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Northern Passages

Newsletter of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine

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It's hard to live a dream if you can't even conceive of the possibility. This is why NOSM is hard at work, showing young Northern students what is possible in terms of careers in health care.

A series of initiatives are aiming at exposing Northern students to the possibility of a career in science or health. The principle focus of these programs are grade 7 to grade 12 students, particularly those from rural, remote, Aboriginal and Francophone communities.

In the Northeast the program has spawned a number of projects. One of these includes sponsoring 40 students to be part of the Awesome NOSM Dragon Boat Youth Team, aptly managed by the

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2nd annual Northern Health Research Conference hears from Aboriginal expert

Dr. Jeff Reading, Scientific Director of Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) - Institute of Aboriginal People's Health, was the keynote speaker at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's (NOSM) second annual Northern Health Research (NHR) Conference held in Sault Ste. Marie on June 1 and 2, 2007.

Presenting on the first day of the two-day event featuring oral presentations and posters from across Northern Ontario and other provinces in Canada, Reading delivered a presentation titled *The Quest to Improve Aboriginal Health: Or How to Indigenize the Academy*, and spoke about the need to promote health through research that is in accordance with Aboriginal values and traditions.

Reading posed the question, "Why are some communities healthy, and others not?" to the attending audience. For instance,

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School welcomes first NOSM residents

July 1, 2007 marked yet another major milestone in the growth of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine as it welcomed its very first family medicine residents under the NOSM name.

The NOSM Family Medicine Residents of the Canadian Shield (Family Medicine RoCS) is the first new Family Medicine program in Canada in 33 yrs. The School has been granted new program status by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Until this change these programs were conducted as rural streams for the University of Ottawa and McMaster University.

A total of 28 family medicine residents began orientation the first week of July. The 14 Northeastern-based and 14 Northwestern-based trainees met in Sudbury and Thunder Bay to get to know the NOSM program.

While in Thunder Bay and Sudbury the residents also got to meet the Postgraduate Medical Education team, as well as their fellow NOSM Family Medicine RoCS colleagues.

Dr. Maureen Topps is NOSM's Associate Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education. She expressed

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Board of Directors meet in Northwest

The School's Board of Directors held their fourth annual retreat in Sioux Narrows and Kenora this past May, covering a wide variety of topics and issues.



Maureen Lacroix is a Board member with a long history of service to the North. As a veteran member of the NOSM Board, she says this past meeting, "was probably the best we've ever had."

"We learned a great deal, not only about the functioning of the School, but also about the many dedicated people working in different areas making it all happen," she says. "We also got to know our fellow Board members better. I would say we are now working more effectively as a group."

The Board consists of 35 people, drawn from across Northern Ontario. Membership is both diverse and dispersed, much like the School itself. Most meetings throughout the year are

held electronically, making this face-to-face session all the more important.

"We're all big fans of technology, but it can never replace the value of actually getting together. It really enhances our work throughout the year," observes Lacroix.

This year's retreat featured a number of presentations and information sessions. It

included a review of the strategic plan, an overview of family medicine at NOSM, and a traditional Medicine Walk. But for Lacroix, what really stood out was the discussions around technology.

"In many other places down south, in the big cities, technology is just a nice add-on. Up here, we are really using it," she says. "I think NOSM is ideally positioned to pioneer some of these new technologies for the rest of the world."

As a former nurse, Lacroix well understands the dramatic changes effective use of technology is making to the health care sectors. She says the School is already a leader, and needs to do more to promote itself in this area.

HIRC Highlights (Health Information Resource Centre)

Over the last two years, the Health Information Resource Centre (HIRC) has established a reputation as a meeting place for NOSM students and faculty.

With each new undergraduate class, the HIRC has seen its user base grow. With an increasingly diverse group of primary users, the HIRC strives to better meet the varied informational needs by continually enhancing services and resources.

