



20/25

**NOSM University**  
*Achievement  
Celebration*

Friday, May 9, 2025



MD Financial  
Management

**Scotiabank.**  
Healthcare+

# Evening Program

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## **Master of Ceremonies**

*Jessica Pope, Manager, Public Affairs and Government Relations*

## **Blessing**

*Perry McLeod-Shabogesic*

## **Opening Remarks**

*Marc Lepage, MD Financial Management*

*Dr. Michael Green, President, Vice-Chancellor, Dean and CEO*

## **Faculty Promotions & Recognition**

## **Dinner**

## **Physician Clinical Teachers' Association (PCTA) Award**

*Dr. Jon Smith, Associate Professor and PCTA President*

## **Health Sciences Awards**

*Cara Green, Manager, Dietetics*

*Jennie Carroll, Manager, Rehabilitation Sciences*

## **NOSM University Awards of Excellence and Scholarship**

## **Faculty Awards**

*Dr. Harshad Telang, Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs*

## **Learner Awards**

*Dr. Jason Shack, Assistant Dean, Learner Affairs*

## **Alumni Awards**

*Dr. Michael Green, President, Vice-Chancellor, Dean and CEO*

## **Dr. Sarita Verma Awards for Distinguished Leadership**

*Dr. Michael Green, President, Vice-Chancellor, Dean and CEO*

## **Indigenous Leadership Award**

*Dr. Joseph LeBlanc, Associate Vice President, Equity and Inclusion*

## **Closing Remarks**

*Dr. Michael Green, President, Vice-Chancellor, Dean and CEO*

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## PCTA Award

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This award is given to a physician leader who has demonstrated commitment to excellence and innovation, has had a lasting impact on clinical education, and embodies and integrates the values of professionalism, communicator, collaborator, manager, and advocate.

**Dr. Edward Hirvi**  
*Associate Professor, Clinical Sciences and Family Medicine Section Chair*

# Health Sciences Awards

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## **Innovative Preceptor Award**

Given to a preceptor who embraces innovation in providing clinical learning experiences, this award recognizes an educator who is prepared to do things differently—with innovation—in order to meet the needs of the learner.

**Nina Vendetti**

*Preceptor, Occupational Therapy*

**Alexa Tipper**

*Preceptor, Physiotherapy*

**Bethany McKinley-Young**

*Preceptor, Speech-Language Pathology*

**Caitlyn McLeod**

*Preceptor, Dietetics*

## **Interprofessional Collaborator Award**

This award celebrates individuals who are recognized by their peers and learners for being a good collaborator or leader of interprofessional learning.

**Kristi MacWilliam**

*Preceptor, Occupational Therapy*

**Sarah Jones**

*Preceptor, Physiotherapy*

**Lisa Lees**

*Preceptor, Dietetics*

## **Commitment to Clinical Education Award**

The Commitment to Clinical Education Award recognizes a preceptor who demonstrates commitment towards the education of health science professional learners in the North as evidenced by being a frequent and willing participant, supporter and champion of education.

**Michael Ivany**

*Preceptor, Occupational Therapy*

**Sandhya Aiyer**

*Preceptor, Physiotherapy*

**Susan Coulter**

*Preceptor, Speech-Language Pathology*

**Erica Dubois**

*Preceptor, Dietetics*

## **Northern Ambassador Award**

This uniquely Northern award is a celebration of a preceptor who is recognized for being a strong ambassador for their community, and who creates a welcoming environment for learners of all disciplines.

**Kate Stadnyk**

*Preceptor, Occupational Therapy*

**Tyler Neil**

*Preceptor, Physiotherapy*

**Karen Figliomeni**

*Preceptor, Speech-Language Pathology*

**Nola Thompson**

*Preceptor, Dietetics*

# Awards of Excellence and Scholarship

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Faculty, residents, and learners at NOSM University play an integral role in achieving the University's mission and make outstanding contributions to teaching, research, clinical care and administration in Northern Ontario.

