

Northern PASSAGES



A photograph of a modern university building with a large stone-clad section and a glass-fronted section. The building is surrounded by greenery and a paved area.



www.nosm.ca

NOSM Residents Navigating Their Way to Success



NOSM Residents Drs. Todd Spencer, Sandi Adamson, Omid Pour-Ahmadi, Matt Myatt, Melanie Josseau, and Kim Perlin.

In June, 55 residents completed training in the Family Medicine Residents of the Canadian Shield (FM RoCS), Family Medicine PGY3, and Royal College specialty training programs. Residents celebrated at evening receptions in Thunder Bay and Sudbury on June 3 recognizing their achievements. This year's resident celebrations also marked the completion of NOSM medical training for several members of the School's Charter Class, many of whom will soon begin practicing in Northern Ontario.

Residents have much of which to be proud. In May, NOSM residents, including the School's Charter Class graduates as well as residents who have come to NOSM from other medical schools across Canada, ranked first among Canada's 17 medical schools in overall performance on their Medical Council of Canada (MCC) Part II qualifying examinations. **This same group of NOSM residents achieved a 100 percent pass rate!**

Also, NOSM's Charter Class M.D. graduates who chose residency at NOSM or went on to pursue residency at other medical schools across Canada did remarkably well as an aggregated group, ranking fourth nationwide compared to other medical schools. **The group of graduates from 2009 also achieved a 100 percent pass rate.**

The Rotary Club of Thunder Bay

(Lakehead)



Lakehead Rotary Holds Shrimp Fest in Support of NOSM Student Bursaries

Over \$10,000 has been raised in support of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's Bursary Fund by Lakehead Rotary's annual Shrimp Fest event, held in Thunder Bay. The popular evening, which happened this year on May 28, features a delicious Gulf Shrimp dinner and a silent auction, with proceeds going to support medical students who are able to pursue their medical career aspirations and passion for the North knowing there may be much needed financial assistance.

"The Shrimp Fest continues to be a fantastic success," said Gail Brescia, NOSM's Advancement Manager, pictured below with the Shrimp Fest mascot. "NOSM is grateful for the immense community spirit and the support shown to our students by community groups, like Lakehead Rotary, across the North," she said.



Royal Lunches a Royal Success!

In celebration of the Royal Wedding of Kate Middleton and Prince William on Friday, April 29, 2011, NOSM hosted "Royal Wedding Luncheons."

Over 280 enthusiasts in Thunder Bay and Sudbury, many of whom were sporting fashionable hats fit for the occasion, enjoyed a traditional Afternoon Tea. Guests were served delicious finger sandwiches, fruit, pastries, and, naturally, a fine selection of teas made in the 'proper' fashion - fit for royalty! These events raised \$6,000 in support of financial aid for students at NOSM, which will be eligible for matching funds from the Ontario Trust for Student Support.



Surrounded by third-year students, Rotarians Wendy Adams, Darren Taylor, and Dr. Ross MacIvor present the donation to Dr. David Marsh, Associate Dean, Community Engagement on behalf of NOSM.

Rotary Club of Timmins Porcupine Establish Jack Helpert Memorial Bursary

NOSM students, and the medical school, are very appreciative of the strong financial support they receive from individuals and groups across the North. Recently, during a weekend of educational sessions for third-year students, the Rotary Club of Timmins Porcupine presented NOSM with a cheque for \$12,500. This will establish the *Jack Helpert Memorial Bursary*, recognizing Mr. Helpert's many contributions to Rotary Club and his strong commitment to helping to improve the health and lives of people in Northern Ontario. Thanks to the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) program, this endowed donation has been matched to create a bursary of \$25,000.

Funds will be distributed to a student in financial need, enrolled at NOSM's East Campus at Laurentian University, and who has lived in Timmins for a minimum of 10 years. If no student from Timmins is enrolled in a particular year, the recipient will be an individual who has lived in Northeastern Ontario for a minimum of 10 years.



Guests don fancy hats at Royal Wedding Luncheon at Bryston's on the Park in Sudbury.

Une séance sur la compétence culturelle éveille la prise de conscience

Le bureau des affaires francophones de l'EMNO a récemment organisé un atelier de perfectionnement sur la compétence et la sécurité culturelles axé particulièrement sur la culture francophone. Plus de 35 membres du corps professoral et du personnel ont assisté à cette séance diffusée par lien vidéo entre les campus Est ou Ouest de l'école. Animé par Hubert Gauthier, elle avait pour but d'éveiller les consciences sur des questions touchant la compétence linguistique et culturelle dans les services sociaux et de santé.

