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Context Counts: Educating Doctors in and for Remote Rural Areas



Professor Roger Strasser
Northern Ontario School of Medicine



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Rural Health Success

- Context is critical
- Active community participation
- Focus on Health Equity
- Standards and quality
- Research evidence
- Challenge conventional wisdom
- Vision, mission and values





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Recruitment Facilitators for Rural Practice

- rural upbringing
- positive undergraduate
rural clinical experiences
- targeted postgraduate training
for rural practice



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Impact of Rural Based Medical Education

- more skilled rural doctors
- enhanced rural health care
- improved rural health outcomes
- broader academic developments
- economic developments





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Community Engagement in Practice

- challenge assumptions
- always ask and listen
- embrace geographic,
social and cultural diversity
- engage and empower
- formalize roles and functions
- connect and re-connect





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Student Experience of NOSM*

- clinical experiences during (third year) more substantial than anything in traditional med school experience
- creates “generalists” and encourages students to maintain a broad focus

*CFMS Focus Group 2010





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Student Experience of NOSM

- rural medicine... that's where you find the true generalists*
- I like how much variety there can be in the doctor's role**
- we're better off ... we will (learn) more skills in a rural centre**
- you don't know it until you live it**

* NOSM Tracking Study, Hoi Chiu

** PhD Research, Tim Dube





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EXPLORING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE
NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



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Socioeconomic Impact

- \$67-82M new economic activity
- 245 new jobs
- economic development

- host universities' status raised
- improved HHR recruitment
- communities feel empowered





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Brazil's Rural Opportunity

- Constitutional commitment to equity and access to healthcare
- More Doctors Program
- Federal Universities
- Ministries' support for educational innovation
- Learn from experience of others





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