## Faculty Awards

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### Academic Leader Award

This award recognizes individuals in the Clinical, Medical, or Human Sciences Division with demonstrated leadership skills in NOSM University administrative roles such as Program Directors, Theme Course Chairs, Phase Module Coordinators, Academic Directors, Medical Directors, as well as other administrative positions outside the University.

#### Dr. Katherine Richardson

*Associate Professor, Clinical Sciences*

### Clinical Scholar Award

Members of the Clinical Sciences Division are recognized with the Clinical Scholar Award for their research, presentation of papers, production of posters, invitations to speak at professional meetings/other institutions, and mentorship of faculty in the aforementioned areas.

#### Dr. Olexiy Aseyev

*Associate Professor, Clinical Sciences*

### Clinical Teacher Award

The Clinical Teacher Award recognizes members of the Clinical Sciences Division for excellence in clinical teaching/supervision skills.

#### Dr. Arianne St. Jacques

*Assistant Professor, Clinical Sciences*

### Community Champion Award

A Community Champion is a Clinical Sciences faculty member who has had a significant impact on their community through clinical services, teaching, research, volunteer work, or other community involvement continually advocating accessibility for the best health care available.

#### Dr. Jennifer Jocko

*Assistant Professor, Clinical Sciences*

### Medical Educator Award

Recognizing members of the Clinical, Medical or Human Sciences Divisions, the The Medical Educator Award acknowledges outstanding contributions to medical education research, and/or curriculum development.

#### Dr. Cheryl Clayton

*Associate Professor, Clinical Sciences*

# Learner Awards

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## **Learner: Advocate/Leader Award**

This award recognizes learners for their achievements in advocacy and or leadership particularly with respect to improving education programs.

**Emma Harland**

*Third-year medical student*

## **Learner: Scholarly Activity Award**

The Learner Scholarly Activity Award recognizes learners for their teaching, research, and administrative contributions to NOSM University.

**Dr. Travis Quevillon**

*Second-year Internal Medicine resident*

## **Learner: Peer Teaching Award**

This award recognizes learners at all levels who strive to improve the teaching, learning, and educational environments for other NOSM University learners.

**Dr. Michelle Chae Min Lee**

*Second-year Internal Medicine resident*

## **Learner-Nominated Teacher Award**

Nominated by a learner, this award recognizes members of the Clinical, Medical, or Human Sciences Division for excellence in either academic teaching, or clinical teaching and supervision.

**Dr. Amparo Wolf**

*Assistant Professor, Clinical Sciences*

# Alumni Awards

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## **Rising Star Award**

The Rising Star Award is presented to a recent graduate of NOSM University (within one to five years of completion of residency training) who has demonstrated significant professional achievements, made significant contributions to their community or as a volunteer, or has displayed promise of significant future accomplishments in Northern Ontario.

### **Dr. Athena Young**

*Clinical Lecturer, Clinical Sciences*

## **Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award**

This award is presented annually to a NOSM University alumna/alumnus who has achieved excellence, personally or professionally, and whose actions and influence have made a positive impact in health care, medical education, or research in Northern Ontario. The recipient will have made a strong contribution to NOSM University and demonstrated their commitment to bringing equitable and accessible health care to Northern Ontario.

### **Dr. Jason Sutherland**

*Associate Professor, Clinical Sciences and Program Director, Family Medicine*

## **Honorary Alumni Award**

The Honorary Alumni Award is presented to an individual who is not a graduate of NOSM University, but whose actions have embodied its vision, mission, and values. The recipient has positively contributed to the Northern Ontario health-care community and the medical profession.