La présentation a porté sur l'augmentation des coûts liés aux effets des barrières linguistiques et culturelles. Selon M. Gauthier, il n'est pas rare que les consultations soient plus longues, qu'il y ait davantage d'analyses diagnostiques et d'erreurs de diagnostic et de traitement dues à ces barrières linguistiques. Après avoir examiné des études de cas, le groupe a déterminé que plusieurs intervenants partageaient la responsabilité d'établir et de conserver des normes appropriées de services de santé qui tiennent compte de la langue et de la culture : les professionnels de la santé, les systèmes et organismes de soins et les collectivités.

M. Gauthier a aussi amené le groupe à réfléchir en posant la question suivante : « Demandez-vous 'Que ferai-je demain pour être plus sensible à la culture ou à la langue?' ». Il a conclu disant à l'auditoire que la réponse à cette question constitue le premier pas pour devenir conscient des besoins culturels et linguistiques des autres.

Cultural Competency Session Raises Consciousness

On Tuesday, March 8, 2011, NOSM hosted a Cultural Competency/Safety Curriculum Development Workshop, with a particular focus on Francophone culture. More than 35 faculty and staff were in attendance at the session, which was video-linked between the School's East and West campuses. Facilitated by Hubert Gauthier, the goals of the session were to raise consciousness about matters relating to linguistic and cultural competence in health and social services.

The presentation addressed the increase in costs associated with the effects of linguistic and cultural barriers. According to Gauthier, it is common to find increased consultation time, and number of diagnostic tests, and errors involving diagnosis and treatment due to these linguistic barriers. After reviewing case studies, the group determined that there were a number of stakeholders who share the responsibility for maintaining and developing appropriate linguistic and cultural health service standards. The responsibility lies with health-care professionals, health-care systems and organizations, and communities.

Gauthier prompted reflection from the group with the following question, "Ask yourself, what will I do tomorrow to make myself more culturally or linguistically sensitive?" He concluded by reminding the audience that this question is the first step in the path to becoming aware of the cultural and linguistic needs of others.

**Animateur de l'atelier,
Hubert Gauthier
président, Hubert
Gauthier Conseil
Gestion**

**Workshop facilitator,
Hubert Gauthier
President, Hubert
Gauthier Conseil
Gestion**



Demystifying the Legal System

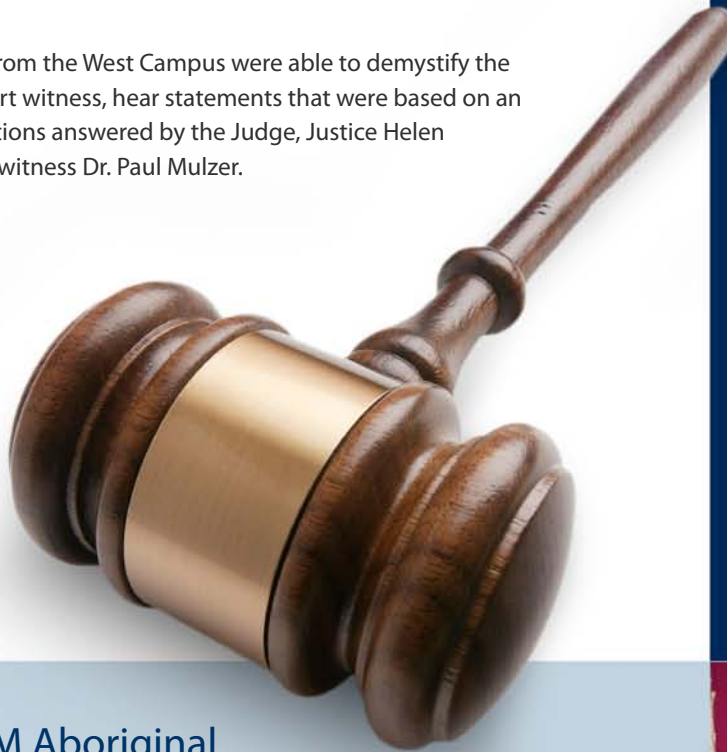
NOSM Students Participate in Mock Trial

The idea began with a suggested “day in the life” of a lawyer, or law office, but that was determined to be too “ordinary” a placement for NOSM learners. With goals such as determining what is an expert witness, what their importance is, and how to qualify as an expert in mind, Community and Interprofessional Learning Manager Siobhan Farrell and Dan Newton, from Carrel and Partners LLP, hit the ground running with an idea that they hope will set a precedent for medical schools across Canada. A mock trial, in which students could observe an expert witness, and be examined and cross examined in a live setting were the results of their pursuit.

