

research in Northern Ontario. This year's NICHE conference will be held in North Bay on October 19-20 at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre, hosted jointly by Nipissing University, Canadore College and NOSM.

This year's conference theme is Partnering to advance interprofessional learning: Education and practice. Indigenous perspectives in the Northern Ontario health care context will be highlighted at the [2017 NICHE conference](#) towards re-imagining the roles and interactions between health care providers and the recipients of health care in Northern communities. Conference emphasis will also be focused on exploring IPE engagement through portals such as eCampus Ontario. This conference is an opportunity for all disciplines to participate in building the future of interprofessional health learning in Northern Ontario. Now is the time for you to [register to find your NICHE 2017!](#)



Rural and Indigenous Health Symposium

Much of NOSM's success is the result of collaborations with many organizations, including the University of Toronto (UofT). Over the years, NOSM and UofT have shared expertise and supported each other in multiple education and research initiatives, including in the Physician Assistant Education Program. On Thursday, September 21st, UofT and NOSM hosted a full day [Indigenous and Rural Health Symposium](#), a joint initiative between the UofT Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME) and NOSM looks to create an agenda for research and health system design in rural, Indigenous and northern communities.

Participants heard from panels of experts including: Suzanne Stewart, Director of the Waakebiness-Bryce Institute for Indigenous Health and Carrie Bourassa, Scientific Director CIHR Institute of Aboriginal People's Health who will address challenges facing Indigenous health in rural communities; Gregory Marchildon of IHPME, who will speak to the health policy research agenda for rural and northern communities; and James Rourke, former Dean of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland, who will present the Rural Road Map for Action, with a focus on capacity development and planning for rural, Indigenous and northern communities.

Dean Inducted as Fellow Into Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

On Thursday, September 14, Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM's Dean and CEO, was inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) at a ceremony in Ottawa. The CAHS brings together

Canada's top-ranked health and biomedical scientists and scholars to make a positive impact on the urgent health concerns of Canadians. These Fellows, drawn from all disciplines across Canada's universities, health care and research institutes, evaluate Canada's most complex health challenges and recommend strategic, actionable solutions. Induction into the CAHS as a Fellow is considered one of the highest honours within Canada's academic community. CAHS Fellows, who serve as unpaid volunteers, are nominated by their institutions and peers and selected in a competitive process based on their internationally recognized leadership, academic performance, scientific creativity, and willingness to serve. Congratulations, Dr. Strasser!

Orientation Week – September 5 – 8, 2017

On September 5th, the MD program entry class of 2017 joined NOSM for Orientation Week. Although just starting with NOSM, these students have been through quite a journey already. They were amongst 2089 applicants for this year's intake to the School. From the applicant pool, 312 were interviewed for the 64 available first year places. 59 of the students (92%) come from Northern Ontario and the other five (8%) are from remote and rural parts of the rest of Canada. Within the class: 38 are women (59%); seven of the students are Indigenous (11%); and there are 14 Francophone students (22%). Like students in all medical schools, these students have been selected from a very competitive field and are extremely academically able as reflected by a mean grade point average (GPA) of 3.81 on a four-point scale.

The members of the entry class of 2017 have a full Orientation Week ahead of them. Students, family and friends will be welcomed to NOSM at each University including video linked sessions connecting the whole class. Over the following days, students will begin learning about the practical aspects of the NOSM curriculum model and the four year MD program ahead of them, as well as exploring the cultural dimensions of the School guided by our Social Accountability mandate, and participating in the Oath Ceremony. On Friday the 8th, the new medical students participated in activities with the upper year student volunteers.

NOSM Researcher Participating in Nationwide Haemophilus influenzae type a (Hia) Vaccine Study

Dr. Marina Ulanova, researcher and professor at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), recently received a grant awarded by the Canadian Immunization Research Network (CIRN) for the project titled Studies in support of a new vaccine to prevent invasive Haemophilus influenzae type a (Hia) disease in Canadian Indigenous communities. The funding is provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to the Canadian Immunization Research Network to support 15 research projects across Canada. Ulanova, one of 15 principal investigators in Canada supported by these funds, received \$423,518 of the budget allocated for the NOSM project for a period of two years.



Reports and publications for information

[Northern Ontario School of Medicine – Report to Northern Ontario](#) – released September 20, 2017

[NOSM Achievement Report – 2017](#)

Northern Passages: *The Northern Ontario School of Medicine's (NOSM) newsletter, Northern Passages, is published twice yearly and conveys news about the School's activities. Volume 17, Issue 2 [\[English\]](#) [\[Français\]](#)*

Respectfully submitted,

Dr Roger Strasser
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Dean and CEO
Northern Ontario School of Medicine

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