



# NORTHERN HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE

# AGENDA 2025

Monday, June 16

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Registration <a href="#">ATAC Lobby</a> Poster Set-Up <a href="#">ATAC second floor, top of main stairwell</a> Sponsorship Booth Set-Up <a href="#">ATAC Lobby</a>	
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH <a href="#">ATAC Lobby</a> Hallway Conversations (In Person Only) Poster Viewing <a href="#">ATAC second floor</a> , <a href="#">NOSM University YouTube</a>	
1:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.	In-Person Transition ➔ <a href="#">AT 1001</a>	
1:05 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.	Opening Remarks & Opening Prayer <a href="#">WebEx / AT 1001</a> <i>Dr. Green, Dr. Marsh, and Elder Ernie Kwandibens</i>	
2:05 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.	In-Person Transition ➔ <a href="#">AT 1001 / AT 2001</a>	
	<div>Oral Presentations (<a href="#">WebEx and in Person</a>)</div> <div><div><div>Theme 1: Clinical and Translational Research<sup>1</sup></div><div>Session Chair: Dr. Neelam Khaper</div><div><a href="#">AT 1001</a></div></div><div><div>Theme 3: Population and Public Health<sup>3</sup></div><div>Session Chair: Dr. David Savage</div><div><a href="#">AT 2001</a></div></div></div>	
2:10 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.	<div><div><i>Melissa Yeo</i></div><div>Characteristics, Treatment and Outcomes of Stage I to III Colorectal Cancer in Patients Aged over 80 Years Old</div></div>	<div><div><i>Lyndon Swick</i></div><div>Understanding frostbite presentation and care in Ontario 2010-2018</div></div>
2:25 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Speaker Transition	
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<div><div><i>Raphaëlla Rosebush-Mercier</i></div><div>Optimal Timing for Diverting Loop Ileostomy Reversal: A Single Centre Retrospective Review</div></div>	<div><div><i>Claire Poulin</i></div><div>Student-led blood pressure clinics: A community-level intervention to improve blood pressure health literacy among adults living in Northern Ontario.</div></div>
2:45 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	Speaker Transition	
2:50 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.	<div><div><i>Paige Stevenson</i></div><div>Equity in Cancer Screening Quality Improvement Project: All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team</div></div>	<div><div><i>Chelsea Klein</i></div><div>Escaping the vape: An evaluation of an interactive, elementary school-based vaping education program in Northern Ontario</div></div>
3:05 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	Speaker Transition	
3:10 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.	<div><div><i>Taylor Marshall</i></div><div>Improving Resource Stewardship in Post-Pandemic Primary Care: Insights into Choosing Wisely Canada Guidelines</div></div>	<div><div><i>Virginia McEwen</i></div><div>Finding our NICHE: Lessons Learned from the Pediatric Pain Pilot in Northwestern Ontario</div></div>
	In-Person Transition ➔ <a href="#">ATAC Lobby</a>	
3:25 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.	NUTRITION BREAK <a href="#">ATAC Lobby</a> Poster Viewing <a href="#">ATAC second floor</a> , <a href="#">NOSM University YouTube</a>	
3:50 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.	In-Person Transition ➔ <a href="#">AT 1001 / AT 2001</a>	

	<b>Oral Presentations</b> <i>(WebEx and in Person)</i>	
	<b><u>Theme 2: Biomedical and Basic Sciences<sup>2</sup></u></b> <i>Session Chair: Dr. Gustavo Ybazeta</i> <b><i>AT 1001</i></b>	<b><u>Theme 3: Population and Public Health<sup>3</sup></u></b> <b><u>Theme 4: Humanities and Social Sciences<sup>4</sup></u></b> <i>Session Chair: Dr. Geoffrey Hudson</i> <b><i>AT 2001</i></b>
3:55 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.	<b><i>Vahid Mehrnouch</i></b> Application of Machine Learning Approach to predict Colorectal Cancer Recurrence: A systematic review	<b><i>Brianne Wood</i></b> Implementation of an anti-racism training program for pediatric providers-health workers across Northeastern Ontario health Teams: a multi-methods evidence-based approach
4:10 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	<b><i>Speaker Transition</i></b>	
4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b><i>Hayden Reaume</i></b> Investigating the Role of Natural Background Radiation in Hydrated Yeast: Growth Under sub-Background Exposure	<b><i>Joshua Cerasuolo</i></b> Comparing health service utilization in Northern versus Southern Ontario among those diagnosed with young-onset dementia
4:30 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.	<b><i>Speaker Transition</i></b>	
4:35 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.	<b><i>Nicholas Bel</i></b> Zeaxanthin’s Protective Effect in an in vitro model of Age-Related Macular Degeneration	<b><i>Kerri Delaney</i></b> What we have learnt from HEWIS (NOSM U's Tracking Study): A scoping review
4:50 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.	<b><i>Speaker Transition</i></b>	
4:55 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.	<b><i>Ronan Derbowka</i></b> Novel miRNA biodosimetry biomarkers for alpha irradiation	<b><i>Shreedhar Acharya</i></b> Association of patient, prescriber, and regional factors with treatment adherence among OAT patients in Ontario.
	<b><i>In-Person Transition</i></b>	
5:10 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	<b><u>Poster Viewing</u></b> <i>ATAC second floor, <a href="#">NOSM University YouTube</a></i> <b>Hallway Conversations (In Person Only)</b>	
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	<b><u>Reception</u></b> hosted by the Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity <b>Cultivating Connections: Gathering in Gratitude</b> Location: MSW Building Lobby, NOSM University, Thunder Bay ON	