### **Kenneth Boshcoff**

*His Worship, Mayor of Thunder Bay*

### **Jim Gordon**

*Former Mayor of Sudbury, MLA, Ontario Cabinet Minister, Member of the Order of Canada*



# Dr. Sarita Verma Awards for Distinguished Leadership

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Established in 2024 with the retirement of Dr. Sarita Verma, NOSM University's inaugural President, Vice Chancellor, CEO and second Dean of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Dr. Verma served as Dean from July 1, 2019, to March 30, 2022, then became President, Vice Chancellor, Dean and CEO when NOSM was proclaimed Canada's first independent medical University on April 1, 2022.

These awards celebrate the work of Dr. Verma, a passionate and courageous leader who championed visionary and transformative change. The award recipients have demonstrated leadership impact and achievements within the NOSM University community; innovation and creativity in addressing challenges and fostering positive change; and, made contributions to the overall well-being and success of NOSM University.

## Faculty

### East: Dr. Edward Hirvi

*Associate Professor, Clinical Sciences  
and Family Medicine Section Chair*

### West: Dr. Justin Jagger

*Associate Professor, Clinical Sciences,  
Pediatrics Section Chair*

### Nominees included:

- Dr. Grace Ma
- Dr. Florence Morriello
- Dr. Kris Opryszczko
- Dr. Nicole Ranger
- Dr. Anne Robinson

## Staff

### East: Denise Raftis

*Dietetic Practicum Lead*

### West: Anita Arella

*Director, Faculty Affairs*

### Nominees included:

- Anita Arella
- Lance Dyll
- Jason Lind
- Joanne Musico
- Melanie Poulin
- Denise Raftis
- Mike Ravenek
- Sonya Richard
- Alex St-Amant
- Cassandra Whymark

## Learner

### East: Chantae Robinson

*Fourth-year medical student*

### West: Emma Harland

*Third-year medical student*

### Nominees included:

- Emma Harland
- Claire Poulin
- Brooklyn Ranta
- Chantae Robinson



# Indigenous Leadership Award

The Indigenous Leadership Award is presented to a learner who has demonstrated exceptional leadership within the Indigenous community at NOSM University throughout their undergraduate medical education. The recipient has shown a strong commitment to advancing Indigenous health and culture, while also maintaining a high standard of academic excellence.

## Chloe Smith

*Third-year medical student*

### Artwork Synopsis

**Title:** "Ode Mushkiki"

**Medium:** Mixed Media - Acrylic/LED/wood/  
pearl/abalone shell/feather

**Size:** 36" x 48"

**Artist:** Elliott Doxtater-Wynn

**Date of Completion:** April 10, 2025

**Re:** Chloe Smith

*In an interview, Chloe Smith related that her story was about the duality of carrying both her Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage. Although they were counter to each other, she found love and support from both sides of her family. Growing up dominantly with her Indigenous family.*

*Inspired and nurtured by her family, especially her grandparents, she chose to follow medical studies. Her path led to studies off reserve but with the connection, motivation, and love to return to her family. Even her aspiration as a doctor is intended for her home community.*



Another part of the story is part of the Indigenous experience. Being fair skinned and having light coloured hair, Anishnaabehkwe Chloe found that she needed to prove herself as 'Indian enough' to both non-Indigenous and Indigenous people alike. In the end, Chloe represents a strong, intelligent woman who does not need to prove anything to anyone.

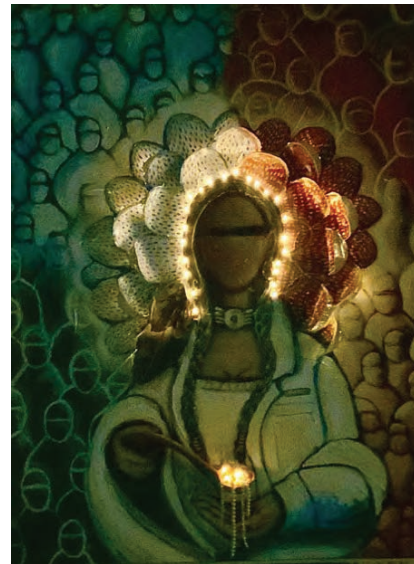
In the image, the background represents the people of the four directions. These are all the people carrying criticism, comment, judgement, but also, support, compassion, and love. The representations around the central figures head are white and red strawberries. The change from white to red is maturation. Both white and red strawberries also represent their own medicine. The wooden spoon represents the spoon from the Dish with One Spoon wampum covenant. The freshwater pearls and abalone shell represent water and the lakes around Chloe in her childhood.