As NOSM students and faculty spend more time off campus, the need for the HIRC to deliver quality information resources and services becomes greater. For example, the HIRC has now revised its borrowing policies to more easily accommodate first and second-year students while they are on community placements.

The next hurdle is to provide equitable and convenient access to resources when third-year students are across Northern Ontario during their Comprehensive Community Clerkships (CCC).

The HIRC staff is looking forward to the next phase of development, and welcomes everyone to visit the HIRC while on campus.

www.normed.ca/library, E-mail: askhirc@normed.ca

HIRC East: 705-662-7282, HIRC West: 807-766-7375

Upcoming NOSM Symposia

Times: 12:00 – 13:30 Eastern, 11:00 – 12:30 Central

The NOSM Symposium Series consists of presentations provided by nationally and internationally recognized experts. Presenters are selected by the Heads of the Clinical Sciences, Medical Sciences and Human Sciences Divisions at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

The Division Heads identify presenters who promote the exchange of information on key topical issues, developments and trends in medicine and

medical education. The Symposium Series enables communities, students, academics and researchers to network and explore opportunities to collaborate. The NOSM Symposium sessions are open to the public and are presented live, via video conference and as webcasts. For further information go to www.normed.ca or contact Sherry Carlucci at 705-662-7257 or sherry.carlucci@normed.ca.

Thursday, September 13/07

Presenter: Sister Elizabeth Davis

Thursday, September 20/07

Presenter: John Beaucage, Grand Council Chief, Union of Ontario Indians

Thursday, October 18/07

Presenter: Dr. Roger Strasser with NOSM update

La grande séduction...des médecins du Nord de l'Ontario!

Timmins est prêt à accueillir le deuxième symposium francophone de l'école qui aura lieu les 21 et 22 septembre. Cet événement est pour la communauté francophone l'occasion de célébrer les succès de l'EMNO et d'améliorer les activités courantes de l'école dans cette région.

Danielle Barbeau-Rodrigue, coordonnatrice aux affaires francophones et à l'éducation interprofessionnelle à l'EMNO, fait partie des principaux organisateurs du symposium. Elle explique que le thème de cette année est « le recrutement » parce qu'il concerne de nombreux aspects des activités de l'école : « L'école recrute des communautés, les communautés recrutent des résidents et des médecins, l'école recrute des étudiants dans les communautés; tout est relié au niveau de la formation. C'est pourquoi le recrutement est un thème parfait pour notre symposium ».

L'événement regroupera des médecins, des résidents, des étudiants, des membres de la communauté et des chefs de file gouvernementaux. Le but général est de célébrer et d'améliorer l'engagement de l'EMNO envers la communauté francophone.

« L'école fait partie de toutes les communautés et les communautés font parties de l'école, dit Mme Barbeau-Rodrigue. Tout cela fait partie de notre responsabilité sociale, un

mandat que nous prenons très au sérieux. »

Ce deuxième symposium mettra à contribution des conférenciers provenant

d'une variété de parties prenantes francophones.

Ces derniers comprendront des chefs de file gouvernementaux et politiques provinciaux et fédéraux, des cadres supérieurs de l'EMNO, des résidents en médecine et étudiants de troisième année.

Jusqu'à présent, les conférenciers suivants ont confirmé leur présence :

- Tony Clement, ministre de la Santé du Canada et de FedNor (tentatif)
- Marie-Lison Fougère, sous-ministre adjointe, Bureau des affaires francophones
- Hubert Gauthier, directeur général, Société Santé en français (tentatif)
- Judith Woodsworth, rectrice de l'université Laurentienne et présidente du C.A. de l'EMNO (tentatif)
- Dr Roger Strasser, doyen fondateur de l'EMNO

- France Gélinas, présidente du Groupe francophone témoin

L'école encourage aussi les communautés

à profiter de l'occasion pour montrer leurs villes et villages à des médecins potentiels et aux étudiants. Des exposants pourront installer des kiosques et distribuer des informations.



