

Northern PASSAGES

Newsletter of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine



WELCOME
new and returning
NOSM learners to
the 2011-2012
academic year.

Northern Ontario
Dietetic Internship
Program Graduation



PAGE 3



PAGE 5

Northern Health
Research Conference
in Huntsville



PAGE 7

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Living the Vision: NOSM Continues the Dialogue with Aboriginal Partners

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) joined forces to co-host a three-day Aboriginal workshop entitled *Living the Vision* in Sudbury, Ontario on May 25-27, 2011.

The workshop was an opportunity to continue the dialogue following the *Follow Your Dreams* workshop held in Wauzhushk Onigum in June 2003, and the *Keeping the Vision* workshop held at Fort William First Nation in August 2006.

More than 45 participants, from as far away as Sandy Lake, Manitoba and Moose Factory, Ontario, travelled to Sudbury to discuss the ways that NOSM can continue to improve its community engagement, communication, curriculum, research, and residency programming initiatives from the perspective of Aboriginal peoples.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Jessica Dunkley, is Canada's first deaf female Métis medical doctor. Originally from Vancouver, Dunkley highlighted her years of study in the University of Ottawa's Aboriginal medical program. She discussed her trials and tribulations, as well as the triumphs, and inspired all with her presentation.

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Dr. Jessica Dunkley
Keynote Speaker

Living the Vision continued from page 1...

Dunkley discussed how she wished her medical education could have included more direct work with Aboriginal communities. She addressed the importance of demystifying Aboriginal culture. "Perception, values, and beliefs cannot be taught or learned without working in solidarity with Aboriginal communities," expressed Dunkley to workshop participants.

Recommendations received at the workshop will provide the basis for future initiatives at NOSM. The School's Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG), a group of representatives who serve to provide guidance and insight on the matters regarding the promotion of cultural understanding at NOSM, will be looking at the workshop recommendations and how they can be integrated into School work plans.



Elders Julie and Frank Ozawagosh



Participants provide feedback to NOSM.

NOSM and MNO Pen Collaboration Agreement

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) have sealed a commitment to collaboration in ink. At the opening ceremony of the *Living the Vision* workshop on May 25, 2011, NOSM and the MNO signed an agreement that will guide the organizations to focus on the development of new medical courses, academic programs, and innovative research initiatives which are responsive to the Métis people and communities of Northern Ontario. Together, NOSM and the MNO will work to increase the visibility and success of the Métis in medicine in Ontario, in part by facilitating more Métis students to pursue medical careers in the North.

"We want to encourage full and active participation from Métis nation youth and citizens in seeing medicine as a potential career. Having more Métis students pursue health careers in the North will dramatically increase the potential of them returning to their communities, where their skills as doctors and nurses are very much needed," said MNO President, Gary Lipinski.



NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser and MNO President, Gary Lipinski sign Collaboration Agreement.



The 2011 Graduates of the Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program.

Barrick Gold Makes Healthy Investment



Barrick Gold has made a generous investment in innovative education for a healthier North. In June, the Hemlo site of the mining company presented NOSM and the Marathon Family Health Team with a contribution that will allow Marathon to better support medical learners from NOSM.

NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser was in Marathon to accept the donation alongside Dr. Sarah Newbery, Chief of Staff at Wilson Memorial General Hospital. "This is a long-term investment in better health care for Northern Ontarians, and we are very grateful to Barrick Gold for the support they have shown NOSM, our learners, and our partners in Marathon," Strasser said.

Barrick's gift will go to projects such as a technology infrastructure upgrades for Wilson Memorial General Hospital and the Marathon Family Health Centre, which is estimated to cost \$15,000. Another portion will support an upcoming Rural and Remote Health Medical Conference hosted by Marathon. A recruitment initiative will receive \$25,000 to entice physicians to set up a practice in Marathon. Most notably, the remaining \$35,000 will be used to create a NOSM student bursary, which qualifies for matching funds from the Ontario Trust for Student Support. This bursary will be awarded to a NOSM learner who has roots in Marathon.

Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program Graduation

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine's Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program (NODIP) celebrated its fourth graduation on July 28, 2011. This year, 16 graduates accepted their certificates at the graduation ceremony, which was video-linked between the five main NODIP sites: Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Sault Ste. Marie, and Barrie.

"It has been an outstanding year and I'm immensely proud of this year's graduates. Sometimes I find it difficult to comprehend that in just four years after initiating NODIP, NOSM has expanded the number of dietetic interns from 10 to 16. Our graduates have gained a direct understanding of Northern and rural health challenges and as dietitians are prepared to address the nutrition and health needs of the people and communities in Northern Ontario," said Denise Raftis, Manager of the Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program.

The program consists of 46 weeks of practical training in clinical dietetics, food service, administration and community-based learning opportunities, as well as practice-based research. Interns are exposed to a variety of practice settings including: regional hospitals; family health teams; public health units; community health centres; long-term care facilities; small rural hospitals; and, Aboriginal and Francophone communities.



From left to right: Rylee Blasky, Stephanie Hill, Riley Fulkerson and Tyla Haygarth.

Tribute to Dr. Maureen Topps



With another successful Postgraduate Medical Education accreditation visit under her belt, Dr. Maureen Topps took a moment to sit down and reflect upon her time at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine before she packed up her office, and said her good-byes.

"There aren't too many times when you are given the opportunity to be part of a brand new medical school. It was a chance of a life time, really," said Topps.

Topps has taken pleasure in each and every milestone the School has achieved since its opening in 2005. She remembers a time when she would meet people who did not know about NOSM, or those who would not acknowledge it as Canada's seventeenth and newest medical school.

"In the early days, very few people outside of Northern Ontario had even heard of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine," said Topps. *"But now we are highly recognized provincially, nationally and even internationally."*

She reflects back to 2005, when her role as Associate Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education was the first position filled to create the postgraduate program, and she has watched the educational

portfolio flourish with talented people throughout the following years.

"Seeing the postgraduate program grow and develop, and to officially have learners come through the M.D. program, and then through Family Residency, is probably one of the things of which I am most proud," said Topps. *"It isn't a fully functional medical school until that occurs, and it's exciting that NOSM is at that stage now."*

Topps completed her term at NOSM as the Associate Dean of Postgraduate Education at the end of June. With fond memories, she is leaving NOSM to pursue further education and join her family in Western Canada.

"Calgary will be my next stop, but whether or not that will be my final destination – who knows!" she said.

Farewell, and all the best, to Dr. Maureen Topps. Thank you for your outstanding contribution to NOSM's success.

NOSM Welcomes New Residents

On June 29 and 30, NOSM's Postgraduate Education portfolio held its 2011 Resident Orientation sessions at the East and West Campuses. NOSM's newest residents in postgraduate training programs were introduced to the School and its resources. Not only was the event an opportunity to meet and greet, but residents were also treated to a little bit of Northern Ontario hospitality. West Campus residents gathered for breakfast at the storied Hoito restaurant in Thunder Bay, and East Campus residents visited the Sudbury Yacht Club. NOSM is accredited for residents training in Family Medicine, Family Medicine enhanced, Public Health & Preventive Medicine, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Orthopedic Surgery.



NOSM residents who participated in the 2011 Resident Orientation sessions at the East Campus.

L'EMNO accueille des élèves au camp estival des sciences de la santé

Chaque été, l'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario organise des camps des sciences de la santé sur les campus Est et Ouest. Ces camps sont gratuits pour les élèves d'écoles secondaires participantes et le principal critère d'admission est un intérêt démontré plutôt que des notes élevées. Cette année, des élèves des 11^e et 12^e années ont été invités à poser leur candidature. Les camps offrent une occasion particulière aux élèves des régions rurales et éloignées et d'origine francophone et autochtone qui s'intéressent à des carrières liées à la santé.



Participants et organisateurs du camp estival des sciences de la santé de l'EMNO.
NOSM Summer Health Sciences Camp participants and organizers.

