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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

Kenora hosts 2009 CCC retreat



Over 130 students, staff, faculty and community partners came together recently to take part in the annual Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC)

"The annual retreat is a great opportunity for everyone involved in the CCC to get together in one place and talk about how the program is going," explains Dr. Joel Lanphear, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education. "It's a great way to exchange ideas, and to talk about how problems in one community have been solved in others."

The CCC is a key component of the School's four-year MD program. It involves third-year students living and learning in one of 12 moderately sized Northern

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School's gathering of faculty fosters collaborations

Hundreds of the School's faculty and researchers recently gathered in Thunder Bay, as part of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's first Faculty Affairs retreat.

Dr. William McCready, Associate Dean of Faculty

Affairs, says the retreat was a great success, especially in terms of fostering relationships and collaborations among the many physicians and health professionals across the North.

"It is my belief that in the near future we will see the development of collaborative research projects aimed at improving the health of Northerners, which had their origins at this retreat," says McCready.

The event was held in mid-January, and brought together over 800 faculty from NOSM's three divisions: Medical Sciences, Human Sciences, and Clinical Sciences. The overall goal was to facilitate a free-flow of ideas and information about current and potential future collaborative research and scholarly activities.

"In a very real sense, the future success of NOSM depends on the research and scholarly activities of the faculty members," says Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM's Founding Dean. "It is vital for

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Strat plan extended

This year marks 'the end of the beginning' for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. The Charter MD Class will graduate, as will the learners from the first Family Medicine RoCS (Residents of the Canadian Shield) class.

Appropriately enough, May 31, 2009 also marks the formal completion of NOSM's first Strategic Plan: 2006-2009. Now is the time for NOSM to start thinking about the priorities and goals for 2010 and beyond. As Ken Adams, Associate Dean of Administration puts it, "It's our chance to chart our course to the future."

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Video extols virtues of post-grad at NOSM

A new video extolling the virtues of the School's NOSM Family Medicine Residents of the Canadian Shield (RoCS) program has just

> been unveiled. And since current residents are the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's greatest advocates, it is fitting that they are also the stars of this new production.

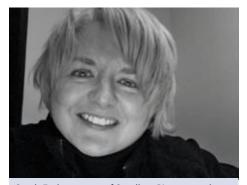
"The residents are, without a doubt, the best marketers of our program," says NOSM's Postgraduate

Promotion and Recruitment

Coordinator, Joey McColeman. "It's a feeling shared by the entire Postgraduate team."

The new film, aptly titled NOSM Family Medicine RoCS: Your Natural Choice, highlights current residents training in the program. It looks through their eyes to show what makes RoCS such a unique residency experience.

"It will enable us to take the first-hand



Sarah Fodey, owner of Sandbay Pictures and producer of NOSM's new video.

experiences of our residents wherever we go," says McColeman. "As we travel throughout the country to various conferences and recruitment tours, we will be able to show students interested in family medicine the highlights, and advantages, that NOSM's RoCS program has to offer."

McColeman says the film will also be used during the annual family medicine interview weekends. "Candidates will be able to personally speak to current residents about

the stories and experiences they've iust watched in the video."

variety of locations, the production crew from Sandbay Pictures of Ottawa, filmed first and secondvear Family Medicine residents at various points in their program. The film gives first-person accounts of the diversity, and the quality, of NOSM's postgraduate training program.

Sarah Fodey is senior Partner and Producer of Sandbay Pictures. "From our initial meeting with NOSM's postgraduate

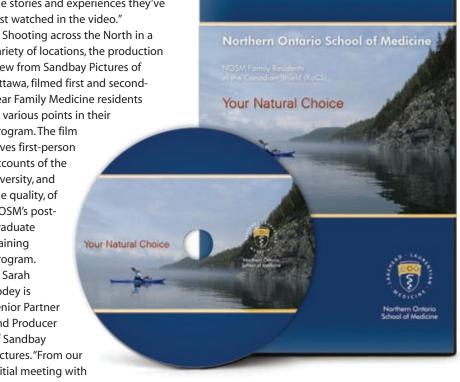
team, this project has been a huge pleasure to produce," she says. "From the clerical staff to the managers and every engaging resident and clinical teacher, everyone went out of their way to facilitate our filming."