Le symposium de cette année se déroulera au Cedar Meadows Resort à Timmins. La participation est gratuite mais des frais d'inscription volontaires seront fort bienvenus et seront alloués à la Bourse communautaire francophone de l'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario.

Pour s'inscrire ou obtenir d'autres renseignements sur le symposium, communiquer avec Danielle Barbeau-Rodrigue au (705) 662 7260 ou à affaires.francophones@normed.ca. Il est aussi possible de s'inscrire en ligne à www.normed.ca.

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Science camps encourage Northern youth

School's own Danielle "Stroke! Stroke!" Barbeau-Rodrigue.

Other Northeast events include a science camp in July, as well as participating in the Francophone Health Career Fair and the Women of the Future Conference. During NOSM's second annual Northern Health Research Conference, recently held in Sault Ste. Marie, 24 grade 12 students were also sponsored to attend through the program.

In Thunder Bay the second running of a summer science camp happens mid July. Last year a dozen students from Thunder Bay schools took part. This year will see another 12 students take part in the five-day camp. The numbers include four Francophones, four Aboriginals, and one from the remote community of Lac Seul. Sessions include everything from a health career day to a session called "Meet your Microbes."

According to Janet Napash, Regional Aboriginal Community Coordinator, the Lac Seul student is part of a pilot project to see how NOSM can reach remote First Nation youth.

"Lac Seul was responsible for identifying the student, and the School has shown commitment by paying for the student to attend in Thunder Bay," she explains.

A significant thrust of this past year's youth outreach was done by many of NOSM's first-year students during their Aboriginal Integrated Community Experience month (ICE-106). Volunteers were given an

outreach kit, and were encouraged to speak with the youth in their respective ICE-106 communities.

Following their return, a number of the students gathered to share their experiences. Comments from the medical students were wide and varied, reflecting the differing realities of each community. Each NOSM student also brought their own unique perspective to the task.

Here is some of what was said:

- "We brought out Netters (anatomy text) and the kids were amazed. They had never seen what the human body looks like from the inside."
- "We gave our presentation, and afterwards we talked with a lot of the kids. For the first time the kids were starting to express interest in the possibility of a career in science or medicine. It was amazing."
- "A number of kids asked us how hard medical school is. We said, 'If us two can get in, then you certainly can!'"
- "One girl went home after our presentation and told her parents, 'I want to be a doctor!'"

Dr. Dan Hunt, NOSM's departing Vice-Dean Academics, summed things up by relaying his own experience with the power of personal contact.

"I met this one young student from last year's science camp, and now he just won't let me go. He keeps emailing me questions, and they are great!"

"I hope you all found someone who 'won't let you go.'"

Postgraduate specialty options expanding

With a strong dedication to NOSM's social accountability mandate, it is a perfect fit for the School's Postgraduate Medical Education programs to make Community Medicine the first of its very own Specialty Medicine residencies. The new program is expected to be offered in July of 2008.

With accreditation nearing the approval stage, the program will be combined with NOSM's Family Medicine RoCS program, and will offer hands-on exposure to environmental health, health promotion, and health care organization – all very important aspects of health care delivery in Northern Ontario.

In the first two years of the program, residents will train as Family Medicine learners to get certification to practice. After that, the residents would generally pursue a graduate-level degree such as a Masters in Public Health, followed by clinical rotations such as occupational health, research, and health monitoring and surveillance.

The combination of the clinical, and more academic-type practice, will lead to a practicing Community Medicine doctor that can support many diverse public health areas.

"NOSM's new Community Medicine program will be greatly impacting service to population health in Northern Ontario," says Dr. Vera Etches, the Sudbury and District Health Unit's Associate Medical Officer of Health, and a key figure in the creation of the

NOSM program. "Residents from this program will be able to actively contribute to the infrastructure of public health, and will be part of developing a system needed to investigate the health issues evident

in the North, all from a community-based standpoint."

