

Innovation Fund – Completed Projects

The Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association (NOAMA) has received two years of Innovation Funding from the Innovation Fund Provincial Oversight Committee. This funding allowed NOAMA to support NOSM's Strategic Plan to strengthen research initiatives by increasing the number of part-time stipendiary faculty participating in focussed research initiatives. Sixteen proposals were submitted for the second year of funding, and those projects are currently in progress. The following are a brief explanation of projects that were recently completed from the first year of funding.

Anesthesia "Boot Camp"

Led by NOSM Associate Professor Dr. Rob Anderson, the project looked at increasing exposure to a number of scenarios involving Family Practice Anesthesiologists through a simulation based boot camp course. The course was highly regarded as an excellent learning opportunity, where residents experienced less anxiety, were more motivated, and were exposed to a number of situations that could essentially take a lifelong career to experience. Dr. Anderson was recently notified of his successful application to extend the funding for this project for another year.

Aboriginal Women's Health

Led by NOSM Associate Professor Dr. Len Kelly, the project encompassed the development of an Aboriginal Women's Curriculum for use in Obstetrical Programs in Northwestern Ontario and across Canada. An intense two-month rotation was designed for NOSM postgrad resident learners which included cultural exposure to First Nations prenatal clinics, sexual assault teams, maternity care, and operative deliveries; Elders meetings; healing ceremonies; and, First Nations research initiatives. A resource handbook was also developed, which included relevant Aboriginal literature for use in Canadian programs. The handbook is to be published during the fall of 2011.

Narcotic Neonate; Aboriginal Women's Health Education Initiative

Also led by NOSM Associate Professor Dr. Len Kelly, this initiative documented the incident of narcotic abuse during pregnancy by Aboriginal women. Literature regarding diagnosis and management of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) was also reviewed. Throughout the study awareness was raised within nursing and medical staff in regards to the role of managing Oxycontin abuse in the perinatal period. The project has led to the early organizing stages of an inpatient narcotic withdrawal program at the Meno Ya Win Health Centre in Sioux Lookout. The data will also assist in the request for funding to create programming to deal with narcotic abuse during pregnancy and has led to two peer reviewed publications and been submitted to the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority.