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# Northern Passages

Newsletter of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine

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First year medical student Alexandre Anawati spent the month of May in Fort Albany near the James Bay coast. He was there for the NOSM Integrated Community Experience (module 106), living and learning in a remote Aboriginal village. See page 4 for additional coverage.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grad program approved

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine took a huge step forward recently with the accreditation of its first postgraduate program. On June 20, the College of Family Physicians of Canada approved new program status for NOSM's Family Medicine Residency Program. The program has a new name: NOSM Family Medicine Residents of the Canadian Shield – or NOSM Family Medicine RoCS!

"This is great news, not just for NOSM, but for the entire province," says Dr. Maureen Topps, Associate Dean of Postgraduate Planning. "This is the first new program in

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## School to host second Aboriginal Workshop this summer

# Keeping the Vision

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is organizing a second Aboriginal Workshop from August 1st to 3rd. About 50 participants are expected to attend the event hosted by Fort William First Nation near Thunder Bay.

Orpah McKenzie is NOSM's Director of Aboriginal Affairs.

She expects the event will help the School take the next steps in engaging the Aboriginal peoples and communities of Northern Ontario.

"There has been a lot of work done on the recommendations that came out of the first workshop entitled *Follow Your Dreams*," she explains. "I hope

that, through this second workshop, we can get further guidance from the communities on how NOSM can better reach out and involve them in the School."

This second workshop is titled *Keeping the Vision* and will focus on three main objectives.

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# NOSM Family Medicine RoCS!

Family Medicine for 33 years."

The official accreditation was the culmination of months of work by Topps and her team. A huge asset, but also a significant challenge, was integrating the existing Northern-based residency programs into NOSM. These programs were previously run by NOMP (Northwestern Ontario Medical Programme) and NOMECE (Northeastern Ontario Medical Education Corporation).

One of the significant strengths NOSM is building on is the distributed learning approach used by both NOMP and NOMECE. Having medical residents living and learning in the communities they may one day serve has proven to be highly effective.

"Now with NOSM as a full medical school we can expand the opportunities for these residents through our e-learning tools as well as basic facilities like access to faculty, libraries, research labs and other supports," explains Topps.

With this new program in place, family medicine residents who commence their training in July 2007 will be NOSM residents. They will graduate in 2009 along with the School's first class of MD students.

Family medicine is only the first of many residency programs slated for NOSM accreditation. Topps says others in the works include: general internal medicine, general surgery, anesthesiology, pediatrics,



Dr. Maureen Topps, NOSM Associate Dean Postgraduate Planning (back) with her team (front left to right) Dr. Ric Almond, Pan Northern Program Director, Family Medicine; Kim Ferris, Postgraduate Planning Manager; and Dr. Tom Crichton, Assistant Dean Postgraduate Planning, Family Medicine. (Inset photo) Dr. Henry Leung, Program Director for Specialty Residency Training.

psychiatry, orthopedic surgery, obstetrics and gynecology as well as family medicine, plus special skills in emergency medicine, anesthesia, palliative care and care of the elderly, with opportunities in many other areas as the need is identified.

## 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 that 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 presented live, via video conference and as webcasts. For further information go to [www.normed.ca](http://www.normed.ca) or contact Sherry Carlucci at 705-662-7257 or [sherry.carlucci@normed.ca](mailto:sherry.carlucci@normed.ca).*

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Speaker: Dr. Jacklin Duffin

Topic: **History of Medicine**

Thursday, December 14, 2006

Speaker: Dr. Louise Samson, RCPSC President,

Topic: **Physician Competencies & Accreditation**

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Speaker: Dr. John Frank

Topic: **An Examination of National Health Disparities**

Thursday, October 12, 2006

Speaker: TBA

Topic: **National Health Initiatives**

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Speaker: Dr. Louise Nasmith

Topic: **Interprofessionalism & Faculty Development**

Thursday, April 12, 2007

Speaker: Dr. John Coyle, Harvard Medical School

Topic: **Mental Illness and Schizophrenia**

Thursday, November 16, 2006

Speaker: Dr. Roger Strasser, et al

Topic: **NOSM Update**

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Speaker: Dr. Lindsay Crowshoe

