



Northern PASSAGES

Newsletter of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine



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CELEBRATIONS

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Conference



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Reappointed as
Dean



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Milestone Celebrations at NOSM

From May 28 to June 5, 2009, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) celebrated the groundbreaking achievement of successfully graduating the first class of physicians with a particular understanding of Northern health challenges. The exciting week of Milestone Celebrations began with the first-ever completion of residents from NOSM's Family Medicine Residents of the Canadian Shield (FM RoCS) program. Now fully certified, these physicians are ready to pursue family practice or seek further specialization.

On May 29, 2009, NOSM's charter class graduands gathered in Thunder Bay for a Hooding Ceremony. An honoured tradition, the intimate hooding ceremony

recognizes great individual achievement and acknowledges the transition from student to physician. Each of the graduands were called from the audience of family members and close friends, hooded by Dr. Joel Lanphear, NOSM Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education, and then formally congratulated by NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser.

The immensity of this achievement was captured in the words of Strasser who commended NOSM's first M.D. graduates. "Many people worked hard over the years to make this dream a reality, but especially the students. They are incredibly brave. When they started this process back in 2005, they bought into something that was completely



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unknown—a brand new curriculum and brand new faculty. They truly are the trailblazers, the pioneers who brought us to the level of success we are celebrating today.”

The following day, West Campus graduands received their medical degrees at the Lakehead University Convocation and later participated in a NOSM Public Reception at Lakehead’s Hangar. Amid the public addresses by distinguished guests, Dr. Fred Gilbert, Chair of NOSM’s Board of Directors and President of Lakehead University, echoed Strasser’s earlier statements and celebrated the students’ commitment to the school’s unique model of education. “Over the last four years you have clearly demonstrated your dedication to an education system that is becoming a world model. What I have seen in you is a commitment to medicine that recognizes people, cultures, and communities.”

After the celebrations in Thunder Bay, many volunteering charter class members visited several communities that hosted them during their cultural and clinical placements. The students journeyed on two separate routes to visit clinical physician teachers and community supporters at stops between Thunder Bay and Sudbury. Communities were pleased to welcome students back, and many shared touching stories of their time

spent teaching the students in their local hospitals and health-care centres. Some graduands were fortunate to visit their hometowns, where their families were able to join in and celebrate their accomplishments.

Celebrations continued in Sudbury on Thursday, June 4, beginning with the second Hooding Ceremony and followed by the Laurentian University Convocation on June 5, 2009. Hundreds of supporters later gathered at Laurentian’s Ben Avery Building to partake in the celebrations to honour this achievement and usher in a new chapter in Northern health care. Greater Sudbury mayor, John Rodriguez, referenced the historical timeline that predated the school’s development and paid tribute to the early pioneers who envisioned a medical school that would address the health needs of Northern people and communities. In a later address, Sudbury MPP Rick Bartolucci urged everyone in attendance to acknowledge the families of the graduates for supporting the students through the challenges of their medical education.

NOSM’s first graduates of the M.D. program have begun residency training in Northern Ontario and at locations across the country as of July 1, 2009. Approximately 70 percent have chosen to pursue family medicine. ▣



**New Look.
Great Read!**

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is pleased to present a new look and organization to *Northern Passages*. Our goal is to bring a diverse range of stories about NOSM, its programs, people, and partners in Northern Ontario to our readers in a way that is compelling to read. We hope you enjoy our new design, better layout, and enhanced content.

Northern Health Research Conference Advances Community-Based Research



Dr. Kue Young, Professor and TransCanada Pipelines Chair, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, delivers the conference's keynote presentation: "Why Am I Here? A Southern Academic's Perspective on Northern Health Research."

The fourth annual Northern Health Research Conference (NHRC) was held May 29 - 30, 2009 at Lakehead University. The conference, which focused on research suited to community needs, built upon the successes of the previous three years. Participants were given the opportunity to learn from a wide range of presentations, each unique in focus and united by shared interest in Northern health concerns. Included among the many presentations were investigations into diabetes care, aging and disability, and the effects of industry shutdowns on health status patterns.