Tuesday, June 17

8:00 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.	Registration <a href="#">ATAC Lobby</a>  BREAKFAST <a href="#">ATAC Lobby</a>  <u>Poster Viewing</u> <a href="#">ATAC second floor</a> , <a href="#">NOSM University YouTube</a>			
8:40 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	<i>In-Person Transition ➔ AT 1001</i>			
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<b><u>Keynote Address</u><sup>5</sup></b> <a href="#">WebEx / AT 1001</a>  <i>Respecting Lives, Enhancing Care: Addressing the Opioid Crisis with Compassion</i>  <i>Presenters:</i> Dr. Kristen Morin  <i>Session Chair:</i> Dr. T.C. Tai			
	<i>In-Person Transition ➔ ATAC lobby</i>			
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	NUTRITION BREAK <a href="#">ATAC Lobby</a>  <u>Poster Viewing</u> <a href="#">ATAC second floor</a> , <a href="#">NOSM University YouTube</a>			
10:30 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	<i>In-Person Transition ➔ AT 1001 / AT 2001</i>			
	<b>Oral Presentations</b> ( <i>WebEx and in Person</i> )  <table><tr><td><b><u>Theme 1: Clinical and Translational Research</u><sup>1</sup></b>  <i>Session Chair:</i> Dr. Simon Lees  <a href="#">AT 1001</a></td><td><b><u>Theme 3: Population and Public Health</u><sup>3</sup></b>  <i>Session Chair:</i> Dr. Barb Zelek  <a href="#">AT 2001</a></td></tr></table>		<b><u>Theme 1: Clinical and Translational Research</u><sup>1</sup></b>  <i>Session Chair:</i> Dr. Simon Lees  <a href="#">AT 1001</a>	<b><u>Theme 3: Population and Public Health</u><sup>3</sup></b>  <i>Session Chair:</i> Dr. Barb Zelek  <a href="#">AT 2001</a>
<b><u>Theme 1: Clinical and Translational Research</u><sup>1</sup></b>  <i>Session Chair:</i> Dr. Simon Lees  <a href="#">AT 1001</a>	<b><u>Theme 3: Population and Public Health</u><sup>3</sup></b>  <i>Session Chair:</i> Dr. Barb Zelek  <a href="#">AT 2001</a>			
10:35 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	<i>Flore Van Leemput</i>  Determinants of Immunotherapy-Related Toxicity in Older Adults with Cancer	<i>Idevania Costa</i>  “Our Voices Our Stories”: A Multi-method Knowledge Translation for Advancing Inclusivity and Creating Trauma-informed Wound Care		
10:50 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	<i>Speaker Transition</i>			
10:55 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	<i>Mustafa Alzahrán</i>  Barriers to Newcomers’ Access to Primary Care in Northern Ontario: A Rapid Review	<i>Navishka Brahmhatt</i>  Examining Drivers of Obstetric Program Closures in Rural Northern Ontario		
11:10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<i>Speaker Transition</i>			
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<i>Félix Lavigne</i>  The Impact of Preoperative Optifast® Very Low Energy Diet (VLED) on Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery: A Patient and Surgeon Perspective	<i>David Savage</i>  Effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on Ontario’s emergency physician workforce using interrupted time series analysis		
	<i>In-Person Transition ➔ AT 1001 / AT 2001</i>			
11:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH <a href="#">ATAC Lobby</a>  Evaluations – <a href="#">Click Here!</a>			
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	<b><u>Lunch and Learn</u><sup>6</sup></b> <a href="#">WebEx / AT 2001</a>  <i>The Ontario Health Study: A resource for cancer, disease and health research in Ontario and Canada</i>  <i>Presenter:</i> Dr. Victoria Kirsh  <i>Session Chair:</i> Dr. Sean Parsons			
11:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<u>Poster Viewing</u> <a href="#">ATAC second floor</a> , <a href="#">NOSM University YouTube</a>  Hallway Conversations ( <a href="#">In Person Only</a> )			
1:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.	<i>In-Person Transition ➔ AT 1001 / AT 2001</i>			