Topic: **Aboriginal Health Research**

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Speaker: Dr. Roger Strasser, et al

Topic: **NOSM Update**

# The book of NOSM

## Group to write about School's creation

It started with a dream, was fostered and developed by a few brave souls, and finally took shape in the Fall of 2002 with the official start of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

The story that is NOSM may not be on the grand scale of **Tolkien or Tolstoy**, but it has its share of heroic struggles, epic journeys and human pageantry. This story is now being committed to paper thanks to a fellowship of NOSM leaders, with the chief bearer of this quest being Dr. Geoff Tesson.

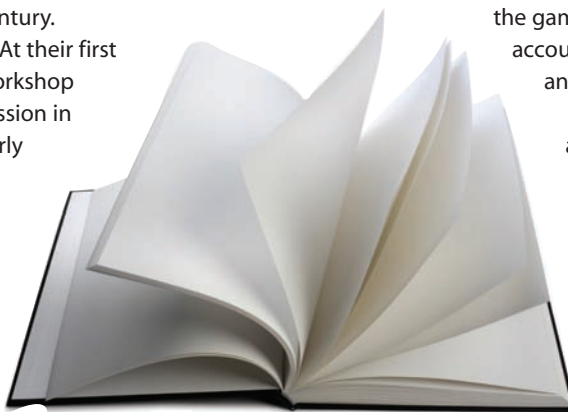
As the former Executive Director of Health Initiatives at Laurentian University, Tesson was involved in the early days of the School. He is working with fellow lead authors Drs. Geoff Hudson, Roger Strasser and Dan Hunt. Together they are mapping out a book that will capture the excitement and the detail that went into creating Canada's newest medical school.

"There really is a lot of interest and excitement about NOSM, both here in Canada and around the world," says Tesson. "Northerners built this School and they are particularly interested in the story. We hope to write something which will be of interest to both the academic world, as well as the lay reader, especially people in the North."

The writing team includes the four principal authors, as well as a number of people from NOSM's short past; people like Drs. Jill Konkin, Arnie Aberman, Ray Pong, Joel Lanphear and John Mulloy to name a few. Together they will trace the historic line that

began decades ago, and culminated with the opening of NOSM early in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

At their first workshop session in early



June the team came up with a number of broad themes and topics. These run the gamut from politics and social accountability to admissions, curriculum and basic governance.

"It was a lot of fun just talking about the big themes," says Tesson. "Sometimes we get caught up in the details, but big ideas are what created this School. Through this book we hope to share some of the thrill."

Tesson expects the book to be ready for publication sometime in 2008.

## NOSM builds on deep foundation laid by NOMECE

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine took a giant step into the future on July 1. As of that day all Northeastern Ontario Medical Education Corporation (NOMECE) programs and services formally transitioned to NOSM.

This completes a process that has already seen all Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) funded programs and activities previously administered by the Northwestern Ontario Medical Programme (NOMP) and Health Science North having transferred into NOSM.

Miriam McDonald is the former CEO of NOMECE and current NOSM Executive Director of Community Development. She says this transition to the School was a natural evolution in the delivery of medical education in Northern Ontario.

"NOMECE's unique mission, vision and values are similar to NOSM's and are also centred on distributed education and community partnerships," she explains. "The people, communities and health organizations of Northern Ontario will benefit from this integration."

The final transition of all NOMECE programs to NOSM means a significant expansion in the School's programming. This includes a range of interprofessional programs that will place NOSM apart from other medical schools in Canada.

These activities and programs are not only in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education, but also rehabilitation studies, professional development, inter-professional education, the Northern Ontario Virtual Library (NOVL), Community Development Officers and Youth Health Careers.

Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM's Founding Dean, expressed the School's sentiment clearly: "NOMECE has laid the groundwork for the delivery of medical education programs in Northern Ontario that is second to none. While we have huge footprints to fill, we look forward to working with partners to continue to build and enhance NOMECE's programs."

### It's Your Newsletter!

*Northern Passages* is published quarterly and distributed to the broad NOSM community. If you have a story idea, or want to get the word out about an event, a milestone or an interesting development, please contact:

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The community fish fry which occurred at Rainy River First Nation on Friday, May 19, 2006. Manitou Rapids Fish Fry is held annually every spring at Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung. The event is held to honour their partnerships and celebrate the successes of the community. It attracts in excess of 1,500 people each year.

# Aboriginal experience leaves lasting impression

The running of the School's first module 106 Integrated Community Experience has left a lasting impression on both the students and the people from the host communities.

Whether it is dealing with floods on the James Bay coast, being invited to share in sacred ceremonies, or eating beaver meat for the first time, everyone involved came away with a greater understanding of one another, and of what it means to live, and to learn, in an Aboriginal community.

For Tom Terry, Regional Community Coordinator for Sioux Lookout, one of the most telling developments came from Nibinamik First Nation. Don Sofea, Nibinamik Health Director and Local Community Coordinator, told Terry the presence of NOSM's medical students has already inspired two community youth to pursue a career in health care. "They have requested permission to work one day a week at the health centre," says Sofea.

In Fort Frances NOSM students took part in a drum ceremony. "One student honoured the group by sitting in and singing with them," says Terry. "For the (NOSM) Aboriginal students, this was the first time they had attended such a ceremony since their childhood, and they were moved by it."

In Garden River First Nation the students took part in numerous cultural activities, in addition to the more academic aspects of the module. At the end of each session Terry says the students talked with the local community coordinator.

"They would share their experiences with her, talking about the

preconceived notions they held before the placement and how much they had changed since being there."

Cindy Crowe is the Regional Community Coordinator for Treaty #3. One of the most memorable moments for her was the community fish fry that took place at Rainy River First Nation. People from four placement sites travelled and participated in this activity. These sites were the Métis Nation of Ontario (Thunder Bay), Naotkamegwaning Anishnawbe (Whitefish Bay), Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Authority, and the Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre Inc.

"The Manitou Rapids Fish Fry is held annually every spring at Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung. The event is held to honour their partnerships and celebrate the successes of the community," explains Crowe. "This was a huge success and a great way to end the first year's Aboriginal placement!"

For Sam Senecal, Regional Aboriginal Community Coordinator for Sault Ste. Marie Region, there were two events that really stood out.

"The first occurred when I was invited to a wellness day in Whitefish River First Nation. Doreen Jocko, the local community coordinator and clinical learning facilitator, spoke to the students about the importance of looking after yourself when working within the health field. She shared her own personal stories of times when she failed to look after herself spiritually, physically, emotionally and mentally. She then told the students how she was instructed by an Elder to use Sema (tobacco) – to hold it in her hands when things started getting out of control, and to go to a cedar tree and pray for help and guidance."

The second outstanding memory came through Lydia MacKenzie, the local community coordinator for Temagami First Nation. Here the students learned about the sacred art of the hand drum, including the proper way of looking after the drum. They were then invited to make their very own drums.

"The Students were very much honoured," says Senecal.

Module 106 was expected to be a learning experience for everyone involved. It was that – and more. As one community member put it: "The school should be commended for taking this kind of a learning opportunity into account and integrating it into the program."



NOSM student Alexandre Anawati learns how to prepare a duck for cooking over an open fire.



Tour of Manitou Rapids on the Rainy River First Nation.

# The Sault hosts inaugural research conference

Health professionals from across Northern Ontario, Canada and the U.S. came together at a major conference June 2nd and 3rd to network and to share insights into ground-breaking research projects being conducted in the fields of medicine and health care.

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine hosted the *Northern Health Research (NHR) Conference 2006* at Algoma University College in Sault Ste. Marie. Nearly 200 delegates participated, some from as far away as Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Michigan.