Dr. Greg Ross, NOSM Associate Dean, Research, sees research in the North as being at the cutting edge of development, and regards conferences like the NHRC as an ideal opportunity to address community needs. "The greatest opportunity we have is to match our research strategies with our social accountability mandate to help improve the health of people in Northern Ontario. By developing innovative programs and sharing information at conferences like the NHRC, we will continue to reach our objectives of addressing diabetes, obesity, cancer, and other diseases prevalent in the North."

One presentation at the NHRC, demonstrating how research improves the health of community members, considered

an ongoing primary stroke prevention program in the First Nation community of Sandy Lake. This initiative is a collaboration among several stakeholders. St. Joseph's Care Group in Thunder Bay and Baycrest in Toronto partnered with the Sandy Lake First Nation Health Authority to develop a culturally meaningful prevention program; Sandy Lake delivers the program to a target audience comprised of five groups of 10 individuals. Denise Taylor, health provider and co-author of the stroke prevention plan, highlighted the potential benefits rising from its implementation.

"Given the high risk factors in Sandy Lake, we decided to develop a project that would look at prevention by raising awareness of factors leading to stroke," she said during a poster showing at the NHRC. The program is implemented by Willow Fiddler and others, including a community health representative of the Sandy Lake First Nation Health Authority. The twice-weekly sessions include the discussion of risk factors, preventative measures, and regular exercise. Attendance in the group has remained at a steady 60 percent, indicating a high interest level among participants. Taylor says the program will be modified as feedback mounts in order to maximize positive outcomes.

Creating conditions for investigators wanting to make Northern Ontario home base for pioneering research is a priority for the school. As with previous years, participants of the Northern Health Research Conference gathered to present methodologies and expand networks of collaborative partnerships among researchers, health-care professionals, and communities in Northern Ontario. ■

CEPD Accreditation Ranks Among NOSM's List of Firsts

It was a happy day when Dr. Wayne Bruce, Associate Dean, Continuing Health Professional Education, received a call from the Committee on Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education (CACME) informing him that NOSM received full accreditation for the Continuing Education and Professional Development (CEPD) program.

The office of Continuing Education Professional Development organizes educational sessions for physicians and other health professionals in Northern Ontario. CEPD, which is administered by NOSM's Continuing Health Professional Education portfolio, is responsible for ensuring that program content is sufficiently robust and diverse to respond to the interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum.

Video-linked delivery, webcast courses, and campus-based lectures are the tools by which the school provides consistent information delivery to professionals disbursed among many Northern Ontario communities.

Full accreditation entitles NOSM's CEPD office to assess and award Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits to practitioners even when instruction is provided by other organizations. CEPD accreditation is critical to NOSM's promotion of skills in teaching, research, and administration. ■

Decisive Plan of Action Emerges from Interprofessional Retreat

Interprofessional education is one of six key academic principles that reflect the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's commitment to continuous learning. Training sessions span the professional continuum of health practitioners who practice in Northern Ontario, and assist them in maintaining and developing their skill sets. NOSM's Continuing Health Professional Education (CHPE) portfolio is responsible for delivering an integrated and comprehensive professional development program to physicians and allied health practitioners.

A recent retreat in Sault Ste. Marie involving NOSM, 10 education institutions, and the North West and North East Northern Local Health Integrated Networks (LHINs)

aimed at developing a robust pan-Northern strategy for Interprofessional Education and Care (IPE&C). Dr. Eli Orrantia, a family physician from Marathon, delivered a powerful presentation that set in motion open dialogue and a strong commitment to team-based treatment.