“Many medical professionals shy away from becoming part of the legal system as an expert witness, merely because of the unknown and the fear,” expressed Farrell. “Really, they can’t be blamed if the only introduction in medical school is an old video of a court case.”

First- and second-year learners from the West Campus were able to demystify the process of qualifying as an expert witness, hear statements that were based on an actual case, and then have questions answered by the Judge, Justice Helen Pierce, Dan Newton, and expert witness Dr. Paul Mulzer.

The unique experience would not have been possible without the hours of dedication from Justice Pierce, Mr. Newton and Dr. Mulzer, and the Thunder Bay District Court House.



In Memory of NOSM Aboriginal Elder, Mr. Curtis Hopkins

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is deeply saddened to announce the passing of one of our dear Elders. Elder Curtis Hopkins, from the Turtle clan, passed away April 10, 2011 at the Gratiot Medical Centre. Curtis is remembered for articulating the traditional ways of the First Nations people and carried their traditional bundles with honour and dignity. With his wife Rhonda, he served as a role model and had been admired for his ability to nurture and guide people to walk a traditional road. Curtis was given the gift of teaching and making social and ceremonial drums, which he kindly shared during his sessions as the Elder on Campus. “The Northern Ontario School of Medicine’s staff, faculty, and learners have greatly benefitted by the teachings provided by Elder Curtis Hopkins. His dedication, traditional wisdom, and guidance will be greatly missed,” expressed NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser.



East Welcomes West Students during Academic Week

At the end of March, NOSM hosted an Academic Week for all first- and second-year M.D. students in Sudbury. During the full five days of sessions and activities, students from both campuses participated in simulation sessions, attended medical lectures on topics ranging from taking medical histories to LGBT health issues, and were given tips to survive and thrive in medical school.

The activities were not limited to daytime hours, however. Participating students were invited to a dinner hosted by the School’s Francophone Affairs one evening, and attended the Student Society Strasser Cup Hockey Game the next.



The late Elder, Curtis Hopkins.

SCANNING NOSM IN THE NORTH



Vice Chair of NOSM Board Named One of Canada's Top 40 Under 40

NOSM congratulates Mr. Dominic Giroux, Vice Chair of the School's Board of Directors and President of Laurentian University, for being named one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40. Canada's Top 40 Under 40 is a national program that celebrates the achievements of 40 Canadians who have reached a high level of success before the age of 40. Mr. Giroux joins an elite group of over 600 individuals honoured in the 15 years since the awards program inception. "I extend hearty congratulations to Dominic Giroux, on behalf of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, for this extraordinary achievement," said Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean.

NOSM on Tap Alumni Event

It is customary that the medical schools of Canada, as part of the annual Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME), host alumni events in the hosting city of the conference. On May 7, 2011, NOSM hosted its first-ever alumni event at the Mill Street Brewery located in the heart of Toronto's vibrant Distillery District. Nearly 50 students, alumni, donors, faculty, and staff members attended the event to celebrate NOSM's growing alumni membership of exceptional health professionals, and to recognize donors to NOSM's student bursaries.



Manager of Advancement, Gail Brescia, displays new NOSM Alumni logo.

NOSM Thrilled to be Hosting International Conference in 2012

Collaboration with health and medical education organizations around the world provides opportunities to learn from, and engage with, individuals and groups who share a similar commitment to community-engaged medical education and health care in rural and remote regions.

NOSM will be hosting a joint world conference in 2012, bringing together the Wonca World Rural Health Conference and The Network: Towards Unity for Health annual conference, as well as the next NOSM-Flinders Conference on Community Engaged Medical Education (ICEMEN/Muster), the Consortium for Longitudinal Curricula (CLIC) and the Training for Health Equity Network (THEnet). The theme of this conference, being held October 9-14, 2012, will be *Community Participation in Education, Research, and Service*.

Conference details will be available soon at: www.nosm.ca.

Face-to-Face Board Meeting Held in Sioux Lookout

This year, NOSM held its annual Board of Directors face-to-face meeting in Sioux Lookout, from May 12 to May 14, 2011. Board members participated in sessions on the topics of NOSM's strategic plan, research at the School, and the admissions process to the School's M.D. program. NOSM Board members also enjoyed a tour of the Meno Ya Win Health Centre, where every year NOSM learners undertake training as part of the School's distinctive distributed, community-engaged medical education and research model.