"We were especially pleased to launch the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's first-annual Northern Health Research Conference in Sault Ste. Marie," said NOSM Founding Dean Dr. Roger Strasser. "The large number of registrants and the wide array of topics were true testament to the importance of hosting a conference that focuses on Northern Ontario health issues."

Research at NOSM is reflective of the School's mandate to be socially accountable to the diverse cultures of Northern Ontario. The School's unique research program targets areas with direct relevance to Northern populations. The 2006 NHR Conference explored research activities within Northern Ontario, arising from community-based activities, and highlighted current projects led by research scientists, health-care professionals, students, residents and community-based researchers.

An unprecedented 80 responses were received to the Call for Papers, resulting in 39 oral and 31 poster presentations being featured at the conference. Research topics were diverse, including such subjects as: interventions for preventing childhood obesity; the study of bioproducts from the Canadian forests; developing community-based Aboriginal research guidelines; and evaluating heart health rural outreach programs.

Dr. Arthur Perlini, Academic Dean, Algoma University College, said it



Dr. Arthur Perlini, Academic Dean, Algoma University College; Dr. Greg Ross, Associate Dean, Research, NOSM; Dr. Silvana Spadafora, Director of Clinical Research and Program Development, Sault Ste. Marie's Group Health Centre; Dr. Roger Strasser, Founding Dean, NOSM; Councillor Lou Turco, representing Sault Ste. Marie's Mayor John Rowsell.

was a privilege to host this landmark forum. "Networked researchers draw upon wide ranges of expertise and experience, thereby enabling discovery and innovation in health care and practice."

Dr. Silvana Spadafora, Director of Clinical Research and Program Development at Sault Ste. Marie's Group Health Centre, agreed. "This conference provided an opportunity to showcase various types of research, as well as the many researchers we have available in the North, to the medical community of Northern Ontario and far beyond."

Conference organizers are thrilled with the success of this

inaugural event, and very appreciative of Algoma University's cooperation and support. NOSM also thanks the Sault Ste. Marie Physician Retention and Recruitment Program for their assistance with the Scientific Program, and the City of Sault Ste. Marie for extending such warm hospitality.

NOSM's second-annual Northern Health Research Conference will take place June 1-2, 2007 at Algoma University College. Next year's program will explore health-related research in Aboriginal communities, focusing on Northern Aboriginal communities.

For details on next year's conference, please consult NOSM's Northern Ontario Professional Development Calendar 2006-2007, or contact Joyce Helmer, Director of Faculty Development, [joyce.helmer@normed.ca](mailto:joyce.helmer@normed.ca). Visit [normed.ca](http://normed.ca) for highlights from this year's event.

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## Workshop has three objectives

These objectives are:

1. To provide a forum for Aboriginal peoples to communicate ongoing desired role within NOSM.
2. To provide an update of activities to date from the *Follow Your Dreams* workshop.
3. To evaluate NOSM progress in relation to its Aboriginal partners.

An important recommendation from the first workshop held in the summer of 2003 was the establishment of an Aboriginal Reference Group. This was done, and McKenzie says the members will play a key role in the running of this second workshop.

"I think the communities are very interested in the School. They've all heard us on TV and radio, but they may not fully understand what NOSM is all about," says McKenzie. "We really want to help them to foster their young people so they can one day join NOSM as new medical students."

*Keeping the Vision* is all about NOSM developing a deeper relationship with its Aboriginal community partners. This is what McKenzie hopes will come out of this second significant Aboriginal workshop.



# Event celebrates NOSM's generous donors

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine received its first donor-funded award in 2003. By April 2006, the School was celebrating the close of the Bursary Fund Campaign, exceeding all expectations with \$13 million being raised in a very short time.



Bursary donor JoAnne Entwistle (left), her son Brandon and their guest, Jennifer Field, travelled from Sault Ste. Marie to attend the reception. Community members from the Sault generously supported NOSM's Bursary Fund and established their own community bursary. The family really enjoyed their tour of the medical school, especially since Brandon will be attending NOSM in the fall.