The resulting exchange produced a three-year strategic plan, supported by clear directions and identified priorities, for advancing interprofessional education, care, and research in Northern Ontario. The retreat was the culmination of a pilot project known as the Northern Interprofessional Collaborative for Health Education (NICHE). This group of partners, which includes NOSM, seeks to support the health needs

of people in Northern communities through the development of a sustainable pan-Northern strategy for ongoing interprofessional education and care.

To help maintain its commitment to this goal, NOSM has been awarded \$1.5 million by HealthForceOntario for four major interprofessional practice and learning projects to take place across Northern communities over the next 15 months.

At the conclusion of the retreat, Dr. Roger Strasser extended congratulations to Sue Berry, Director, Health Sciences and Interprofessional Education, and her team, on the outstanding success of NICHE and other initiatives. 📌



NOSM's Executive Group celebrates NOSM's milestone achievements

From left: Dr. Gerry Cooper, Associate Dean of Learner Affairs, Dr. Bob Rubeck, Associate Dean of Informatics, Dr. Maureen Topps, Associate Dean of Postgraduate Education, Ken Adams, Associate Dean of Administration, Dr. Joel Lanphear, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education and Senior Associate Dean of NOSM's West Campus, Dr. Roger Strasser, Dean, Dr. Bill McCreedy, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, Dr. Marc Blayney, Associate Dean of Community Engagement and Senior Associate Dean of NOSM's East Campus, Dr. Wayne Bruce, Associate Dean of Continuing Health Professional Education, and Dr. Greg Ross, Associate Dean of Research.

NOSM Stands Alongside All Medical Schools in North America

In February 2009, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine reached another turning point when it received full accreditation for its M.D. program. The achievement represents years of preparatory work by many participants who have been committed to achieving this significant historical milestone. In Canada, accreditation is granted by the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), two organizations that work together to set, maintain, and approve of the standards for undergraduate medical education at all Canadian medical schools.

After receiving the good news from CACMS and LCME, NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser, acknowledged the significance of accreditation and the importance of widespread support in realizing this accomplishment. "Receiving full accreditation of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's M.D. program is a crowning achievement in a multi-year process aimed at meeting all expected standards. I extend my congratulations and thanks to Dr. Joel Lanphear, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education, and to staff, students, faculty members, clinical physician teachers, community

members, Academic Council members, Board members, host universities, and government supporters – everyone who worked so hard to reach this pivotal benchmark."

NOSM now stands alongside all other accredited medical schools in North America. Strasser also noted the accelerated rate of accomplishment. In a few short years, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine has evolved from a pan-Northern dream to a start-up organization, and now into a fully-accredited medical school. 📌



From left: Student recipients Meghan Garnett, David Harris, Carla Dubois, Sean Gravelle, Anna Maria Soviero, Kevin Agostino, and Melissa Crawford.



From left: Student recipients Stacey Erven and Richard Nadeau, Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean, and student recipients Zachary Veitch and Kathleen Anderson.

NOSM Students Funded \$90,000 for Summer Research Projects

Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario Award Winners

Kevin Agostino

Pamela Felhaber

Yves Landry

Britney Parlett

Anna Maria Soviero

Founding Dean Summer Medical Student Research Awards

Kathleen Anderson

Melissa Crawford

Carla Dubois

Stacey Erven

Meghan Garnett

Sean Gravelle

David Harris

Richard Nadeau

Josee Poulin

Zachary Veitch

Research that addresses the specific health needs of Northerners requires committed investigators and adequate funding sources.

The importance of research was reiterated recently at the annual presentation of research awards, this year totalling \$90,000 from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario (HSFO) and NOSM's Founding Dean Summer Medical Student Research Awards.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation continues to generously award funds to NOSM students valued at nearly \$250,000 over a five-year term. These student research projects provide medical students with the opportunity to gain cardiovascular research training while working with an established NOSM researcher. The projects are carried out all across Northern Ontario.