Graduates from NOSM's Community Medicine program will have the opportunity to have dual



Photo taken during orientation for NOSM's first class of PGY3 FM-Emergency Medicine Residents of the Canadian Shield (RoCS) program.

certification with the Family Medicine requirement. They will be able to work in a Public Health environment, dealing with issues such as safe water, safe environments, group health, community health and epidemiology-based research, investigating the determinants of health in the North.

Currently, NOSM offers Specialty Medicine training in conjunction with the University of Ottawa and McMaster University, in the areas of general surgery, emergency medicine, anesthesiology, pediatrics, internal medicine, orthopedics, and psychiatry. The School expects to see growth in all of Specialty Medicine training, and is pursuing NOSM accredited programs in pediatrics and orthopedics, as well as exploring obstetrics/gynecology in the North.

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New NOSM residents treated to real Northern hospitality

the importance of NOSM taking ownership of the Northern residency training.

"It is integral, from a fully functional medical school's perspective, to have our own training for postgraduate programs in the North," explains Topps. "It speaks to the continuum, from our Undergraduate Medical

Education to Postgraduate training, providing learners training opportunities as they progress throughout their complete medical education. It allows us to put a Northern stamp on these programs."

While at the orientation sessions, the residents were treated to some truly Northern hospitality. Hosted by the current Family Medicine residents already participating in Northern training, the new residents took part in barbecues, boat cruises, tours of the communities, as well as the hospitals.

Topps says she is very pleased with the quality of the physicians that NOSM was able to attract as its first NOSM residents. According to her, the School aimed to have learners interested in comprehensive care in rural and regional centres – people who are confident working anywhere.

NOSM Family Medicine RoCS does not restrict acceptance to those solely from the North, but is aimed at residents who feel

comfortable training here, and who enjoy being in this area, regardless of where they are from.

"I believe we've been successful in choosing this type of group," says Topps. "We look forward to all of these individuals graduating from our residency training in 2009."

Residents of the NOSM RoCS program will train throughout Northern Ontario, and will be based out of Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Timmins, North Bay, and Sault Ste. Marie.

The students will be exposed to aspects of health care that are unique to Northern Ontario, such as wilderness medicine, aboriginal cultural programs, and occupational health native to this geographic region.

Topps says, "They can also expect to feel the unmatched community spirit present in Northern Ontario, as they'll be seen as valued members of the health-care team right from the onset."



Maureen Topps

CCC Community Profile: Sault Ste. Marie



Sault Ste. Marie has played a leading role in the development of NOSM from day one. So, it was fitting this city should also be the first community to hold a local fundraising event in preparation for the coming Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC).

Beginning in September, 12 NOSM students will be living and learning in Sault Ste. Marie for their third year of medical school. And as Gail Brescia, Manager of Development at NOSM says, the city is welcoming these students in style.

"Sault Ste. Marie really came together to showcase what the city has to offer," she says. "It was a great evening for the School, as well as the community."

The event marked the official welcoming of the city into the CCC partnership. It also kicked off what Brescia hopes will be a model other communities can follow. The money raised, and the volunteer support, will help NOSM's students make the most of their year in the city.

"This event was put together by the Local NOSM Group (LNG), the community at large, and the School. It was a great way to kick things off, raise awareness that the students are coming, and also to raise some money," says Brescia. "We would definitely encourage all CCC communities to think about doing similar things."

About 150 Sault Ste. Marie community members, including local physicians, civic leaders, donors, and general NOSM supporters, came together for the evening. High Hopes, the movie about the making of NOSM, was shown. Dr. Paul Worley from Flinders University in Australia was a special guest speaker, as were two of the students who will undertake their CCC in Sault Ste. Marie.

CCC Community Profile: Kenora

As Northwestern Ontario's second largest community, Kenora is a vital and valuable partner in the School's Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC) program.

In September of this year, third-year medical students will undertake their CCC in medium-sized communities throughout the North. Kenora will play host to four students.

The students will learn in the community's principal health-care facility, the Lake of the Woods District Hospital. Mark Balcaen is CEO of the hospital. He is proud to be a part of a true community-based medical school.

