



## Busy time for conferences!

The Northern, Rural and Remote Health Conference took place in October, hosted by the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health and the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada. There were over 200 participants from across Canada as well as Australia and Greenland. Dr. Strasser led a workshop on Generalism and participated in a panel on Medical Education in Rural / Remote Practice.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual NOSM Northern Health Research Conference (NHRC) was held in collaboration with Lakehead University in Thunder Bay October 13 – 14. More than 100 participants from various research backgrounds and institutions shared their study findings, advance knowledge and network. In addition, 30 high school students from Thunder Bay and district came to learn about health research, health careers and the NOSM MD program.

The Consortium of Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships (CLIC) Conference took place in Asia for the first time on October 23 – 25 in Singapore. The theme revolved around fusion of ideas, influences and innovations from diverse medical education communities. Dr. Strasser participated on a panel at the forum on International LIC Perspectives: How do we know a LIC is “working”? What is the evidence behind why/how LICs work? Do current outcome measures justify LICs? Should LICs aim for higher impact? What's next for LIC?

## Northern Norway and Northern Ontario

A delegation from Finnmark visited NOSM the week of October 30<sup>th</sup> to learn about how we implement community engagement guided by social accountability, as well as to discuss collaborative research projects that study various aspects of this education model. The University of Tromso medical school has had success in recruiting students from Northern Norway with most graduates staying in Northern Norway, mostly in larger population centres. NOSM’s Distributed Community Engaged Learning has been useful in aiding the establishment of the Finnmark model which involves Tromso students living and learning for two years in one of three rural communities with the expectation that Finnmark graduates will choose to practice in Finnmark County.

## Funding

On November 24, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, Patty Hajdu announced the Federal government will be giving \$1 million of FedNor funding to NOSM to develop an innovative camera technology that's able to quickly and accurately identify toxic blue-green algae. NOSM Professor, Dr. Greg Ross indicated that blue-green algae is actually more like a bacteria than a plant and it makes a lot of toxins in the environment, making it harmful to people's health.

On October 4 in Sault Ste. Marie, NOSM was awarded a cheque for \$26,000 to support student bursaries for medical students who consider Sault Ste. Marie home from Chris Lepore, Executive Director of the Bring a Doctor Home Hockey Tournament. Each year, volunteer employees, retirees,

and friends lace up their skates to participate in the charity Bring a Doctor Home hockey tournament that raises donations for medical students at NOSM who hail from Sault Ste. Marie. In the last twelve years, the tournament raised more than \$350,000 for student bursaries.

## Faculty

### ***NOSM Faculty Members Receive Prestigious AMS Phoenix Fellowships***

Dr. James Goertzen, Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) Assistant Dean, Continuing Education and Professional Development, and Professor, and Dr. Frances Kilbertus, NOSM Associate Professor, are among six distinguished educators to receive a 2017 AMS Phoenix Fellowship award.

The Fellowship from AMS Healthcare (Associated Medical Services) is awarded each year and specifically targets individuals with strong leadership abilities who are committed to nurturing and sustaining the learning and practice of compassionate care. The intent of the Fellowship is to provide support (the equivalent of \$50,000) to individuals to allow them to devote time to engage in leadership activities, building capacity in their home institution and across Ontario.

Based in Thunder Bay, Dr. Goertzen's project will explore the relationship between compassionate leadership and the practice of compassionate patient care and compassionate health-care education.

Dr. Kilbertus, who works at the Manitoulin Central Family Health Team and Manitoulin Health Centre in Mindemoya, is focusing her Fellowship on projects that explore how the community, the workplace, health professionals and learners are interwoven in a process of learning and practising palliative care in the culturally diverse rural community on Manitoulin Island.

### **NOSM Announces First Vice Dean, Academic**

NOSM is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Catherine (Cathy) Cervin as the School's First Vice Dean, Academic, effective January 1, 2018. The Vice Dean, Academic position will enhance NOSM's focus on fulfilling the School's social accountability mandate, while continuing to achieve the academic mission. Dr. Cervin joined the School in 2011 as Associate Dean, Postgraduate Education and has served as the Senior Associate Dean at NOSM at Laurentian University for the past three years.