Cette année, 38 élèves de villes de tout le Nord de l'Ontario ont participé aux camps. Ils ont eu diverses activités pratiques liées aux soins comme l'installation d'un plâtre, la résolution d'un cas de criminalistique et de la chirurgie générale. Ils se sont informés sur les médecines traditionnelles et ont appris comment se préparer à faire carrière dans la santé.

À Sudbury, les campeurs ont participé à une excursion spéciale d'une journée à Jocko Point dans la Première nation Nipissing. Ils se sont renseignés sur la célébration de purification, ont été découvrir les plantes médicinales dans la nature et ont

confectionné des roues personnelles de la médecine.

Les campeurs de Thunder Bay ont visité le parc historique de Fort William et un campement autochtone, ont eu une visite interactive de l'abri à canoës et de la pharmacie, se sont instruits sur le commerce de la fourrure et l'histoire naturelle et ont joué à divers jeux traditionnels des voyageurs d'antan.

« Les camps annuels des sciences de la santé sont un succès grâce aux participants qui s'y inscrivent parce que les activités liées à la santé les intéressent et qu'ils s'y plongent, a

déclaré Danielle Barbeau-Rodrigue, directrice du Bureau des affaires francophones. En outre, il serait impossible d'offrir ces camps sans le personnel et les étudiants en médecine dévoués qui constituent d'excellents mentors pour les participants. »

L'EMNO remercie en particulier le Fonds d'accès aux perspectives d'avenir du ministère de la Formation, des Collèges et Universités de son soutien financier pour les deux camps, ainsi que le bureau des initiatives autochtones de la Lakehead University et TBayTel pour leurs contributions financières respectives au camp de Thunder Bay.

NOSM Welcomes Summer Health Sciences Camp Students

Each summer the Northern Ontario School of Medicine hosts Summer Health Sciences Camps at both the East and West campuses. These camps are free of charge for participating high school students and the principal criteria for acceptance is demonstration of interest rather than high marks. This year, grade 11 and 12 students were invited to apply. The camps provide a particular opportunity to students from rural and remote, Francophone and Aboriginal backgrounds who may have an interest in health and health-care related careers.

This year, 38 students from communities across Northern Ontario attended the camps. They participated in a variety of hands-on health-related activities such as casting, solving a CSI case, and

general surgery. They also learned about traditional medicines, as well as how to prepare for a health-related career.

In Sudbury, campers participated in a special day trip to Jocko Point in the Nipissing First Nation. They learned about smudging, went on a medicine walk, and made personal medicine wheels.

Thunder Bay campers visited the Fort William Historical Park and visited an Aboriginal encampment, experienced an interactive tour of the canoe shed and apothecary, learned about the fur trade and natural history, and played a variety of traditional Voyageur games.

"The annual Summer Health Sciences Camps are successful because of the participants that are involved. Participants sign up because they are interested and ready to become engaged in health-related activities," said Danielle Barbeau-Rodrigue, Director of the Francophone Affairs Unit. "It also would not be possible to run these camps without dedicated staff and medical students, who are great mentors to the participants."

Special thanks to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Access to Opportunities Fund for their financial support of the two camps, as well as the Aboriginal Initiatives office of Lakehead University and TBayTel for their respective financial contributions toward the Thunder Bay camp.

SCANNING NOSM IN THE NORTH



Dr. Rachel Ellaway,
Assistant Dean
of Education
Informatics

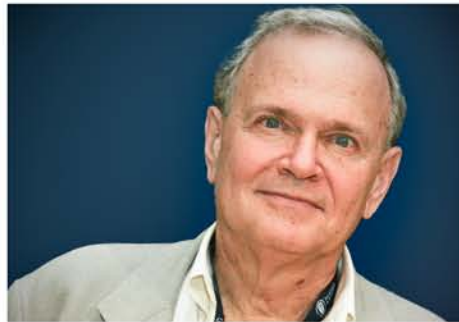
NOSM Faculty Presented with John Ruedy Award for Innovation in Medical Education

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is proud to congratulate Dr. Rachel Ellaway, who was recently presented with the John Ruedy Award for Innovation in Medical Education award from the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC). Ellaway, NOSM's Assistant Dean of Education Informatics, received this award with colleagues Dr. David Topps, University of Calgary (formerly NOSM's Director of eLearning) and Dr. Kevin Lachapelle, McGill University for their collaborative work on integrated and remote simulation-based education. The award, presented at the Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME) in Toronto, is given to an individual or group who has developed innovative print materials, electronic learning aids, or other teaching aids.