Two events were recently held to recognize and celebrate the contribution of over 1,500 donors. The first event was held on June 7th at the NOSM-West campus located at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, followed on

June 8th at the NOSM-East campus located at Laurentian University in Sudbury.

The ceremonies included formal unveilings of the two donor walls (one at each campus). There were presentations to individual donors of special commemorative Goyce Kakegamic prints, distribution of the NOSM Donor Report and tours of the medical school's facilities.

These events provided an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to show their gratitude for the phenomenal support shown to the School by so many individuals and organizations across Northern Ontario and beyond.



Frances Guzzi Picherack accepts a commemorative Goyce Kakegamic print from student Tara Spicer. Frances recently established the Frances Guzzi Picherack Saydana Award. "Saydana" is a Sanskrit word which means "giving from the heart with no expectation of return."



Donors and guests enjoyed mingling with NOSM staff, students and faculty during the donor appreciation evening. Todd Spencer (left) recipient of the Sudbury-Manitoulin District Freemasons Bursary, meets Wah Chung, Deputy Grand Master of the club which established the award. This was one of the first NOSM bursaries established.



Donors Eugene Kotyk & Margaret Ann Lorimer check out the laboratory equipment during tours held to showcase NOSM facilities to its supporters. Charter class student Nicole St. Jacques (back-left) led the tours.

# L'atout d'un module sur la question francophone

Répondre aux besoins des divers segments de la population du Nord de l'Ontario en matière de santé est au cœur de la raison d'être de l'EMNO. Cette responsabilité sociale fait partie intégrante de tous les aspects de l'école et se reflète clairement dans son programme.

Une des réalités spéciales du Nord est sa solide communauté francophone. Comme les autres, ce groupe a ses propres problèmes de santé et ses besoins spéciaux, notamment la langue.

Comme le souligne le rapport du printemps dernier découlant du symposium de l'EMNO sur les Francophones: « Il est difficile et souvent impossible de donner des conseils, d'expliquer des besoins ou de recommander des moyens d'améliorer la santé à une personne qui ne comprend pas la langue ».

Afin de répondre à certains de ces besoins, l'école offre un module spécial sur

la question francophone à ses étudiants de première année. Jérémie Larouche fait partie de la classe inaugurale et siège également au Groupe francophone témoin de l'école. Il a suivi le module 105 avec ses camarades de classe. « Le module 105 s'est très bien déroulé, dit-il. Nous avons eu l'occasion de sensibiliser nos camarades aux diverses questions qui se posent tous les jours chez les personnes qui parlent la langue de la minorité. »

Il explique également que ce module repose comme les autres sur des études de cas mais qu'il inclut aussi des dimensions propres à la langue et à la culture francophones.

« Ce qui pouvait être une solution simple a pris une autre tournure. Que se passe-t-il si le patient ne comprend pas ma question? Que se passe-t-il s'il ne peut pas lire les instructions sur le flacon de médicament? Ce fut intéressant de voir la réaction de nos



Jérémie Larouche

camarades de classe face à ces questions. »

À l'avenir, M. Larouche aimerait que plus de patients et de médecins francophones racontent leurs expériences aux étudiants.

## School's innovative 3rd-year plans underway

Canada's newest medical school is joining a select group of international institutions in its design and implementation of the third year of study.

As Dr. Tim Zmijowskyj, NOSM's Division Head of Clinical Sciences

explains, the third year of most medical schools sees students take on a series of short, unconnected clerkships in a range of medical specialties. These typically last four to six weeks and see students move from areas such as surgery to family medicine to mental health, with little or no connection between them.

In keeping with NOSM's goal of distributed and integrated learning, the School is turning this system on its head. Instead of short, discipline-specific rotations, each student will work in one place for up to 30 weeks, living and learning right in the community.