A number of the residents featured in the video will complete their residency training at the end of June 2009. These individuals represent the first family medicine residents to complete full postgraduate training

under the NOSM name.

NOSM Family Medicine RoCS: Your Natural Choice will premiere at the upcoming Family Medicine Interview Weekends in Thunder Bay from January 29th to 31st, and in Sudbury from February 6th to 8th during welcome presentations to all candidates.

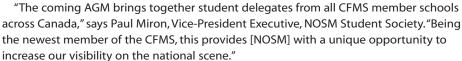
Look on the Postgraduate Education section of NOSM's website for future public viewing dates.



Student Society to host national conference

The NOSM Student Society was recently selected to host the annual national convention of the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS). This Annual General Meeting will take place in Thunder Bay on September 25-27, 2009.

The CFMS is the national representative body of medical students in Canada. The membership includes over 7,000 medical students pursuing their careers in 14 member schools from coast to coast. It provides specialized services, communication, and representation to Canadian medical students.



NOSM Charter Class member Jonathan DellaVedova is the federation's current national President.



SSM 'shoots' and 'scores' with fundraiser

encourages those hailing from Northern

Oh, the good old hockey game, is the best game you can name. And the best game you can name, is the good old hockey game! 🦵

When the final whistle rang, a cheque was made out for \$19,000. The money

will support the growing Bring a Doctor

"The 'Bring a Doctor Home' Bursary

earning a medical degree and, hopefully,

helps students reduce costs associated with

Truer words were never spoken,

especially for the people of Sault Ste. Marie who once again showed their community spirit in supporting the fourth annual running of the Essar Steel Algoma 'Bring a

Doctor Home'

Home Bursary at NOSM.

Ontario who are interested in a medical career to fulfill their dreams," said Hal Mogg, Essar Steel Algoma Hockey



Tournament Director. "We believe this ongoing investment will strategically assist Sault Ste. Marie with long-term recruitment of family physicians to Northern Ontario."

Bursaries are awarded based on financial

need and qualifying criteria. The Bring a **Doctor Home** Bursary will be awarded with preference going to students with a connection to Sault Ste. Marie Ontario.

Founding Dean Dr. Roger Strasser and Advancement Manager Gail Brescia were on hand to accept

the big cheque on behalf of NOSM.

"We are very thankful to the participants of the Essar Steel Algoma 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," says Strasser.

CCC Community Profile: Kapuskasing

of our commitment"

Kapuskasing is famous for its forestry and mining, its breathtaking scenery, and its friendly residents. And now, thanks to a strengthened partnership with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, it has something else to brag about.

Kapuskasing recently joined the select list of communities that host NOSM's third-year medical students as part of the School's

Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC) program. Four medical students are currently spending their entire academic year, living and learning, in the community.

Al Yarush is CEO of Sensenbrenner Hospital, the community's principal health-

care facility. He is proud to be a part of a true community-based medical school.

"Welcoming NOSM medical students into our community is an important part of our commitment to developing physicians who understand and appreciate the unique features and benefits of practicing medicine in Northern communities," he says. "As a Comprehensive Community Clerkship site for medical students, our professional staff is given the opportunity to instruct students in a unique medical environment where students are able to observe, learn and participate in the care of patients."

Dr. Robert Ng-A-Fook, the hospital's Chief of Staff, agrees. "The professional staff at Sensenbrenner Hospital will provide comprehensive, patient-centred training, allowing the students to observe, learn and

"Welcoming NOSM medical students into our community is an important part

Al Yarush, CEO Sensenbrenner Hospital

participate in the care of patients in a distinctively Northern environment."