Sudbury's Mayor Matichuk Pays Visit to NOSM East Campus

City of Greater Sudbury's Mayor, Marianne Matichuk, and Christine Hogart, Chief of Staff, toured the Northern Ontario School of Medicine on Tuesday, May 24. Tour highlights included an opportunity to view NOSM's simulation equipment, including the SimMan 3G patient simulators, and a visit to the School's research lab with Dr. Greg Ross, NOSM Associate Dean, Research. Marianne Matichuk was elected Mayor in Sudbury's 2010 municipal election.



Dr. Arnold Aberman Awarded Order of Canada

Dr. Arnold Aberman has been awarded the Order of Canada, announced by the Governor General of Canada on June 30. Aberman, former Dean of the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, played a leadership role in the early stages of development of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. "On behalf of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, I extend delighted congratulations to Dr. Aberman on the great achievement of receiving an appointment to the Order of Canada," said NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser. "Dr. Aberman has been a significant contributor to medical education in Canada, and this tribute is well deserved." The Order of Canada is one of the country's highest civilian honours and recognizes individuals for a lifetime of outstanding achievement, and dedication to community and service to the nation.

NOSM Graduate Honoured with Youth Aboriginal Achievement Award

Dr. Lindsay Churchley, a recent graduate of the School's M.D. program, was honoured with a Youth Aboriginal Achievement Award early this spring. Recognized in the category of *Employment in a Chosen Field*, Churchley was chosen for demonstrating excellence in her pursuit to become a Medical Doctor. Churchley has a keen interest in obstetrics and women's health, particularly in Aboriginal communities and locally. This summer, she begins the five year obstetrics/gynecology residency training in Thunder Bay.

CRaNHR's John Hogenbirk (left) and Dr. Elizabeth Wenghofer (far right) with NOSM Dean Dr. Roger Strasser and Minister Rick Bartolucci.



NOSM Assistant Professors Examine Screening Tools for Detecting Developmental Delays in Children

Northern Ontario School of Medicine Assistant Professors Drs. Marjolaine Limbos and David Joyce have recently completed a research study entitled, *Comparison of the ASQ and PEDS in Screening for Developmental Delay in Children Presenting for Primary Care*. The study examines the accuracy of two parent-administered developmental screening tools for detecting developmental delays. Over 330 preschool children were recruited from the Sudbury area. The findings support the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and others, for developmental screening in primary care settings. The research findings will be published in the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*.

NOSM Receives \$1.14 Million to Continue CRaNHR Study

On June 24, Ministers Rick Bartolucci, Michael Gravelle, and MPP Bill Mauro presented the Northern Ontario School of Medicine with a substantial funding commitment of \$1.14 million. The funds will be used to continue multi-year, multi-phase research conducted by the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR) which tracks NOSM learners during their undergraduate and postgraduate medical education programs and into medical practice. The study will begin to measure the number of graduates practicing in rural, remote and Northern communities, as well as the type of services that they provide in their practices. "This funding is fantastic news for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine," said NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser. "It will measure the success of the School's unique model of community-engaged medical education with respect to addressing physician shortages in the North."



NHRC hosted at the Centennial Centre expansion, now known as the Canada Summit Centre in Huntsville, Ontario.

Northern Health Research Conference

Huntsville welcomed organizers and participants of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's sixth annual Northern Health Research Conference (NHRC) on June 10-11, 2011. The conference featured 28 oral presentations and 45 poster presentations covering a range of topics, many considering issues with a direct relevance to the health of Northern populations.



Keynote Dr. David Henry, President and CEO of ICES.

