

QUALITY ASSURANCE - CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW OF THE NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE MD PROGRAM

Executive Summary

In accordance with the Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) submitted a Self-Study (March 2012) to the Office of the Provost and Vice-President(Academic) at both Lakehead and Laurentian University. Volume One presented the description of the program and outcomes, an analytical assessment of the program, and relevant program data. Volume Two and Three provided a collection of the program course outlines and clerkship descriptions, and the *curriculum vitae* for the NOSM faculty.

Two external reviewers and one internal reviewer from each institution were selected from a set of proposed reviewers. The Review Team examined the materials and completed a two day site visit in March 2012. The visit included interviews with the Provost and Vice-Presidents (Academic) of Lakehead and Laurentian Universities, the Deputy Provost, the Dean of NOSM, and the Associate Dean Undergraduate Medical Education. The Review Team interviewed faculty, staff, and students on both campuses and had an opportunity to tour the NOSM Northwestern Campus at Lakehead University and the Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre (TBRHSC).

In their report, submitted May 2012, the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the Northern Ontario School of Medicine MD Program meet the evaluation criteria outlined in the Quality Assurance Framework, and is consistent with the missions and academic priorities of both Universities. The MD curriculum is fully mapped allowing for the identification and linkage of the key curriculum components to defined program learning outcomes and institutional expectations. The admission standards, curriculum structure and delivery, and teaching and assessment methods are appropriate and are effective in preparing graduates to meet defined outcomes and the degree level expectations. The host Universities were commended for providing NOSM with supportive intellectual environments in which to educate physicians. The Reviewers noted that the NOSM distributed model ensures that students on both University campuses have high quality standardized educational interventions. Results from the Canadian Student Graduate Questionnaire and MCC Examinations demonstrate student performance in the top percentiles of peer schools. The success of NOSM's model is best exemplified by their students' achievement rates of residency matches in the first iteration, and the students' passing rates on both Medical Council of Canada (MCC) qualifying examinations. The Review Team also identified areas for improvement and made suggestions and recommendations for further consideration.

A NOSM team composed of the Associate Dean Undergraduate Medical Education, the Assistant Dean Curriculum and Planning, and the Chair of NOSM Accreditation Collaborative, submitted a response to the Reviewers' Report (November 2012). They responded to each of the recommendations made by the Reviewers and, where necessary, presented clarification and corrections. Follow-up actions and associated timelines were identified.

A Final Assessment Report was prepared to provide a synthesis of the external evaluation and NOSM's response and action plan. The report identifies the significant strengths of the program, opportunities for program improvement and enhancement, and sets out and prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation. The Implementation Plan identifies who will be responsible for approving the recommendations set out in the Final Assessment Report; who will be responsible for providing any resources made necessary by those recommendations; any changes in organization, policy or governance that will be necessary to meet the recommendations; who will be responsible for acting on those recommendations; and timelines for acting on and monitoring the implementation of those recommendations.