### **Recruitment of NOSM Dean-CEO and President**

The NOSM Board has initiated the process of recruiting the new Dean-CEO and President who will begin in July 2019. On December 1, 2017 the Board approved the Search Committee membership:

#### **Nominated/Representing**

NOSM Board Chair (ex-officio)  
(as of January 2018)

NOSM Board Vice-Chair (ex-officio)

NOSM Board of Directors

#### **Name**

Dr. Pierre Zundel

Dr. Moira McPherson

Dr. Alex Anawati

Lori Flinders

Dr. William McCready

Joy Warkentin

NOSM Learner - NOSMSS	Caitlyn Vlasschaert
NOSM Academic Council	Dr. Paul Miron Dr. David MacLean
NOSM Executive Group	Dr. Janice Willett
Laurentian University Board Lakehead University Board	Tina Sartoretto Ian McCormack
Laurentian University Senate Lakehead University Senate	Dr. Abdel Omri Dr. Michel Beaulieu
Health Sciences North, CEO Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, CEO	Dominic Giroux Jean Bartkowiak
NOSM Chief Operating Officer (non voting) Board Secretary (non voting)	Ray Hunt Gina Kennedy

### **NOSM Board Holds Face-to-Face Meeting in Thunder Bay**

*Highlights include a Tour of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute*

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine's (NOSM) Board of Directors held its annual face-to-face meeting in Thunder Bay on November 30 and December 1, 2017. This two-day meeting provided a valuable opportunity for Board members to contribute their expertise and experience to a variety of meaningful conversations related to NOSM's strategic priorities, including:

- The financial state of the School, sustaining NOSM's success, and revenue generation.
- "Enshrining NOSM in the system," as the School is more than just a medical school—it's a government strategy in Northern Ontario focused on health and economic development.
- Connecting the entire geography of Northern Ontario as the [NOSM campus](#) involves over 90 communities engaged in teaching medical students, residents, and other health professional learners.
- A discussion NOSM's [research portfolio](#), which conducts and supports health research in Northern Ontario.
- An evaluation of NOSM's current communications and public relations activities to evaluate how the School can optimize its strategies, as well as the internal capacity to support the recommendations.
- The governance and leadership model of the School, and habits of a highly effective Board.
- NOSM's Postgraduate Education Office, which is responsible for the provision, administration and support of all postgraduate residency training programs in Northern Ontario.
- The accredited Medical Physics Residency Education Program which trains medical physicists—health-care professionals with specialized training in the medical applications of physics.
- The ways in which NOSM collaborates with its two academic health sciences centres, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre in Thunder Bay and Health Sciences North in Sudbury.

NOSM Board members toured the [Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute](#) (TBRHRI) and the [Cyclotron](#). A highly valued partner with the School, the TBRHRI is the research arm of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, and facilitates clinical research—particularly in the area of imaging—based on regional health care needs.

The Board received copies of two recent NOSM publications: [The Scope](#), the School's research newsletter, and the [Pathways to Well-Being Report](#). *Pathways to Well-Being* was a one-day workshop hosted on June 28, 2017 by NOSM's Indigenous Affairs Unit and Research Portfolio on the traditional territory of the Fort William First Nation. Bringing together youth, Elders, community leaders, and government representatives the Workshop focused on strategies to promote life and life skills, and identify strengths of communities to address the crisis of youth suicide.

At the formal Board meeting at the end of the second day, the Board approved Financial Statements from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for the period ending October 31, 2017.

"The NOSM Board of Directors is made up of a diverse group of individuals from across Northern Ontario," says Dr. Moira McPherson, Chair of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's Board of Directors and Vice President, Academic and Provost at Lakehead University. "It has been a pleasure to welcome my fellow Board members to our community and work together to further support the School's continual pursuit of a healthier North."

NOSM's Board of Directors is comprised of 19 members who reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of Northern Ontario, including Indigenous, Francophone, and rural and remote communities. It is responsible for the corporate governance and fiscal management of the School. Membership of the Board of Directors is drawn widely to achieve the balance of skills and expertise required to enable the Board to fulfil its governance responsibilities. For a complete list of Board members, please visit our website at [nosm.ca/board](http://nosm.ca/board).

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine's next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to occur on March 21, 2018.

## Reports and Publications for information

- [The Scope](#)
- [Pathways to Well-Being](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Dr Roger Strasser  
Professor of Rural Health  
Dean and CEO  
Northern Ontario School of Medicine

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