"Integrating students in communities such as Kenora is key to the development of physicians who understand and appreciate medical practice in Northern communities," says Balcaen.

Dr. Kerry MacDonald, Chief of Staff at the Hospital, concurs. "The professional staff of Lake of the Woods District Hospital will provide comprehensive, patient-centred training, allowing the students to observe, learn and participate in the care of patients in a distinctively Northern environment."

During their eight months in Kenora, students will be taught by local physicians and other providers who are NOSM faculty members.

Lake of the Woods District Hospital is Northwestern Ontario's largest hospital outside of Thunder Bay. It sees over 30,000 people per year, and includes a wide variety of programs and services.

The Hospital's core programs include emergency and ambulatory care, chronic care, mental health, maternal and child health, and acute care services. It also manages a broad range of services including dialysis, chemotherapy, diagnostic imaging, mammography, ultrasound, addiction counselling and detoxification, a sexual assault centre, physiotherapy and rehabilitation services, ambulance, palliative care, and various education programs.

School unveils new professional development calendar •••••The Biggest Ever!•••••

Learning is a life-long project. So it is with pride the School unveils its third Professional Development calendar – the largest offering of such programs in Canada.

"We are seeing major growth this year, with the number of sessions mushrooming to 550+ from 200 something last year," says Suzanne Lortie-Carlyle, NOSM's Faculty Development Coordinator.

Not only are sessions growing, but participation is also climbing, with numbers increasing 75% from year one, to year two.

The sessions are delivered to learners across Northern Ontario via video teleconference, over the Ontario Telehealth Network (OTN) and via high speed internet. Most sessions are also offered face-to-face at one or both of the NOSM campuses, and many of the programs are accredited for CME.

Go to www.normed.ca, and follow the link under *Programs*, for full information.



Aboriginal human resources conference hears from NOSM student Doris Mitchell

First-year medical student Doris Mitchell recently addressed a provincial conference examining Aboriginal health human resource issues. She told the gathering in Mississauga about the barriers, and the challenges, Aboriginal students face.

"I was there to tell my own story, and to help the participants understand just how difficult it can be for Aboriginal students who want to go into a career in health care," says Mitchell.

The conference, titled Health Human Resources: Challenges & Solutions for Aboriginal Health, was held last May. It brought together Aboriginal health people from all over Canada. The goals of the meeting were to learn how to:

- Increase the number of health professionals serving Aboriginal people.

- Increase the cultural knowledge of health care workers.
- Recruit and retain Aboriginal people in health care.
- Attract young Aboriginal people to the health care field.
- Improve Ontario's capacity to plan for Aboriginal health human resources.

All of these goals are in perfect alignment with NOSM's own social accountability mandate. The School has, as one of its prime directives, the objective to foster the development of new Aboriginal health workers.



Doris Mitchell

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Guidelines help Aboriginal health researchers

lower life expectancies, an increasing number of new HIV cases, and higher rates of tuberculosis, diabetes and suicide are more prevalent in Aboriginal populations than others.

When considering why this would be, Reading discussed the complex interplay of biological endowment, physical and social environment, and gene-environment interactions that contributes to Aboriginal health issues.

Health research which incorporates the political, social, cultural, economic, and spiritual realities of Aboriginals can better account for and understand the health disparities that are occurring in Canada's Aboriginal populations.

The creation of comprehensive guidelines to help those engaged in Aboriginal health research has been an important focus of Reading's efforts at the CIHR.

As part of his presentation, Reading explained the background to the development of the new CIHR Guidelines for Health Research Involving Aboriginal People (May 2007), which are guidelines to be followed by anyone who carries out research involving Aboriginal people in Canada if the research is funded by CIHR. Aboriginal peoples in Canada include Inuit, Métis, Urban Aboriginals, and over 630 First Nations, as defined by the CIHR.