Dr. Marco Di Buono, Director of Research at the HSFO, noted the benefits rising from Northern research. "The research students are about to undertake will begin an information-sharing pathway that starts with the students – as they learn and are mentored by strong researchers – and will later be shared with their communities

for the benefit of Northern Ontario."

Following the HSFO presentation, ten NOSM medical students received Founding Dean awards, also valued at \$6,000 each. NOSM Dean Dr. Roger Strasser noted that "In this year of Milestone Celebrations at NOSM, ten Founding Dean Summer Medical Student Research Awards were presented – the most yet for one summer. I would like to congratulate the students on their awards and wish them success with their research."

Dr. Greg Ross, Associate Dean, Research, noted the opportunities available from these disbursements. "The Founding Dean Summer Medical Student Research Awards allow our students to remain in the North for the summer and to gain invaluable research experience while studying topics relevant to the people and communities of Northern Ontario."

On May 29 - 30, 2009, student research award winners from the previous year presented the results of their findings at the fourth Northern Health Research Conference (NHRC) in Thunder Bay at Lakehead University. ■

NOSM Tour Heightens Interest of Budding Professionals

Secondary students from Moosonee joined students from St. Charles College in Sudbury for a tour of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's East Campus on April 17 and 29, 2009. Aboriginal, Francophone, and Anglophone students learned about the role the school performs in contributing to the health of the people and communities in Northern Ontario.

"The purpose of tours such as these is to raise awareness of health care in Northern Ontario

and to interest students in health-care careers," explained Sarah Noel-Gervais, NOSM Program and Youth Initiatives Coordinator.

Erin Hallett of the Communications Unit welcomed the students and introduced them to the Medical School building. Dominique Ansell then guided them through NOSM's state-of-the-art research facilities; Michael McArthur introduced them to the library's (Northern Ontario Health Information Network) various

learning resources; and John Dabous, Learning Activities Coordinator, acquainted the students and budding professionals with the practical side of medicine through a tour of the clinical skills lab.

Many of the visiting students are enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major. The program, introduced to St. Charles in 2008, enables students to tailor their high school experience to their interests and simultaneously prepare for future education or employment. ■

NOSM Students Score High on Residency Placements

Dr. Maureen Topps, NOSM Associate Dean, Postgraduate Education, felt that NOSM's fourth-year graduating students would place with little difficulty to postgraduate residency programs, a requirement for every graduating medical student in the country.

The results surpassed even her expectations. "It is unusual to have all students of one medical school match in the first round. It certainly speaks to the quality of education demonstrated by the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's first graduating class. This is excellent news both for the school and students of the charter class," said Topps.

Over ten years have lapsed since a cohort of graduating students from one school has achieved such results. Placing medical graduates is a three-step process facilitated by the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS). From mid-January to mid-February all medical schools in the country suspend classes to enable learners to travel to various locations for interviews. Each student then submits a list indicating their preferred choice of medical school based on their interest level. Similarly, residency program directors submit their priority list from the applications they receive from students. CaRMS then matches the preferences of both students and residency programs. There are two matches that occur (the first in early March) in order to ensure the best outcome for students and residency programs is achieved.

Successful placement of all students in the first round is not only unusual, but indicates a high regard that medical schools have for NOSM students, a sentiment echoed by NOSM Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser. "This is a fantastic result and a huge credit to all the students in NOSM's charter class."

A significant proportion of NOSM's charter class students are continuing their education in Northern Ontario, undergoing residency training in various NOSM postgraduate training programs. Students from medical schools across the country, including NOSM, began residency training in one of NOSM's several postgraduate programs in July 2009. ■

Northern Ontario's Youth Discover Career Possibilities in Health and Research



When Northern Ontario School of Medicine Research Lab Coordinator, Joe Eibl, delivered a presentation to a class of eager learners, his talk was frequently punctuated with laughter from the high school students in attendance. "There's lots of fun stuff in chemistry," he advised. "I have a friend whose only job is to make sulphuric acid at work. That's why he always smells like rotten eggs." Again, a chorus of laughter erupted from the animated delivery of Eibl's introduction to research given at the Northern Health Research Conference (NHRC) held at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay on May 29 - 30, 2009.