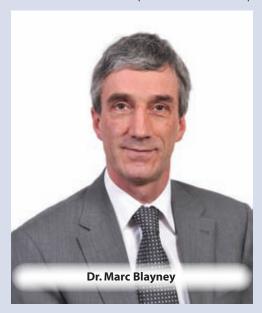
Kapuskasing is located along Highway 11 between Thunder Bay and Temiskaming Shores. It was founded in the 1800's during the building of the National Transcontinental Railway, carrying

the name of MacPherson. In 1917 this was changed to Kapuskasing, a word derived from the Cree phrase meaning "bend in the river."

During their eight months in Kapuskasing, local physicians and other health-care providers who are NOSM faculty members teach four of NOSM's third-year students. Clerks gain valuable hands-on practical experience in the community through direct clinical work with practicing physicians.

Appel aux suggestions des Francophones

L'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario (EMNO) sollicite les points de vue des communautés sur les priorités visant les Francophones. Fidèle à son mandat d'imputabilité sociale touchant l'amélioration de la santé de tous les gens du Nord, et soucieuse d'améliorer le nombre et la qualité des services et programmes



en langue française qui sont des contributions essentielles à son plan communautaire, l'EMNO encourage les Francophones à s'exprimer.

Le Dr Marc Blayney, doyen associé, Engagement communautaire, a souligné l'importance d'avoir en permanence les réflexions des Francophones : « Il est essentiel que nos communautés et les nombreux partenaires de l'école s'allient pour fournir des commentaires sur les services en français de sorte que l'école conserve sa pertinence et ait les retombées appropriées sur les communautés qu'elle sert ».

Afin de former des médecins qualifiés et de mener des recherches fondées sur les besoins communautaires, l'EMNO compile des renseignements et formule des stratégies pour améliorer les activités de promotion au nom des communautés francophones, articuler efficacement leurs besoins et intégrer les commentaires de la communauté dans un plan de communications en français. Les stratégies découlant de ce dialogue seront examinées lors du prochain processus de planification stratégique.

Cette initiative est entreprise avec l'assistance de Francine Chartrand Dutrisac de la firme de consultation Trisac Inc. Pour obtenir d'autres renseignements, communiquer avec la coordonnatrice communautaire des affaires francophones, Yuk-Sem Won au (807) 766-7386 ou à yuk-sem.won@normed.ca ou avec Francine Chartrand Dutrisac à francine@xplornet.com.

Call for Francophone input

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is seeking input from communities on the priorities for Francophones.

In keeping with NOSM's social accountability mandate to improve the health of all Northerners, the School is encouraging Francophone participation with a view to increasing the number and quality of Frenchlanguage services and programs, essential contributions to the School's community plan.

Dr. Marc Blayney, Associate Dean Community Engagement, calls attention to the importance of ongoing Francophone feedback. "It is essential that all our communities and the School's many partners provide input on Frenchlanguage services in order to ensure that the School is relevant and has the appropriate impact on the communities it serves."

In order to educate skilled physicians and undertake research based on community needs, NOSM will compile information and formulate strategies to improve promotional efforts on behalf of Francophone communities, effectively articulate their needs, and integrate community feedback into a French-language communications plan.

Strategies rising from this dialogue will be considered during the upcoming strategic planning process.

This initiative is undertaken with the assistance of Francine Chartrand Dutrisac of Trisac Inc consulting firm. For further information, please contact NOSM's Francophone Affairs Community Coordinator, Yuk-Sem Won at 807-766-7386 or yuk-sem.won@normed.ca or Francine Chartrand Dutrisac at francine@xplornet.com.

NOSM 2008 Community Report now available online

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is proud to announce the release of the School's second annual *Community Report*.

This year's report highlights many accomplishments and milestones from this past year. These include:

 The inaugural Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC) year.

- Hosting the first International Conference on Community Engaged Medical Education in the North (ICEMEN).
- Implementing the Organizational Alignment Initiative (OAI).

To download your PDF copy, or to order hard copies, go to www.nosm.ca, and click on About Us » Media Room



NOSM Board examines fundraising

The Board of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine held its semi-annual face-to-face meeting recently, dealing with a wide variety of issues and culminating in the School's Annual Awards of Excellence presentations.



"It was an excellent meeting," says Director Austin Hunt. "I'm always impressed with how well these sessions go. It seems to get better and better each year."