The Guidelines provide an important ethical framework for research that incorporates Aboriginal world views addressing the issues of research partnership methodology, collective and individual consent, protection of cultural knowledge, benefit sharing, and the collection, use, storage and secondary use of data and biological samples.

Research that incorporates this framework will help to promote, facilitate and encourage culturally relevant information that can make a real and positive difference to the health of Aboriginals, says Reading.

"I was extremely pleased to be able to tell the conference about NOSM – a school that has a social conscience," says Mitchell. "It's one of the main reasons I am here."

Founding Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser, attended on behalf of NOSM. He says participants were extremely interested to learn about what the School is doing. But he says Mitchell's presentation is what really impressed people.

"It's all fine for me to say these things, but Doris is a real student," says Strasser. "She wasn't there as a NOSM representative, she was there because of her own background. People were very impressed with what she had to say."

As a former nurse working in Timmins, Mitchell well understands the challenges Aboriginal health care workers face. She also understands just how important it is to increase the numbers of Aboriginal physicians, nurses, and other allied health professionals.

"This is why I came to NOSM. I believe in the vision, and I think it is working," she says.

Faculty profile: Dr. Marina Ulanova

Dr. Marina Ulanova came a long way to be at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. In a very real sense, hers is a grand journey of body and mind – and the two are very much intertwined.

The journey of the body began in the 1970s in Moscow, USSR. It took Ulanova through the upheavals of Glasnost and the fall of communism in Europe, to Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and finally to Edmonton and now Thunder Bay.

Where the mind leads, the body follows, and this journey of the mind began with the simple desire to help children with the deadly inherited disease of cystic fibrosis.

"I started my career as a young doctor in Moscow where I saw children suffering from this severe lung disease," she says. "I saw some patients develop terrible symptoms, while others did not, so I decided to learn why."

This initial query opened a career of questions that has now led Ulanova to NOSM. She is an Associate Professor in the Division of Medical Sciences. Today she leads a research group looking at various questions, all aimed at trying to find an effective means of helping these patients fight this terrible disease.

Her professional career began at the Institute of Pediatrics in Moscow. This national research centre was well endowed with resources and funding. The only thing missing was professional contact with researchers outside the Iron Curtain.

In November, 1989, all that changed. Communism crumbled, and doors were thrown open. Unfortunately the collapse of the USSR also meant the end to research money.

"We didn't have money for anything," she explains. "We couldn't buy basic equipment, or journals. We even rationed clean paper. I got 20 sheets per month because of the importance of my work."

As she says in a completely understated way, "things were very bad." So, when an opportunity opened for her to go, first to Germany, Denmark, and finally in 1994 to Sweden, she jumped.

In Sweden she found a home at the Göteborg University, working with some of the top people in cellular and molecular immunology. It was here she began to unravel the mysteries around some of the mechanisms related to the disease.

Her work in Sweden culminated in the completion of a Ph.D. in clinical immunology. "I loved it in Sweden, but I needed to move on to post-doctoral work," she says. Again, an opportunity to carry on her research appeared, this time at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, where she stayed for five years.



"I decided to go to Edmonton because the Pulmonary Research Group at the U of A offered me an excellent opportunity to study intracellular signalling mechanisms of lung diseases. This group is very well known in pulmonary medicine. It was a great chance to move my research to a new dimension."

In 2005 Ulanova spotted a little job ad seeking applications for this new thing called the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. The rest, as they say, is history.

At NOSM Ulanova's work focuses on three main areas:

- The role of integrin receptors in interactions between bacteria and lung epithelial cells.
- Integrin receptors as a missing link between inflammation and cervical cancer development.
- Vaccine coverage and prevalence of invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) infections in the Aboriginal population of Northern Ontario.

"I loved the School from the beginning," she says. "It was a unique opportunity to take my research exactly where I wanted to."

She and her husband Sergey (a mathematician now teaching at Lakehead University) and daughter Olga (currently pursuing her Master's in psychology at the University of Toronto), visited Thunder Bay, and thought the city, and the region was perfect. "We all love nature, and the people here are wonderful – it reminds me of Russia."

