



Northern Ontario School of Medicine
École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario



Northern Ontario School of Medicine Activity Report

Dr. Roger Strasser, Dean-CEO
November- December 2014

NOSM Board Holds Face-to-Face Meeting in Sudbury
Members Hear Medical Student Experiences and Say Farewell to Ken Adams, Departing CAO

The Board of Directors of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) held a face-to-face meeting in Sudbury on November 28 and 29, 2014. On the first day of the two-day meeting, Board members heard presentations from NOSM Associate Deans on the topics of faculty engagement, research ethics, patient safety and simulation in health care, and community engagement. In the afternoon, two NOSM medical students relayed their experiences to the Board. Reflecting on her upbringing in Sault Ste. Marie and medical school learning placements, fourth-year medical student Kendra Komsa spoke about the various influences that have led her to want to be a rural physician in Northern Ontario. Next, third-year medical student Nicole Ranger, via WebEx from the community of Hearst, spoke about the rich cultural and linguistic dimensions of her Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC) placement in that community. Both students agreed that NOSM's distinctive, distributed community-engaged model is preparing students well for practice in rural settings.

Before dinner, Board members were provided a tour of Laurentian University's Laurentian Architecture Laurentienne (LAL). Opening in September 2013, LAL is the first new school of architecture in Canada in over 40 years, and the first outside of the province of Québec to offer French programming. The Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS) undergraduate program focuses on design, culture, technology and professional practice, highlighting design and culture for the North. After dinner, Board members said farewell to NOSM's departing Chief Administrative Officer, Ken Adams. The Board congratulated Ken on his new appointment to the position of Vice President, College Services at Confederation College in early January 2015, and thanked him for his significant contributions to the administration of the School over the last six and a half years of his service at NOSM. To begin the second day of meetings, the Board toured the Northern Ontario School of Medicine at Laurentian University.

After a presentation on finance led by Ben Petersen, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee, Ken Adams, NOSM's CAO, and Joe Lipinski, NOSM's Director of Finance, Board members participated in a workshop to consider implementation planning for NOSM's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. This session, led by Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean, Dr. David Marsh, NOSM's Associate Dean of Community Engagement, and Grace Vita, NOSM's Director of Planning and Risk, asked Board members to reflect on how, during the implementation phase, NOSM can learn from, and build upon, the strong community engagement that occurred during the development of the plan. From May to September 2014, senior leaders and staff travelled to more than 50 Northern, rural, remote, Francophone, and Aboriginal communities across the North to meet with individuals, organizations, health-care professionals, and faculty to discuss Northern Ontarians' ongoing health-related

Laurentian University
935 Ramsey Lake Rd.
Sudbury, ON
P3E 2C6
Tel: 1-705-675-4883
Fax: 1-705-675-4858

Université Laurentienne
935, chemin du lac Ramsey
Sudbury, ON
P3E 2C6
Tél: 1-705-675-4883
Télééc: 1-705-675-4858

Lakehead University
955 Oliver Rd.
Thunder Bay, ON
P7B 5E1
Tel: 1-807-766-7300
Fax: 1-807-766-7370

Lakehead University
955, chemin Oliver
Thunder Bay, ON
P7B 5E1
Tél: 1-807-766-7300
Télééc: 1-807-766-7370



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needs. The input received has provided important guidance to setting the priorities of NOSM's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan.

At the formal Board meeting in the afternoon, members received reports from the Finance, Audit and Risk Management, Governance, and Executive committees, and the Nominations and Community Relations sub-committee. The Board also received reports from the School's Francophone and Aboriginal Reference Groups. In addition, Board members received a copy of *The Scope*, a new publication that highlights research by faculty members in the School's Human, Medical, and Clinical Sciences Divisions, residents, medical students, a broad range of health-professional learners, and collaborators—all with a view to improving the health of Northern Ontarians and beyond. *The Scope* is now available at [www.nosm.ca/thescope](http://www.nosm.ca/thescope).

The Board of Directors approved Financial Statements from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for the five-month period ending September 30, 2014. Dr. Brian Stevenson, Chair of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's Board of Directors and President of Lakehead University, noted that the two-day meeting in Sudbury was a great success. "I am always inspired by the rich discussions and collaboration that occurs when NOSM Board members meet," he said. "The Board takes such pride in what the medical school is accomplishing, and the incredible contribution NOSM's staff, faculty, learners, and alumni are making to improving the health of people and communities across Northern Ontario."

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine's next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to occur on March 18, 2015.

For a complete list of Board members, please visit our website at [nosm.ca](http://nosm.ca).

### **NOSM and University of Waterloo Announce Collaboration Agreement**

Earlier this month, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) and the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy signed a Collaboration Agreement that will allow the two schools to work together towards improving health in Northern Ontario's communities.