Creative introductions into the related fields of research and health care are encouraged at NOSM, and the investment in stimulating the minds of young people is paying off. "We have seen a steady growth in the number of students attending our events," says Sarah Noël-Gervais, Program and Youth Initiatives Coordinator at NOSM.

This year, about 25 students from several Thunder Bay high schools attended the NHRC. They sat in lectures and reviewed posters--just some of the events to heighten

their interest in these fields. Each year NOSM invites students from the community where the conference is held. Many have already developed an interest in the discovery of science and its implications. Others are just beginning, thanks to the exposure made possible by annual conferences such as the NHRC, as well as supporting programs launched by the school of medicine. NOSM hosts week-long Summer Science Camps each July, participates in career fairs, and organizes talks for medical students to speak to teenagers about health care and research.

The school's pan-Northern initiative to attract the attention of young people spans the spectrum of health and research. "There are many careers for people to pursue in health care. One option is to study to become a physician, but there are many more options to explore in the health-care field," explains Danielle Barbeau-Rodrigue, NOSM's Director of Francophone Affairs.

Attracting youth to careers in health care and research is an ongoing directive which supports NOSM's social accountability mandate of working to improve the health of the people in Northern Ontario. ■

Shining Stars in Medical Education Acclaimed at Lakehead Convocation

On Saturday, May 30, 2009, several leaders were honoured for their lifetime contributions to medicine during convocation ceremonies at Lakehead University. NOSM board members, Drs. John Whitfield and John Augustine were named Fellows of Lakehead University. Their appointments to this distinguished group of academic peers acknowledge their ongoing support for medical education in Northern Ontario.

Whitfield's lifetime passion for the North and his commitment to the region, combined with his academic achievements, Whitfield has enjoyed a long and celebrated academic career in mathematics at Lakehead University, where he served in several capacities as professor, mentor, and administrator. His experience was later called upon when he served as board member of the Northwestern Ontario Medical Program (NOMP) and played a key role in the development of NOSM.

A distinguished physician, Augustine is well known as the Founding Chair of NOMP, the Northern network that brought medical students from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario to work with local doctors. NOMP—with its Northeastern counterpart, Northeastern Ontario Medical Education Corporation (NOMECE)—has since been integrated into NOSM's postgraduate programs. Augustine's loyalty to, and passion for, medical education found him participating in additional projects such as fundraising for the construction of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC). Augustine's lifetime accomplishments were a natural fit for his role in the creation of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

Lakehead University also conferred a Doctor of Science degree upon Dr. John Evans, distinguished physician with a legendary reputation in medical education innovation.

With a list of credits including Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and Master of the American College of Physicians in the United States, Evans is perhaps best known for his introduction of problem-based medicine into the academic curriculum at McMaster University. This was considered a revolutionary initiative in 1970 when Evans was appointed Founding Dean of this new medical school. Today, this education model is incorporated into the curriculum of many medical schools, including NOSM.

In a career that has spanned decades, Evans has served as president of the University of Toronto, studied public health for the Rockefeller Foundation, and has undertaken research on behalf of the World Bank. He currently is founding chair of MaRS, an innovation centre that links business with scientific research. ■

Dr. Roger Strasser Reappointed as Dean for Five-Year Term

Dr. Fred Gilbert, Chair of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine Board of Directors and President of Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, was pleased to announce this spring, that Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM's Founding Dean, has been reappointed for a five-year term as Dean to follow his current term which ends in June 2009. The pace of vigorous growth set under his tenure in September 2002 is expected to continue under his new tenure. Under Strasser's leadership, and with each year since the school's official opening in 2005, there has been increasing recognition of NOSM's innovative approaches to medical education from medical faculties around the world. The school is fast becoming a must-see location for their educators to learn about NOSM's curriculum, model for distributed community-engaged learning, and use of new technology to advance medical education.

