



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

Dr. Roger Strasser, Dean

September-October 2015

## Four New Members Appointed to NOSM Board of Directors

### *Amid a Week of Important NOSM Public Events*

Using a combination of web- and tele-conference connectivity across Northern Ontario, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) held its Annual Members and Board of Directors meetings on Wednesday, September 23, 2015.

Board members Dr. Bob Algie, Dr. Louise Logan, James Morris, and Dr. Teresa O'Driscoll were thanked for their significant contribution to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, as their terms completed September 23, 2015.

At the recommendation of the Board's Governance Committee and Nominations and Community Relations Subcommittee, the Board appointed four new members to NOSM's Board of Directors:

- Danielle Bélanger-Corbin
- Dr. Pierre Bonin
- Mark Hurst
- Bruce Sutton

In accordance with Board policy regarding Officers of the Corporation, Dr. Moira McPherson, Provost and Vice-President Academic Lakehead University, was confirmed as Chair of the Board and Dr. Robert Kerr, Vice President, Academic and Provost of Laurentian University, was confirmed as Vice-Chair. NOSM MD candidate Krista Marcotte was also reappointed as Board member.

The Board approved both the audited financial statements for the year ending April 30, 2015, and that BDO Canada LLP be appointed as auditors for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2016.

This week is an important one for the School, and a busy one for NOSM Board members who participated in several important NOSM events. NOSM publicly launched its new 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, created in collaboration with people and communities of Northern Ontario, and officially opened its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration by engaging communities across Northern Ontario to "Be Active with NOSM." Also this week, NOSM's Francophone Affairs Unit is hosting the School's 5<sup>th</sup> Francophone Symposium at Laurentian University in Sudbury.

The new Strategic Plan, NOSM's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, and the Francophone Symposium share a common theme—that is, each of them is grounded in NOSM's commitment to working with the region's people, communities, partners, and collaborators for a healthier North.

Prior to the official Board meeting, members were invited to a special pre-screening of TVO's upcoming *The Doctor Can See You Now*, a documentary which follows the story of NOSM-trained physician, Dr. Doris Mitchell, the doctor for Brunswick House First Nation, Chapleau Cree First Nation, and the Township of Chapleau. The documentary examines Northern Ontario health-care issues, and provides insight into how the Northern Ontario School of Medicine is addressing the chronic shortage of physicians in our region. *The Doctor Can See You Now* will first air on TVO on September 30 at 9:00 p.m. EST.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held in Thunder Bay on November 26 and 27, 2015.

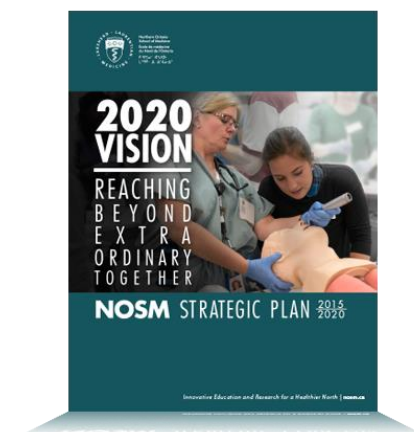
For a complete list of Board members, please visit our website at [nosm.ca](http://nosm.ca).

*[Reaching Beyond Extraordinary Together—NOSM's Strategic Plan 2015-2020](#)*  
*[Dépasser l'extraordinaire ensemble—Plan stratégique de l'EMNO 2015-2020](#)*

Consistent with our social accountability mandate, and guided by our vision, mission, and values, five strategic goals are at the heart of our renewed Strategic Plan.

**Our five strategic goals**

- Enrich Education Programs
- Strengthen Research Capacity
- Create Whole School Culture
- Empower Faculty Members
- Engage Communities and Partners



Visit the website: <http://www.nosm.ca/strategicplan2015-2020/>

**NOSM to Host 5<sup>th</sup> Francophone Symposium**

The Francophone Affairs Unit of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is hosting the School's 5<sup>th</sup> Francophone Symposium from September 24 - 26, 2015 at Laurentian University in Sudbury.

This symposium will bring together health professionals and community members interested in Francophone health. These symposia are meant to inform, promote networking within the Francophone population, as well as explore questions relating to – and of interest to – the population.

For more information visit: <http://nosm.ca/symposiumfrancophone2015/>

**NOSM Announces New CAO**

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ray Hunt as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Hunt will start in this role on November 2, 2015, and will be based at NOSM at Laurentian University in Sudbury. In his role as CAO, Hunt will be responsible for leadership, strategic direction, corporate services, and management of the non-academic administration functions at NOSM. The focus of these functions is to collaborate with, support, and facilitate all parts of the School. In addition, he will ensure the efficient and effective strategic management of NOSM's resources.