	<b>Oral Presentations</b> <i>(WebEx and in Person)</i>	
	<b><u>Theme 2: Biomedical and Basic Sciences<sup>2</sup></u></b> <i>Session Chair: Dr. Chris Verschoor</i> <b><i>AT 1001</i></b>	<b><u>Theme 3: Population and Public Health<sup>3</sup></u></b> <b><u>Theme 4: Humanities and Social Sciences<sup>4</sup></u></b> <i>Session Chair: Dr. Brianne Wood</i> <b><i>AT 2001</i></b>
1:05 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	<b><i>Anu Nair</i></b> Development of a Diagnostic Assay for Identifying Antifungal Resistance in Candida Species	<b><i>Dhruv Lalkiya</i></b> Using the Fraser’s Triangle to examine the social determinants of health in Indigenous people across Northwestern Ontario
1:20 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.	<b><i>Speaker Transition</i></b>	
1:25 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	<b><i>Amanda Keursten</i></b> Bioremediation and Sequestration of Gallium from Mining Tailings using Pseudomonas fluorescens	<b><i>Dominique Baldasaro</i></b> The role of extended-release buprenorphine in supporting opioid use disorder recovery in rural, remote and Indigenous populations in Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand: a scoping review
1:40 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<b><i>Speaker Transition</i></b>	
1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b><i>Gustavo Ybazeta</i></b> One Health Surveillance of Avian Influenza: Linking Wildlife, Wastewater, and Clinical Data for Early Detection and Risk Mitigation	<b><i>Amanda Bakke</i></b> Challenges in Recruitment and Retention of Paramedics: Insights and Solutions in Northern Ontario
2:00 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.	<b><i>In-Person Transition ➡ AT 1001</i></b>	
2:05 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.	<b>Awards, Closing Remarks &amp; Prayer</b> <i>WebEx / AT 1001</i> <b><i>Dr. T.C. Tai and Elder Ernie Kwandibens</i></b>	

Poster Exhibitions

Poster Station # <i>ATAC second floor</i>	
	<b>Theme 1 – Clinical and Translational Research<sup>1</sup></b>
---	<b>William Zelenczuk</b> - <a href="#">An Economic Analysis of Post Radiotherapy Imaging for Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx</a>
---	<b>Hannah Shortreed</b> - <a href="#">Assessing the Role and Influence of Cardiac Imaging on Breast Cancer Care in Northwestern Ontario</a>
---	<b>Emma Mageau</b> - <a href="#">Exploring the Balance Between Prostaglandins and Isoprostanes in Radiation Resistance of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Using a PTGS2 Overexpression Model</a>
---	<b>Jonathon Hammond</b> - <a href="#">Breast cancers with intermediate ER expression: Clinical and pathologic correlations and influence on outcomes</a>
---	<b>Noah Dickinson</b> - <a href="#">Investigating the Role of Prostaglandin System Dysregulation in Radiation Resistance of Triple Negative Breast Cancer Cells</a>
---	<b>Felix Tubin</b> - <a href="#">Severe ototoxicity following prophylactic cranial irradiation for small cell lung cancer: A case report and review of mechanisms underlying radiation induced ototoxicity</a>
---	<b>Michael Killip</b> - <a href="#">The Association of Frailty and Outcomes of Hip Fracture Patients in a Northwestern Ontario Cohort</a>
1	<b>Shirley Liu</b> - <a href="#">Reducing the Rate of Preoperative Anemia in Elective Gynecology Surgery at a Northeastern Ontario Tertiary Care Centre</a>
---	<b>Emmanuel Abara</b> - <a href="#">Journey with Congenital Urinary Malformation and Renal Cell Carcinoma</a>
2	<b>Emily Pynn</b> - <a href="#">Outcomes and Satisfaction in Northern Ontario Ambulatory Plastic Surgery: A Quality Improvement Study</a>
---	<b>Robin (Josh) Noyce</b> - <a href="#">Impact of Adding Slow-Release Oral Morphine During Methadone Induction on Patient Retention: A Retrospective Cohort Study</a>
---	<b>Melissa Yeo</b> - <a href="#">Characteristics, Therapeutic Approaches and Outcomes of Patients Older than 80 Years Old with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Compared with Younger Patients</a>
3	<b>Amanda Bakke</b> - <a href="#">Exploring AI Scribes in Rural and Remote Healthcare: Facilitators, Barriers, and Training Needs</a>
---	<b>Brianne Wood</b> - <a href="#">Primary care capacity planning in Northwestern Ontario: opportunities, challenges, and a way forward</a>
---	<b>Hailey O’Grady</b> - <a href="#">Mismatch repair (MMR) assay use, characteristics and outcomes in early colorectal cancer patients with MMR deficiency and MMR proficiency</a>
4	<b>Simon Chiu</b> - <a href="#">Exploring Panax Ginseng dual targeting NLRP3 inflammasome and GLP-1 (glucagon-like-Peptide-1) signaling in Type 2 diabetes (T2D) Prevention and Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Risk Reduction: post-hoc findings from Ginsana-115 RCT in the cohort of prototypal brain disorder: treatment resistant schizophrenia :TRS with high T2D-CVD risk</a>
	<b>Theme 2 – Biomedical and Basic Sciences<sup>2</sup></b>
---	<b>Kristyn Madrick</b> - <a href="#">Public knowledge, attitudes, and awareness of cyanobacterial health effects in Central Ontario, Canada</a>
---	<b>Cameron Hourtovenko</b> - <a href="#">Effects of Gestational Irradiation on Fetal Brain Development</a>
---	<b>Gerusa Senhorinho</b> – <a href="#">Green Microalgae Cultivated Under Extreme Environment Exhibit Anticancer Activity and Selective Effect Against Breast Cancer Cell Line</a>
---	<b>James Lee</b> - <a href="#">Catecholamine Biosynthesis and Regulation in PC12 Cells: The Influence of Androgen and SRY</a>
---	<b>Lindsay Yu</b> - <a href="#">Investigating DNA-damage responsive long non-coding RNA</a>
---	<b>Olivia Norman</b> - <a href="#">Investigating the Role of CHRFAM7A in the Immune Response of Human Macrophages</a>