"We are very lucky here at NOSM," she says. "We have excellent labs, great scientists, and wonderful collaborations and support from the physicians who really understand the value of research."

The School remembers Jane Yesno



Jane Yesno joined NOSM in Jan. 2006 as Administrative Assistant - Aboriginal Affairs. She passed away in her sleep on June 22, 2007.

Jane will always be remembered for her gentle manner, her warm friendly smile, and the kindness she exuded to her friends and coworkers at NOSM.

Friend and co-worker Christeen Jones remembers Jane as her "butterfly, ever so gently touching everyone she ever met. Jane taught me so much, especially through her example of humility. She was my resource of the Aboriginal ways."

Jane is survived by her daughter, Abbii, her daughter's father, her parents, brothers, sister, grandparents and many other relatives and friends.

Renown rural medical educator visits School

Dr. Paul Worley is a world leader in integrated medical education and a long-time friend of NOSM. He spoke recently as part of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's ongoing Symposium program.

As newly appointed dean of the Flinders School of Medicine in Adelaide, Australia, Worley came to share his experience, and also to learn from NOSM.

"You really are one of the medical schools that is at the cutting edge of things," he said. "Social accountability, application of technology, admissions, curriculum, and community-based education – in all these ways you are out in front of most of the world. It is very exciting."

According to Worley, the School's Integrated Community Experience (ICE) modules, its direct involvement with the communities it serves, and especially through the mandatory Comprehensive Community Clerkships (CCC) in year-3, all mean NOSM is a world leader in these trends.

"You should all be very proud," he says.

DOROTHY WRIGHT WOMAN OF THE YEAR!

Dorothy Wright, NOSM's CAO, has been named the 2007 *public sector Influential Women of the Year for the Northwest*, an award given out annually by the Northern Ontario Business Magazine.

This prestigious award recognizes and honours women who have contributed to the economic growth and development of Northern Ontario. More than that, it celebrates the best of us.

As NOSM Founding Dean Dr. Roger Strasser says, "Dorothy is one of a kind."

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine would not be where it is today without her skill, guidance, determination, and friendship to all. Congratulations from all of us at NOSM.



School 'wows them' at national conference

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine "really wowed them," according to attendees of the recent Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) conference in Victoria, BC.

"It couldn't have gone better," says Marie Matte, Director Undergraduate

Future Together." Nearly 1,000 participants from across Canada took part in the five-day event, including a strong contingent from NOSM.

Dr. Joel Lanphear, NOSM's Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education, led a poster session

entitled, "Expanding Our Horizons: Sharing Our Experiences with the

learned how far out in front we are on a lot of this stuff."

Kim Daynard, NOSM's Senior Communications Officer, also attended on behalf of the School. She says people at the conference came to realize how advanced NOSM is when it comes to distributed medical education.

"Our people have reason to be very proud. Most of what they talked about at the conference, we are already doing," says Daynard. "I have to say, our posters really stood out. If there had been prizes given out at the conference, we'd have won."

The conference is held every year as a joint meeting of the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) and the Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME), along with three other national organizations which have an interest in medical education: the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), the Medical Council of Canada (MCC), and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).

In addition to the conference focus on medical education, this annual gathering provides the venue for the Council of Deans, the AFMC Standing Committees, and many other interest groups which link medical schools from across Canada.



NOSM's four poster presentations at the AFMC meeting. Each board is an impressive 4-foot by 8-foot board in real life.

Medical Education at NOSM. "Our posters and our presentations, really stood out from the others. We really showed them that NOSM is the 'real-deal' when it comes to distributed education."

The theme of this year's conference was, "Distributed Medical Education: Building Our

Matte, who assisted Lanphear with the presentation explains, NOSM dominated the question period.

"At the end of the presentations all the questions from the audience were directed towards us," she says. "The total focus was on NOSM and what we are doing. People really