**Residency Positions Increase in Northern Ontario**



The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) is pleased that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has confirmed an increase of five of residency positions in Northern Ontario for 2016. The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) has been instrumental in addressing the continued challenges of providing quality health care in the region by developing a made in the North model of community-engaged medical education. “Research has shown that students who study and train at NOSM are staying in the North to practice,” says Mayor Alan Spacek of Kapuskasing and President of FONOM. “The impact

that NOSM has had on Northern Ontario within the last ten years is truly significant,” continued Spacek.

In order to qualify for a license to practice medicine unsupervised, MD graduates must complete postgraduate medical education known as residency and achieve certification in a medical specialty. In Canada, all postgraduate medical education is provided by medical schools whose residency programs are accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) for family medicine and by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (Royal College) for the other specialties. Although the

medical schools are responsible for delivery of residency programs, the two medical colleges set the examinations and award the certification. Family medicine residency programs are two years in duration with the possibility of an additional third year enhanced skills training in fields like emergency medicine and anaesthesia. Royal College residency programs involve four or five years of postgraduate medical education. NOSM has residency programs in family medicine, plus enhanced skills, and in eight major general Royal College specialties.

NOSM residency programs are major contributors to Northern Ontario communities and to NOSM's success. Residents provide patient care as they learn, contribute to improving our residency programs and undertake research on northern health issues. Clinical faculty enjoy and value teaching residents as junior colleagues, often commenting that teaching students and residents keeps them fresh. 69% of NOSM residency graduates are practising in the North including 22% in remote rural communities. 94% of NOSM MD graduates who completed NOSM residencies are practising in Northern Ontario (33% in small communities). Congratulations and thank you to all involved in NOSM residency programs - the residents, clinical faculty members, community and hospital/health service partners, residency program directors, and postgraduate education (PGE) staff led by Associate Dean PGE, Cathy Cervin and PGE Director Jennifer Fawcett.

### **NOSM's 64 New MD Students Travel the North during Orientation Week**

August 31 officially marked the first day of classes for 64 new medical students at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), following a week of travel to learn about the geographic, social, cultural, and linguistic diversity of Northern Ontario.

Orientation Week-or O-Week, as it is affectionately referred to at NOSM-is about so much more than helping students find their classes. NOSM's newest group of students spend the week becoming immersed in the cultural, linguistic, and geographic diversity of the North. This is their introduction to NOSM's wider campus of Northern Ontario, where they will live and learn for the next four years.

On Tuesday, August 25, NOSM students came together in Sudbury and travelled by bus to Nipissing First Nation. Warmly welcomed by a song from the Little Iron Drum Group, the students broke bread with community members, received an Elder teaching on smudging, and heard advice and encouragement on behalf of the Chief and Council at Nipissing First Nation. Finally, Dr. Brenda Restoule, NOSM faculty member, Aboriginal woman, and psychologist in the area shared information with the students about frameworks developed for First Nations' Wellness.

On Wednesday, August 26, the MD students toured the Temiskaming Hospital, Haileybury Family Health Team, and the Centre de santé communautaire du Témiskaming. There, the students spoke with NOSM faculty and graduates working in the area about the realities and benefits of practising rural medicine with both French and English patients.

Finally, the students returned to Sudbury by bus for the NOSM Oath Ceremony. This ceremony introduces students to the obligations and high standards of their newly chosen profession. The NOSM Oath Ceremony familiarizes students with the Physician's Oath (the modern version of the famous Hippocratic Oath), its meaning and importance, and begins their four years of medical education with the principles of the Oath in mind.

NOSM continues to meet its social accountability mandate, innovative education and research for a healthier North. Admission to NOSM's MD program is highly competitive, and members of this incoming class have been selected from over 2000 applicants with a class mean GPA of 3.83 (measured on a 4-point scale). Demographic characteristics of this class include:

- 89% are from Northern Ontario
- Remaining 11% are from rural and remote parts of the rest of Canada
- 8% are self-identified Aboriginal
- 20% are self-identified Francophone

### **NOSM Hosts Historic Elders Gathering**

From August 18 - 20, 2015, the Aboriginal Affairs Unit of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) held a historic Elder's gathering on the traditional lands of Fort William First Nation. The gathering brought together Aboriginal Elders from First Nations and Métis communities across NOSM's wider campus of Northern Ontario to discuss the future of the School's Council of Elders.

Over the past ten years, the School has developed relationships with more than 20 Elders who each have special gifts for working with community members. NOSM's Council of Elders is comprised of these Aboriginal peoples who possess gifts and significant knowledge of traditional, cultural, and spiritual customs and practices. Each of these gifts, separately or together, is related to maintaining the holistic health of a community. Their knowledge is gained through a full life of learning, experiences, and teachings received from other Elders and traditional people.