---	<b>Karolina Czajka</b> - <a href="#">Signs and symptoms of oral candidiasis associated with health factors and resistant Candida infections in a Northern Ontario patient cohort</a>
---	<b>Yamamah Al-Jumaili</b> - <a href="#">Investigating Gene Dysregulations Associated with Antifungal Resistance in Candida Strains from Northern Ontario</a>
5	<b>Dhruv Lalkiya</b> - <a href="#">Prediction of Renal Cancer Recurrence Using Artificial intelligence: A systematic review</a>
---	<b>Mitchell Slobodian</b> - <a href="#">Metabolism of terephthalic acid in a novel bacterial consortium to produce value added products</a>
	<b>Theme 3 – Population and Public Health<sup>3</sup></b>
6	<b>Samantha Santorelli</b> - <a href="#">Understanding the Complexities of Self-Managing Diabetes in Northwestern Ontario: A Critical Qualitative Study</a>
---	<b>Dominique Cava</b> - <a href="#">Advancing contextualized analytics in a Northwestern Ontario learning health system by using machine learning to improve diabetes healthcare</a>
---	<b>Doretha Thompson</b> - <a href="#">CRISPR activation of nAChR<math>\alpha</math>7 and CHAT genes causes increased expression of mRNA and a decrease in IL-6 and TNF-<math>\alpha</math> cytokines in THP-1 cells when activated with LPS</a>
---	<b>Nikki Shaw</b> – <a href="#">Do Enhanced Digital Assistive Technologies Improve the Transition to Work for Youth with Disabilities?</a>
---	<b>Hafsa Siddiqui</b> - <a href="#">An Environmental Scan of Health Equity Measurement in Canadian Hospitals</a>
---	<b>Lucas Mrozewski</b> - <a href="#">Impact of Northern Residence on Sepsis Outcomes</a>
7	<b>Abdalla Bazazo</b> - <a href="#">The Effect of Homelessness on the Opioid Agonist Treatment Retention among Patients with Opioid Use Disorder: A Retrospective Cohort Study</a>
8	<b>Indrani Paul</b> - <a href="#">Social Determinants of Diabetes Control in Canada's Aging Population: A Multi-Provincial Analysis</a>
---	<b>Kush Patel</b> - <a href="#">Rural Lifestyle Medicine Re-Imagined- Complete Lifestyle Medicine Intervention Program Ontario (CLIP-ON)</a>
9	<b>Navishka Brahmabhatt</b> - <a href="#">Tailoring Locum Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Rural Northern Ontario</a>
---	<b>Joshua Cerasuolo</b> - <a href="#">The Northern And Rural Algorithm Validation (NARAV) Initiative: A health equity collaboration between ICES’ Indigenous Partnerships, Data, and Analytics Department and ICES North</a>
	<b>Theme 4 – Humanities and Social Sciences<sup>4</sup></b>
---	<b>Emilie Labranche</b> - <a href="#">Reviewing paramedic practice between urban and rural communities in northwestern Ontario</a>
---	<b>Clare Cook</b> - <a href="#">Evaluation of a pilot communicating unperceived needs and encouraging spiraled learning</a>
---	<b>Nabeel Abu-Mahfouz</b> - <a href="#">Bias in Medical AI: Ethical and Engineering Challenges in Algorithmic Fairness</a>
---	<b>Nancy Lightfoot</b> - <a href="#">A Quantitative Critical Appraisal Checklist to Evaluate Quantitative Health Studies</a>
---	<b>Cassandra Whymark</b> - <a href="#">Mapping Community Research Networks for Health Equity: A GIS-Based Social Network Analysis of Northern Ontario's Nourishing Health Education Coalition</a>
---	<b>Samantha Morris</b> - <a href="#">Living well together: Exploring the process to develop a culturally relevant physical activity and wellness program to address cancer prevention in a Northwestern Ontario First Nations community</a>
10	<b>Dominique Baldasaro</b> - <a href="#">The role of extended-release buprenorphine in supporting opioid use disorder recovery in rural, remote and Indigenous populations in Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand: a scoping review</a>