This is high praise from Ontario's longestserving politician. Hunt has been on the Township of Billings municipal council for over 50 years, and most of that time has been as Reeve (mayor).

He began his political career in the 1940s working for former prime minister, the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, who was then Minister of External Affairs. Hunt lived in Pearson's federal riding.

"I was just a kid at the time, and he was looking for a driver to get him around. He didn't know the area at first, so I showed him around," recalls Hunt.

From there "Aussie", as he is called in his home of Kagawong on Manitoulin Island, moved on to being Pearson's local campaign manager and general right-hand man through his years in office. When Pearson died Hunt was a pallbearer.

From there he moved into local government, first as councillor and then as Reeve of Billings.

Over the years Hunt has been President of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and currently co-chairs the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – Northern Caucus. In 2005 he received the Long Standing Service award

Dr. Rayuda Koka

from the Province of Ontario in honour of his 50 years of elected service.

"So when I say NOSM is a well-run operation, I speak with a lot of experience," muses Hunt.

At this recent meeting the NOSM Board looked at normal governance issues, as well as the new strategic plan, and the School's fundraising activities. A presentation by lan Fraser of *The Fundraising Network*, helped frame the discussion.

After much dialogue, the Board approved a motion to continue preparations to improve NOSM's Advancement model.

Outstanding achievers recognized



Each year the Northern Ontario School of Medicine honours 'the best of the best' through its *Awards of Excellence Program*. The awards acknowledge the outstanding contributions of people to the School.

Faculty/Preceptor Recipients:

- · Dr. Jacques Abourbih
- Dr. John Kargbo
- Dr. Pierre Mikhail
- Dr. Christine Kupsh.

Learner Recipients:

- · Safiya Adam
- · Alex Anawati
- · Paul Miron
- Tyler Verdun

Staff Recipients:

- Tina Vrbanac (Leadership)
- Kimberley Larkin (Teamwork)
- Patty Fink (Inspiration)
- Mathieu Seguin (Innovation)

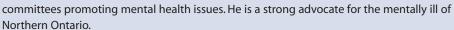
NOSM prof elected college president

A prominent Sudbury psychiatrist, and NOSM faculty member, has recently been elected President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

Dr. Rayuda Koka received the honour last fall. He is an associate professor and section leader (east) in psychiatry at the School.

"This is an extremely exciting time to be involved in the College and to serve as its President," says Koka. "I am honoured to have the opportunity to continue the important work to improve access to physicians in this province and I am committed to ensuring that the public has confidence in how the profession is regulated."

Koka is a consultant psychiatrist for the Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital. He also volunteer's his time, serving on many



This volunteer work was recently recognized through the awarding of the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship. This award applauds people who, through exceptional long-term efforts, have made outstanding contributions to the well being of their communities.

Koka moved to Sudbury in 1986 after completing postgraduate training in Britain, and his medical degree in India.

Research 'gathering' a good first step

Late last fall over 100 people gathered in Thunder Bay to discuss issues around research and Aboriginal peoples.

The three-day Partnership Opportunities in Research Gathering was hosted by the Northern Ontario School of Medicine as a way to build mutual understanding and respect between Aboriginal communities and researchers.



Elder Josias Fiddler from Sandy Lake First Nation addresses participants during the three-day Partnership Opportunities in Research Gathering.

"For a first-step, I'd say things went very well. Issues and concerns were voiced, as well as many positive messages about how we can move forward," says Research Coordinator John Gagnon.

The Gathering included lively dialogue on a range of topics regarding research involving Aboriginal peoples and their communities.

Many participants voiced frustration over historical research practices that have failed to provide benefits for Aboriginal people or communities.

This led to a deeper discussion about how scientific research may be undertaken according to principles that are consistent with the Aboriginal world view.

"This has been a tremendous opportunity to share perspectives and to understand the different world views of those participating," says Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM's Founding Dean. "Appreciating those perspectives is critical to identifying common ground upon which new research initiatives can begin."

Strasser says the School's focus will expand to include partnerships in research, as well as those already established in education and training.