"Students will learn a range of clinical disciplines through local patient contact, enhanced by local and visiting specialist teaching, and distance learning," explains Zmijowskyj. "During this prolonged clinical attachment, students become part of the health service and become connected to the local community."

The objective, as he explains, is to provide an integrated educational experience that is family and community focused.

"This experience will form the basis of personal research and reflection ... that extends beyond the boundaries of clinical

medicine. Some of these experiences will enhance the students' clinical practice and may influence their values and beliefs about the way they behave as a physician."

Working closely with NOSM's Vice-Dean of Academic Activities Dr. Dan Hunt, Zmijowskyj and his team have examined a number of integrated third-year (phase 2) programs from around the world. Of the hundreds of medical schools, a small number have gone this route.

To learn from these world leaders NOSM is organizing

a unique international workshop to look at comprehensive community clerkships. Leaders in the field will be in Thunder Bay August 9-11 to share their experiences, and to learn from each other.

Through this process NOSM will share its own expertise, and will learn the best practices from around the world. This knowledge will help shape the School's own program.



Dr. Tim Zmijowskyj, Division Head of Clinical Sciences



# Awesome NOSM!!



"Awesome NOSM" is the name of the team, and team spirit is truly what they're about! On May 23, more than two dozen NOSM staff, students and faculty participated in the annual Sudbury/Manitoulin District Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario "Big Bike for Stroke" event. This dynamic team of cyclists raised \$1,478 (all proceeds stay in the Sudbury area). Over the last three years NOSM participants have collected more than \$3,500 for the organization.

Celebrating their H&S Team Spirit Award are (seated, l to r) Phong Nguyen, Lindsey Forest and Sherry Carlucci. Standing (l to r) Rob Bertrand, Leslie Burke, Katie Edmunds, Kristy Gervais, Simon Cote, Kati McCartney, Melanie Bussoli, Catherine Lediett, Laurie Turcotte, Claudia Rocca and Pamela Felhaber. Missing from the photo are Kristy McCormick, Mark Richards, Anna Sampson, Joey McColeman, Danielle Barbeau-Rodrigue, David Topps, Rita Campbell, Iyo Grenon, Lyne Morvan, Aaron Wright, Amanda Boyle and Alison Eady. NOSM is very proud of their efforts and achievement!

## Upcoming professional development opportunities at NOSM

**Module 107 - Orientation Session**  
August 11, 2006

**Module 101 - Orientation Session**  
August 18, 2006

**Module 107 - Structured Clinical Skills Tutorial**  
August 29, 2006

**Module 101 - Structured Clinical Skills Tutorial**  
August 30, 2006

**Module 102 - Orientation Session**  
September 1, 2006

**Advanced Health Care Directives - Series 3**  
September 8, 2006

**Using Touch Screen Technology**  
September 11, 2006

**Teacher Preparation/Communities of Practice**  
September 13, 2006

**NOSM Symposium - History of Medicine**  
September 14, 2006

**What EVERY NEW Faculty Needs to Know About HIRC Information Resources/PubMed Expert Searching**  
September 15, 2006

**Operating Videoconference Technology Devices**  
September 18, 2006

**Mid-Module Review Session (Module 101)**  
September 18, 2006

**Pandemic Planning - What all Physicians Need to Know**  
September 19, 2006

**Research Forum: Research in the North**  
September 20, 2006

**Encounters in Bioethics**  
September 20, 2006

**Module 102 - Structured Clinical Skills Tutorial**  
September 20, 2006

**Montfort Hospital - A Constitutional Right**  
September 21, 2006

**Module 108 Orientation Session**  
September 22, 2006

**Mid-Module Review Session (Module 107)**  
September 25, 2006

**Use of the "SmartBoard" in Small Group Learning Sessions**  
September 25, 2006

**PubMed Tips & Tricks for Effective Searching**  
September 29, 2006

Contact Suzanne Lortie-Carlyle, Faculty Development Coordinator, for more information: 705-662-7263, Suzanne.Lortie-Carlyle@NorMed.ca