The sense of direction given by the Council of Elders is fitting as this is a time of change at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Over the next month, the School will celebrate its tenth anniversary and will be launching *NOSM's Strategic Plan 2015-2020: Reaching Beyond Extraordinary Together*-which many of the Elders were involved with developing.

*For more information:*

[http://www.nosm.ca/about\\_us/media\\_room/media\\_releases/media\\_release.aspx?id=20224](http://www.nosm.ca/about_us/media_room/media_releases/media_release.aspx?id=20224)

### **NOSM Faculty, Board Ratify Three Year Collective Agreement**

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) and the NOSM faculty Union (Unit 1 of Ontario Public Service Employees Union [OPSEU] Local 677) are pleased to announce the ratification of their fourth collective agreement, covering full-time faculty, professional librarians, and professional staff at the School.

The faculty Union's Members voted in favour of the new collective agreement on July 23, 2015. The agreement was ratified by NOSM's Board of Directors on July 31, 2015.

*For more information:*

[http://www.nosm.ca/about\\_us/media\\_room/media\\_releases/media\\_release.aspx?id=20091](http://www.nosm.ca/about_us/media_room/media_releases/media_release.aspx?id=20091)

### **NOSM's Dietetic Internship Program Receives National Accreditation**

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is pleased to announce the School's Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program (NODIP) has received full accreditation status from the Dietitians of Canada (DC) until 2022. Thanks to its reputation for high quality of education, NODIP was recently selected by the Dietitians of Canada to be the first post-degree internship of all Canadian dietetic education programs to be assessed using the new Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) Accreditation Standards.

Since the program accepted its first students in 2007, NODIP has trained 99 dietetic interns in more than 35 communities in the North. Of those, 74 percent have chosen to practice in rural or Northern communities. That means that 64 dietitians are now increasing access to dietetic services in rural and Northern settings that have faced historical shortages.

*For more information:*

[http://www.nosm.ca/about\\_us/media\\_room/media\\_releases/media\\_release.aspx?id=19999](http://www.nosm.ca/about_us/media_room/media_releases/media_release.aspx?id=19999)

### **NOSM Receives International Award for Excellence in Communications**

On Monday, June 15, 2015, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) was honoured to receive an international award for excellence in communications. The prestigious Gold Quill Award of Excellence was received from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) as part of IABC's annual World Conference in San Francisco.

The IABC 2015 Gold Quill Awards program recognizes business communication excellence globally, and is acknowledged as one of the most prestigious awards programs in the industry.

For more information:

[http://www.nosm.ca/about\\_us/media\\_room/media\\_releases/media\\_release.aspx?id=19917](http://www.nosm.ca/about_us/media_room/media_releases/media_release.aspx?id=19917)

### **NOSM Faculty Member Receives Funding for First Nations Diabetes Research**



A new research project has received funding from the Ontario Strategy for Patient-Orientated Research (SPOR) Support Unit to take a closer look at diabetes within Ontario's First Nations peoples, and help develop new programs and policies for those living with the disease.

Dr. Kristen Jacklin, Associate Professor of Medical Anthropology in the Human Sciences Division at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) at Laurentian University is one of three principal investigators leading the research. The team's project *Reducing the burden of diabetes on First Nations people in Ontario: Using population-level data to inform policy and practice* has been awarded a \$770,000 IMPACT Award from the Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit (OSSU). Dr. Jacklin will work alongside Dr.

Mike Green (Queen's University) and Dr. Jennifer Walker (Nipissing University) in leading this three-year project.

The research approach involves a formal partnership with the Chiefs of Ontario, the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Studies (ICES) and the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR) at Laurentian University. Working with key stakeholders and a patient advisory group, the team will gather data on diabetes, assess and analyze it, and then use that information for the betterment of the First Nations communities in Ontario.

For more information:

[http://www.nosm.ca/about\\_us/media\\_room/media\\_releases/media\\_release.aspx?id=19925](http://www.nosm.ca/about_us/media_room/media_releases/media_release.aspx?id=19925)

### **Northern Passages Summer 2015 Now Available**



The latest issue of Northern Passages is now available online. This special edition features articles about the launch of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's (NOSM) new Strategic Plan 2015-2020; a behind-the-scenes look at two staff members who have been with the School for over 10 years; a look at the School's 10th annual Northern Health Research Conference; and, reflections from former NOSM faculty member, Dr. Rachel Ellaway. Online:

<http://nosm.ca/northernpassages/>

### **NOSM Achievement Report 2015**

A copy of the report can be found:

[http://www.nosm.ca/uploadedFiles/About\\_Us/Media\\_Room\\_2/NOSM%20Achievement%20Report%202015-web.pdf](http://www.nosm.ca/uploadedFiles/About_Us/Media_Room_2/NOSM%20Achievement%20Report%202015-web.pdf)

For more news and information visit [www.nosm.ca](http://www.nosm.ca)

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Roger Strasser AM  
Dean and CEO  
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