As he says, research and relationship building are key aspects of the School's mandate to be socially accountable to the diverse cultures of Northern Ontario. It's important to keep the dialogue and information sharing open.

Gathering Moderator Chris LaFontaine applauds NOSM for organizing the event. "Giving the communities every opportunity to have input from the very beginning is the most significant aspect of this conference."

'Adopt-a-Faculty' program in pilot stage

The Aboriginal Affairs Unit is launching a new program aimed at increasing the cultural awareness and competency of the School's staff and faculty.

Known as Adopt - a - Faculty, the program offers select faculty and staff members the chance to live and learn in one of the School's partner Aboriginal communities.

Tom Terry is part of the team working on the program. As he explains, Adopt - a - Faculty will pair interested staff or faculty members with volunteer Aboriginal communities. The adoptee will spend ten to twelve days in their designated community, immersed in the culture and life of their temporary home.

"We want both the adoptee and the community to benefit from this exchange," says Terry. The program is currently in pilot phase, with a half dozen staff and faculty volunteering. The team is now in the process of finding Aboriginal homes for these pilot adoptees.

Terry says the idea for Adopt - a – Faculty came directly from experiences of the month-long Aboriginal community immersions each first-year medical student undertakes (CBM 106 ICE).

"At our very first review it was mentioned how valuable the experience was for our students, and then someone mentioned how useful it would be for our faculty as well," he says.

Cont. from p. 1 "Kenora hosts..."

Participants learn from each other to improve CCC

communities for the entire academic year.

This year's retreat, entitled "Celebration and Collaboration within a Community of Learners," took place in Kenora on January 9 - 11, 2009. It included a number of different workshops and sessions aimed at students, site clinicians, administrators and community members.

Participants shared their experiences, and explored ways of making the CCC even better



Gerry Martin, Regional Aboriginal Community Coordinator, addresses participants of the CCC retreat in Kenora.

> Student Clinical Experiences (PISCES) program. As Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM's Founding

for coming years.

This year's featured guest speaker came to Northern Ontario from the San Francisco campus of the University of California (UCSF), Dr. Bill Shore is part of UCSF's Parnassus Integrated

Dean says, although PISCES takes place in a highly specialized urban hospital setting, it has many similarities to the CCC.

"There is the same emphasis on students experiencing educational continuity through longitudinal patient care experiences, integrated curriculum delivery and assessment, and ongoing supervision by the same physician faculty members," he says.

Community engaged medical education is a distinctive hallmark of NOSM. The 12 CCC communities are: Timmins, Sault Ste. Marie, Temiskaming Shores, Sioux Lookout, Parry Sound, North Bay, Huntsville, Kenora, Bracebridge, Fort Frances, Kapuskasing, and Dryden.

NOSM leads the way in global trend

At the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, 'social accountability' is more than just pretty prose. Everything that happens at NOSM is linked with the needs and aspirations of Northern Ontarians.

This approach to medical education places NOSM at the forefront of a small, but growing trend at medical schools around the world. Recently, members of this group gathered in Cuba to learn from each other, and to develop ways of sharing this approach with other schools.

"It was like a gathering of friends," says Marie Matte, Director Undergraduate Medical Education. She, along with Dr. Joel Lanphear, Associate Dean Undergraduate Medical Education, and Founding Dean Dr. Roger Strasser represented NOSM at this workshop in Havana.

"The principle of social accountability in medical schools has really come to the forefront," explains Matte. "It was really impressive to see how NOSM is viewed as being at the vanguard of this international movement."

This gathering included the eight founding members of the Training for Health Equity Network. THEnet is a group of medical schools committed to recruiting students from, and produce physicians for, under served communities.

A key part of this workshop was to develop common ways of evaluating a school's performance when it comes to social accountability. This Common Evaluation Framework will be a tool that can be applied all over the world to accumulate evidence of the value of this approach.

Matte expects this tool to be ready for wider use within two years. Once it is complete, medical schools from around the world will have a way of gauging how successful they are in meeting their social accountability goals.