Gilbert recently spoke to Strasser's strengths, including his vision and demonstrated abilities to guide the school toward

meeting its social accountability mandate of addressing the health-care needs of the people of Northern Ontario. "Dr. Strasser has worked diligently to transform a Northern Ontario dream into an internationally recognized school of medicine with a community-engaged model of education," said Gilbert. "As we move into the next five years of NOSM's development under Dean Strasser's leadership, we look forward to the further strengthening of relationships with the universities and the clinical faculty, as well as with people from the Northern Ontario communities."

Since assuming his position as NOSM's Founding Dean, Strasser has assembled a strong administrative team and worked to respond to the unique health-care challenges of Northern Ontario. Strasser came to Canada from Australia where he was Professor of Rural Health for Monash University and Head of the Monash University School of Rural Health. He has been awarded a number of prestigious awards for excellence and innovation in rural and remote medicine. ■



Une semaine passionnante de célébrations de grandes étapes

Du 28 mai au 5 juin 2009, l'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario (EMNO) a célébré la collation des grades de sa toute première classe de médecins particulièrement sensibilisés aux défis du Nord en matière de santé. Le début de cette semaine mémorable des Célébrations de grandes étapes, a été marquée par la fin de la résidence des premiers participants au programme de résidence en médecine familiale du Bouclier canadien (FM RoCS). Maintenant entièrement agréés, ces médecins sont prêts à exercer ou à poursuivre leur spécialisation.

Le 29 mai 2009, les diplômés de la toute première classe de l'EMNO se sont regroupés à Thunder Bay pour la cérémonie de l'épilogue. Une tradition honorée, cette cérémonie intime souligne les grandes réussites individuelles et la transition entre la situation d'étudiant et celle de médecin. Devant l'auditoire constitué de membres des familles et d'amis proches, chaque diplômé a reçu l'épilogue des mains de M. Joel Lanphear, doyen associé responsable de la formation médicale de premier cycle à l'EMNO, puis les félicitations officielles du doyen, le Dr Roger Strasser.

Le Dr Strasser a félicité les premiers diplômés de l'EMNO en termes qui soulignent l'ampleur de cet accomplissement : « Bien des gens, mais surtout les étudiants, ont travaillé assidûment au fil des années pour réaliser ce rêve. Ils sont incroyablement braves. Quand le processus a

commencé en 2005, ils ont accepté l'inconnu – un tout nouveau programme d'études et un tout nouveau corps professoral. Ce sont de vrais pionniers qui nous ont apporté le degré de succès que nous célébrons aujourd'hui ».

Le lendemain, les diplômés du campus Ouest ont reçu leur grade de médecin lors de la collation des grades de la Lakehead University et ont plus tard participé à une réception publique de l'EMNO dans le « Hangar » de l'université. Au milieu des discours d'invités distingués, Fred Gilbert, président du conseil d'administration de l'EMNO et recteur de la Lakehead University, s'est fait l'écho du Dr Strasser et a souligné l'engagement des étudiants envers le modèle pédagogique unique de l'école : « Au cours des quatre dernières années, vous avez clairement prouvé votre détermination à suivre un système d'éducation qui est en train de devenir un modèle mondial. J'ai constaté chez vous un engagement envers la médecine qui tient compte des gens, des cultures et des communautés ».

Après les cérémonies de Thunder Bay, beaucoup de membres de la toute première classe sont retournés dans plusieurs collectivités qui les avaient accueillis pendant leurs stages culturels et cliniques. Ils ont emprunté deux itinéraires séparés pour rendre visite aux enseignants-cliniciens et à leurs supporters communautaires lors de haltes entre Thunder Bay et Sudbury. Ces communautés ont été heureuses de les revoir et bien des

gens ont relaté des histoires touchantes sur l'enseignement qu'ils ont prodigué aux étudiants dans les hôpitaux et centres de santé locaux. Quelques diplômés ont eu la chance de visiter leur ville d'origine où leurs familles ont pu se joindre aux célébrations de leurs accomplissements.