Members of NOSM's Board of Directors and NOSM staff in Sioux Lookout.



Better Late Than Never: Family & Friends Event

On Saturday, April 2, 2011, NOSM welcomed first-year learners' family members and friends as part of their orientation to medical school and NOSM in particular. Of course, Orientation Week (OW) occurred August 23-27, 2010, but due to the labour disruption, parts of OW were deferred including the Family & Friends event which was held April 2 at both the Thunder Bay and Sudbury campuses. Many first-year students responded to the invitation and brought along family members and friends including parents, children, spouses, partners, and so forth.

Participants received welcome gifts, enjoyed a healthy lunch, and heard from a number of presenters including NOSM's Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser, the Associate Dean of Community Engagement, Dr. David Marsh, and Faculty Member and Phase 1 Coordinator, Dr. Stacey Ritz. Presenters delivered passionate talks from both campuses and were videoconferenced to those at the other location. In addition, there were quite a number of learners and their family members present to provide advice to those in attendance.

The youngest family member was just three weeks old and came along with mom Rachel Sheppard, a fourth-year student who holds NOSM's record for the most babies during medical school: three! Following the presentations, family members were toured through NOSM's campuses. Smiles and sunshine were in abundance on this day when the NOSM community was extended to include all newcomers' families.



MiniSUN attendees participate in simulation sessions, learn moulage tips and tricks, and are introduced to making and using virtual patients.

NOSM Hosts MiniSUN Simulation Conference

For a day and a half in May simulation educators of the Northern Ontario Simulation in Healthcare Network (NOSH-N) came together with many others from outside the network to participate in the inaugural Northern Lights MiniSUN professional development meeting in Sudbury. SUN stands for Simulation Users Network, an initiative of the simulator manufacturer Laerdal that supports locally organized meetings across North America.

Activities included using hockey lines to increase participant involvement in training scenarios, building simulators out of everyday groceries, and using online virtual patients. Dr. Rachel Ellaway, NOSM's lead for simulation, observed "the experience was rated very highly, not least because it demonstrated how NOSH-N can support multiprofessional educators in providing high quality simulation-based education across the North."



Keynote speaker, Mr. Greg Vis, President of Hudson Simulation Services, presents Crew Resource Management Principles at Northern Lights MiniSUN Conference.



NOSM medical students Amy Witkowski, Fiona Main and Emily Robinson, make pancakes to raise money in support of World AIDS Day.

NOSM Hosts Health Care Team Challenge™

On March 26, 2011, 21 learners from eight academic institutions (Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Confederation College, Lakehead University, Laurentian University, Cambrian College, College Boreal, University of Waterloo and The Toronto Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences) volunteered to participate in the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Health Care Team Challenge™ (HCTC).

The HCTC is a case-based interprofessional student competition aimed at promoting interprofessional education and collaboration to learners in health and social care professions. Each team participated in two preparatory sessions related to interprofessionalism in health. They were then provided an identical case to work on, with the goal being to develop a collaborative interprofessional patient-centered management plan. Teams presented their plans to an audience (eg., clinicians, academics, community members and students) and were judged on both the quality of the management plan and level of team collaboration.

Congratulations to all who participated.

Medical School isn't All About the Books NOSM Students Dare to Make a Difference

Submitted by Kathryn Gibson, Entering Class of 2010

Already this year, NOSM students have shown that medical school isn't all about the books - it's also about upholding the social accountability mandate of the School. This year's student initiatives have primarily focussed on HIV/AIDS awareness and education.



The first activity was a pancake breakfast fundraiser held on World AIDS Day. Students served stacks of delicious pancakes in exchange for donations from other NOSM students, faculty, and staff. All of the money raised was given to Access AIDS of Sudbury. A special thank-you is extended to those who donated the ingredients!

Students also raised money as participants in the Stephen Lewis Foundation campaign, *A Dare to Remember*. First- and second-year students "dared" each other to do a polar bear dip and, after weeks of pledging, numerous students from the two classes plunged in to the frigid waters of Northern Ontario for this great cause.

Finally, during the week of Valentine's Day, "heart-o-grams" were sold at NOSM's front desk, each including an HIV/AIDS information pamphlet, a package of gum, a condom, and a red ribbon. All proceeds were given to the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research to help support the science behind finding a cure.

The NOSM student body has demonstrated great passion and gained knowledge, empowerment, and experience through their various charitable initiatives.

Stay tuned for what's next to come!