Members of THEnet come from all over the globe, and include such diverse countries as Cuba, the Philippines, Australia, Venezuela, Ethiopia and Canada. But despite the local differences, Matte says they all shared



common purpose and spirit.

"It was amazing being there and seeing the passion that they all have for this approach," she says.

This passion came through in the formal sessions, and also during the lighter moments. NOSM's very own Singin' Dean Strasser joined the Australian delegation in a rousing performance of Waltzing Matilda. The School's contingent then performed an original tune (written by Matte and Lanphear) entitled "The 12 days of NOSM", sung to the tune of the 12 Days of Christmas.

Cont. from p. 1 "Strat plan extended"

Community engagement key to the School's new strategic plan



As part of this initiative, NOSM's Quality Monitoring Committee of the Board will be creating an Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Steering Committee to oversee this important process.

"It's going to be a lot of work, but it's also going to be a lot of fun," says Adams. "It's our chance to engage the full NOSM community in the development of our collective future."

The first step in this process occurred in December 2008 with a web based stakeholder survey that examined the School's current strategic direction. The information from this survey will help create the "bridging document" that will extend NOSM's existing strategic plan until 2010.

"The School has been moving at a tremendous pace. This document will give us the necessary information to assess what we've done, and then figure out where we need to go," says Adams.

A major part of this work going forward will be consultation and communication with the broad NOSM community. Technology will play an important role, but for Adams, nothing beats a face-to-face meeting.

"The people of Northern Ontario have embraced NOSM as their own. They care about the School," he explains. "Our immediate job is to develop a consultation process that can engage people on their terms. We need to hear, and listen to what everyone has to say."

Further information will be shared over the coming months on NOSM's Strategic Planning process for the future.



NORTHERN HEALTH

May 29-30, 2009

Northern Ontario School of Medicine Lakehead University Thunder Bay, Ontario

The fourth annual Northern Health Research Conference (NHRC) is taking place in Thunder Bay this year, May 29-30, 2009. Anyone interested in learning more about Northern research should plan to attend this event.

The NHRC builds on the last three years of success by continuing to explore research activities within Northern Ontario. It will highlight projects underway from students, residents, and community-based researchers.

Topics will include everything from Aboriginal health and bioprospecting to telemedicine, occupational health, and mitochondrial DNA research.

"Research is essential to improving health and health care. It is important that our students and residents learn to see research as integral to everyday clinical practice," says NOSM's Founding Dean Dr. Roger Strasser. "Given NOSM's social accountability mandate, it is of particular importance that NOSM faculty members and learners

undertake research focussed on addressing the health needs of the people and communities in Northern Ontario."

The conference also provides opportunities for collaboration

and community networking amongst researchers. It is a great way to develop a deeper appreciation and awareness of Northern research in general.

For further information, please contact Shelby Dunahee, Continuing Education and Professional Development Coordinator, 807-766-7449, shelby.dunahee@normed.ca. Or go to www.nosm.ca and click on the NHRC link.



Dr. Greg Ross, Associate Dean of Research, speaking at the 2008 NHRC held in North Bay.

Cont. from p. 1 "School's gathering of..."

Faculty retreat features open forum sessions

NOSM to foster and support these academic activities."

The retreat featured an open forum, with Medical Sciences and Human Sciences faculty members giving brief presentations rounded out the twoday meeting. "How to Facilitate Small-Group Learning," by Dr. Anne Robinson and Dr. Bob Chaudhuri; "Research 101 for Clinicians," by Dr. Greg Ross; and for the faculty of NOSM to ensure that the School always has the necessary teaching resources to provide the highest quality educational experience for learners. At the same time the unit looks to build the capacity and commitment of teaching resources throughout Northern Ontario by supporting research and academic activities of NOSM faculty.

on current research projects. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Len Kelly from Sioux Lookout,

in which he shared his experience and expertise as an active clinician undertaking research.

Three faculty development sessions

"Integrated Clinical Learning," by Sue Berry, Dr. Richard Almond, and Dr. Saleem Malik. The Faculty Affairs Unit provides

leadership, supervision, and representation