Les célébrations ont continué à Sudbury le jeudi 4 juin, tout d'abord avec la deuxième cérémonie de l'épilogue puis la collation des grades de l'Université Laurentienne le 5 juin. Des centaines de supporters se sont rassemblés dans l'édifice Ben Avery de la Laurentienne pour souligner cet accomplissement et marquer le début d'un nouveau chapitre des soins de santé dans le Nord. Le maire du Grand Sudbury, John Rodriguez, a parlé de la période qui a précédé la création de l'école et a rendu hommage aux pionniers qui ont eu l'idée d'une école de médecine qui se préoccuperait de la santé des gens et des communautés du Nord. Plus tard, le député provincial de Sudbury, Rick Bartolucci, a exhorté l'auditoire à remercier les familles des diplômés d'avoir aidé les étudiants à vaincre les défis de la formation médicale.

Les premiers diplômés du programme de médecine de l'EMNO commenceront leur résidence dans le Nord de l'Ontario et ailleurs dans le pays à partir du 1er juillet 2009. Environ 70 pour 100 s'engageront dans la médecine familiale.

Une semaine passionnante de célébrations de grandes étapes

Quand le coordonnateur du laboratoire de recherche de l'École de médecine du Nord, Joe Eibl, a fait une présentation à une classe d'adolescents curieux, leurs rires ont souvent ponctué son discours. « La chimie est très divertissante, a-t-il dit. Le travail d'un de mes amis consiste à produire de l'acide sulfurique; c'est pourquoi il dégage toujours une odeur d'œufs pourris ». Là encore, sa présentation animée de l'introduction d'une étude exposée à la Conférence de recherche sur la santé dans le Nord (CRSN) qui a eu lieu à la Lakehead University à Thunder Bay les 29 et 30 mai a elle aussi provoqué un éclat de rire général.

À l'EMNO, les présentations novatrices dans les domaines de la santé et de la recherche sont bienvenues, et l'investissement dans la stimulation des jeunes esprits rapporte. « Le nombre d'élèves

qui assistent à nos événements grandit sans cesse » précise Sarah Noël Gervais, coordonnatrice des Programmes et initiatives pour les jeunes à l'EMNO.

Cette année, environ 25 élèves de plusieurs écoles secondaires de Thunder Bay ont assisté à la CRSN. Entre autres, ils ont écouté des communications et pris connaissance d'affiches qui ont intensifié leur intérêt dans ces domaines. L'EMNO invite chaque année, des élèves de la ville qui accueille la conférence. Beaucoup s'intéressent déjà à la découverte scientifique et à ses retombées. Chez d'autres, les conférences annuelles, comme la CRSN, ainsi que des programmes d'appoint lancés par l'école de médecine, éveillent leur curiosité. Chaque année également, l'EMNO organise des camps hebdomadaires de sciences en juillet, participe à des salons des carrières et arrange des rencontres entre des

étudiants en médecine et des adolescents pour parler des soins et de la recherche.

L'initiative pan-nordique de l'école visant à attirer l'attention des jeunes gens couvre le spectre de la santé et de la recherche. « Il y a beaucoup de possibilités de carrière dans le domaine de la santé. La médecine est une option mais il y en a beaucoup d'autres à explorer » explique Danielle Barbeau Rodrigue, directrice des affaires francophones de l'EMNO.

Attirer des jeunes dans les carrières en santé et en recherche est une ligne directrice permanente qui appuie le mandat d'imputabilité sociale de l'EMNO qui est de travailler pour améliorer la santé de la population du Nord de l'Ontario.