## Session Learning Objectives

### Theme 1 – Clinical and Translational Health<sup>1</sup>

**Research Priorities:** Cardiovascular ♦ Cancer ♦ Surgery ♦ Primary Care

1. Describe current research in cardiovascular, cancer, surgery, and primary care.
2. Identify strengths and limitations of cardiovascular, cancer, surgery, and primary care research.
3. Assess and analyze cardiovascular, cancer, surgery, and primary care research and potential impact on clinical practice.

### Theme 2 – Biomedical and Basic Sciences<sup>2</sup>

**Research Priorities:** Environmental Health ♦ Physiology, Biological Systems and Functions ♦ Disease Process, Diagnostics and Therapeutics

1. Describe current research in environmental health, physiology, biological systems and functions, disease process, and diagnostics and therapeutics.
2. Identify strengths and limitations of environmental health, physiology, biological systems and functions, disease process, and diagnostics and therapeutics research.
3. Assess and analyze environmental health, physiology, biological systems and functions, disease process, and diagnostics and therapeutics research and potential impact on clinical practice.

### Theme 3 – Population and Public Health<sup>3</sup>

**Research Priorities:** Chronic Disease ♦ Rural Medicine ♦ Health Services ♦ Social Determinants of Health

1. Describe current research in chronic disease, rural medicine, health services, and social determinants of health.
2. Identify strengths and limitations of chronic disease, rural medicine, health services, and social determinants of health research.
3. Assess and analyze chronic disease, rural medicine, health services, and social determinants of health research and potential impact on clinical practice.

### Theme 4 – Humanities and Social Sciences<sup>4</sup>

**Research Priorities:** Indigenous Peoples’ Health ♦ Francophone Health ♦ Health Professions Education

1. Describe current research in Indigenous Peoples’ health, Francophone health and health professions education.
2. Identify strengths and limitations of Indigenous Peoples’ health, Francophone health and health professions education research.
3. Assess and analyze Indigenous Peoples’ health, Francophone health and health professions education care research and potential impact on clinical practice.

### Keynote Address<sup>5</sup>

1. Identify features of how opioid agonist therapy (OAT) can be effective to reduce opioid poisonings, deaths and other adverse health and social outcomes.
2. List strategies to be able to actively advocate for improved access to care, supporting patient autonomy, compassion and respect for individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) and engage in open conversations to reduce stigma and enhance community awareness in Northern Ontario.

### Lunch and Learn<sup>6</sup>

1. Describe the Ontario Health Study (OHS) and its real and potential impacts on patient populations in Northern Ontario.
2. Identify opportunities for Northern Ontario research projects to utilize data from the Ontario Health Study.
3. Incorporate OHS Data into research projects.



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*This activity meets the certification criteria of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and has been certified by the Continuing Education and Professional Development Office at NOSM University for up to 8 Mainpro+® Certified Activity credits.*

*This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and approved by the Continuing Education and Professional Development Office at NOSM University. You may claim a maximum of 8 hour(s) (credits are automatically calculated).*