"The Northern Health Research Conference allows researchers to showcase work that is taking place across Northern Ontario. The research they are working on will have a direct impact on improving the health of people and delivery of health care in Northern Ontario," said Associate Dean of Research, Dr. Greg Ross.

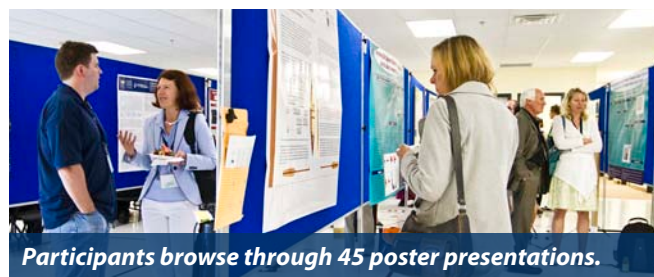
The keynote speaker, Dr. David Henry, President and CEO of Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), discussed the potential of expanding the ICES to Northern Ontario. ICES North would allow interested and approved researchers access to data collected from the delivery of health care across the province of Ontario.

Some of the other research presentations included topics such as nutrition concerns in Northern Ontario toddlers, Aboriginal understandings of dementia and cognitive health, and the impact of shared care on wait times for mental health services.

Next year, the NHRC will be held in Thunder Bay, in conjunction with the 2012 Canadian Oxidative Stress Consortium (COSC) Conference.



Participants sit in on 28 oral presentations.



Participants browse through 45 poster presentations.



The Sleeping Giant, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Experiencing Ontario's True North

Submitted by Heather Sullivan and Jenny Zeagman, McMaster University, Physiotherapy Class of 2011

This past winter, 11 students from McMaster University's Physiotherapy (PT) program came to Thunder Bay for 3½ months for the Northern Studies Stream (NSS). In addition to a unique academic experience, the NSS offered us an opportunity to experience the culture and diverse opportunities that the community has to offer. Though the weather was cold, it was balanced with the warm welcome that we received from the NOSM staff as well as the residents of Thunder Bay.

Coming from a class of almost 60 people, transitioning to a group of 11 students was truly small-group learning at its best! A comfortable and relaxed atmosphere was created by each of the NOSM staff as well as our dress code which requested that we remove our shoes before entering our class. The environment was a great change of pace from the intense program in Southern Ontario and provided the opportunity for quiet students to take on more of a leadership role within the class.

The academic and clinical components also provided the opportunity to interact with different clinicians who specialize in rheumatological conditions, cancer, diabetes and HIV. Where better to learn about Diabetes in our First Nations community than in Thunder Bay? Who better to learn about community programs than from our instructor who has helped implement a community program for survivors of stroke? Who better to learn about the upcoming changes to the

physiotherapy scope of practice than from the president of the Ontario Physiotherapy Association?

During our academic placements, each of us realized that, like high calibre hockey players, Thunder Bay has a knack for producing great physiotherapists. Exposure to these great clinicians as well as the strong sense of community that exists among the physiotherapists in Northern Ontario were eye-opening experiences for the students in the program, many of whom are from larger cities in Southern Ontario.

Although our time up north was mostly spent in class, we still found some time for the occasional outdoor adventure! Snow shoeing, ice skating, hiking, cross-country skiing and dog sledding are just a few of the outdoor activities that we got to experience while in Thunder Bay. A post mid-term celebration to Lutsen ski resort and a fun day at one of our professors

"camps" (yes, that is still difficult for us to say rather than cottage), were just some of the fun trips planned during our stay.

Lakehead University and NOSM also provided us the unique opportunity to take part in a traditional First Nation's sweat lodge in the middle of January, which was an experience that none of us will soon forget. The community of Thunder Bay welcomed us with open arms; literally. We soon learned that if you enjoy a meal at the Thunder Bay restaurant, you are guaranteed to get a hug from the owner of the diner!

For us the NSS program was a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience a part of Ontario that is beyond doubt one of its best kept secrets. After having been exposed to its great instructors, leading edge clinicians, laid back lifestyle, great outdoor activities and delicacies such as Persians, **it's a wonder why we don't all live in the North!**