to education, research, and excellence in the practice of family medicine. The following NOSM learners were recipients of awards at the Family Medicine Forum in Quebec City in November 2014:

- **Dr. Sean Sullivan** - Leadership Award for Family Medicine Resident
- **Dr. Megan Bollinger** - Family Medicine Resident Award for Scholarly Achievement
- **Ms. Valerie Nicholls** - Medical Student Scholarship
- **Dr. Tamara Delorme** - Leadership Award for Medical Students
- **Dr. Ji Zhou** - Norlien Foundation Grant For Addiction Education

NOSM Assistant Professor **Dr. Andrew Stadnyk** of Mindemoya was recently lauded with a 2015 Outstanding Physician Council Award from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO). One award is presented at each meeting per year by the CPSO council to honour outstanding Ontario physicians who "have demonstrated excellence and come closest to meeting society's vision of an 'ideal physician.'" Stadnyk will be presented with his award at a meeting in September.

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