The pearls also represent knowledge and sharing. The central figures' clothing are divided to represent the past and the future but they are on one person. There are two feathers that represent the two roads that Chloe is a part of in the duality of her life and which she brings together in her holistic health and journey. Light is radiance.

The following teachings referenced in this work:

- Medicine Wheel
- Indigenous Multisensory Inclusion
- Ezhinaabiiyen
- Indigenous Numerology
- Andisokaanaan
- Odaamin
- Water Teachings
- Women's Berry Teachings
- Eagle feather
- Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty

The complexity of Indigenous knowledge adds to the meaning and continued learning needed to fully understand what is in the design.



# *Faculty Promotions*

## Professor

**Dr. Alexandre Anawati**

**Dr. Roy Kirkpatrick**

**Dr. Bryan MacLeod**

**Dr. Sarah Newbery**

**Dr. Ioannis Voutsadakis**

## Associate Professor

**Dr. Mohammed Bassuony**

**Dr. Vishaal Bhambhwani**

**Dr. Amber Dudar**

**Dr. Sarah Giles**

**Dr. Ella Goodman**

**Dr. Gautam Kumar**

**Dr. Joseph LeBlanc**

**Dr. Jennifer Loo**

**Dr. Sonja Lubbers**

**Dr. Derek Manchuk**

**Dr. Amber Menezes**

**Dr. Salima Oukachbi**

**Dr. Nicole Ranger**

**Dr. Caelen Rody**

**Dr. Julie Samson**

**Dr. Nicole Zavagnin**

## *Years of Service*

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As NOSM University proudly celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2025, we extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt congratulations to the dedicated staff and faculty who have been with us for two decades. Many of you were here before we officially opened our doors, laying the foundation for our mission to transform health education and research in Northern Ontario.

### **2022**

- Lori Piccolo

### **2023**

- Rita Campbell
- Dr. Kristy Côté
- Deborah Modin
- Diane Moncion

### **2024**

- Jonny Barnstorf
- Robert Bertrand
- Nicole Bessette
- Sharon Boudreau
- Patty Fink
- Dr. Geoffrey Hudson
- Steve Kelly
- Dr. Tom Kovala
- Dr. David MacLean
- Lyne Morvan
- Catherine Powell
- Dr. Brian Ross
- Dr. Greg Ross
- Dr. Zacharias Suntres
- Dr. TC Tai
- Grace Vita

*Congratulations on your 20 years of service!*

# *Honouring Excellence*

Each year, NOSM University community members are recognized with prestigious awards and honours from various conferences, associations and organizations nationally and internationally. We are immensely proud to showcase the external award recipients in celebration of their outstanding achievements. Scan the QR code for an extensive list of external award recipients and a digital version of this program.



Please email [communications@nosm.ca](mailto:communications@nosm.ca)  
if you or a colleague receives an award or special recognition.

#NOSMUExcellence | @thenosm

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## Sponsors

### NOSM University Achievement Celebration Sponsor

Our Gold Sponsors are vital partners in advancing medical training, research, and community engagement. Your generosity strengthens health-care networks across the North.



### NOSM University 20th Anniversary Sponsors

Thank you to our Silver Sponsors for helping us empower learners, faculty, and health-care professionals in rural and remote communities.





## NOSM University 20th Anniversary Sponsors

Your support fuels our efforts to train the next generation of health-care leaders and improve patient outcomes. We appreciate your dedication to NOSM University's mission!







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**20/25**

[celebrate.nosm.ca](https://celebrate.nosm.ca)