Both organizations share a commitment to expanding educational opportunities for students in the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program to train in Northern Ontario. Students with a strong desire to pursue pharmacy practice in Northern communities will benefit from enhanced experiences while on their Northern co-op experiences during the first three years of the program. In addition, students in their final year of studies will undertake 24 weeks of patient care rotations that include variety of NOSM's distributed teaching sites. Starting in January 2015, selected Waterloo students will complete their last term of studies in Northern Ontario at one of three regional sites – Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, or Thunder Bay.

The agreement between NOSM and the University of Waterloo lists a number of additional areas of potential collaboration, including integrating pharmacy students in interprofessional learning experiences, and continuing professional development opportunities during their training in Northern Ontario. Faculty from the two schools will also explore collaborative educational and research initiatives related to improving the health of Northern populations.



### Muster 2014 Fantastic!

On October 27-30, almost 300 participants from all continents came together at Uluru, a very remote location in Central Australia for the fourth in the series of joint NOSM-Flinders conferences on community engaged medical education.

The Muster 2014 program featured plenary presentations and parallel sessions (short oral presentations, workshops, PeArLS, symposia, poster sessions), as well as Muster Unplugged, Deans Unplugged, a workshop at the National Indigenous Training Academy and time with the Ngankaris (Elders and Traditional Healers). Highlights included: NOSM Assistant Dean, Curriculum and Planning Dr Rachel Ellaway's plenary session on interactions between medical schools and communities; Dr Fortunato Cristobal's inspirational address about the success of the Zamboanga School of Medicine in improving the health of the people of that impoverished region of the Philippines; the students' recommendations for future directions in medical education; and the presentation by Dr Erica Wheeler of the World Health Organization (WHO) introducing the WHO's new Global Toolkit for Evaluating Health Workforce Education.

Throughout Muster 2014, there was a buzz of excitement as conference participants shared their experiences of community engagement, social accountability and longitudinal learning, as well as rural and Aboriginal health. NOSM was very well represented with over 30 delegates contributing presentations including Elder Julie Ozawagosh and student Heather Smith who received an award for her poster. As the conference ended, many participants commented that Muster 2014 had given them renewed energy with fresh ideas and a collegial network to sustain them.

Congratulations and thank you to all those who contributed to the outstanding success of Muster 2014 particularly Organizing Committee Chair Dr Sarah Strasser, Scientific Program Committee Chairs Drs David MacLean and Pascale Dettwiller and the Flinders Northern Territory staff who were the Secretariat.

### **New Research Funding Opportunity: OSSU IMPACT Awards Call for Proposals**

The Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit (OSSU) has issued its first Call for Proposals for the newly created IMPACT Awards. This is exciting opportunity and it is hoped that NOSM faculty will consider applying. The new research funding will support patient-oriented research projects that advance the science of implementation research and facilitate knowledge translation and exchange in the areas of prevention, care in the community and at home, and health system sustainability. These awards will support research projects that are innovative, measurable, patient-oriented, appropriate, collaborative, and transformative. For further details, submission deadlines and forms, visit the IMPACT Awards website. NOSM's Research Office is available to work with faculty on these applications and can be reached by email at [research@nosm.ca](mailto:research@nosm.ca).

SPOR Website: <http://ossu.ca/funding-opportunities/impact-awards/>



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## Northern Constellations

Mark your calendars and join your colleagues on March 27 and 28, 2015 in Sudbury for our Fourth Annual Faculty Development Conference. Northern Constellations 2015 is designed to further develop your knowledge and skills as a faculty member at NOSM.



**Call for Abstracts Deadline:**  
December 7, 2014

For more information visit the website:

<http://www.nosm.ca/northernconstellations2015/>

## The Inaugural Issue of *The Scope*

Research is essential to improving health care and health outcomes. For physicians and other healthcare providers, every day interactions with patients raise questions.

Often these questions can be answered by reviewing the literature and/or consulting colleagues. Sometimes, the answer to a question is not known and this is the beginning of a new research project. Research may be seen as a systematic approach to answering questions. Recognizing this, it is important that our students, residents and all learners come to see research as integral to everyday clinical practice. Given NOSM's social accountability mandate, it is of particular importance that NOSM faculty members and learners undertake research focused on addressing the health needs of the people and communities in Northern Ontario.



In this context, NOSM has become a leader of health research in Northern Ontario, encouraging a culture of research and innovation through: enhancements in infrastructure and support; annual Northern Health Research Conferences; and partnerships and collaboration within Northern Ontario and beyond. The Scope ([www.nosm.ca/thescope](http://www.nosm.ca/thescope)) is the new bi-annual publication that highlights NOSM research activities. Studies reported in the first issue of The Scope include culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal peoples, new drug technologies, cancer screening methods, patient rehabilitation, lakewater quality and much more. Study subjects are as varied as the vast geography of NOSM's wider campus of Northern Ontario and as diverse as the researchers themselves - faculty members in the Human, Medical, and Clinical Sciences Divisions, residents, medical students, a broad range of health-professional learners and collaborators.

