



Northern Constellations du Nord



Continuing Education and Professional Development

Navigating Your Conference Experience

To optimize your experience at Northern Constellations and Connections 2026, each session is categorized by theme, experience level, and educational role. These tags serve as a guide to help you identify sessions that align with your interests and professional development goals. However, they are not restrictive – you are encouraged to explore any session that captures your interest!

Theme

Maximize your learning relevant to your career and leadership aspirations:

Career Progression

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility (EDIA)

Effective Teaching

Leadership

Experience

Find sessions tailored to your stage of professional growth:

First 5 Years

Mid-Career

16+ Years

All Career Levels

Designation

Identify sessions designed for your role in healthcare education:

Administrators

Faculty

Learners

Preceptors

All Roles

**Administrators: NOSM U Staff including LEG Administrators, S.A.C.s*

**Faculty: Clinical Sciences, Human Sciences, Medical Sciences*

**Preceptors: Rehabilitation Sciences Program, Dietetic Practicum Program, Physician Assistant Consortium*

Day 01: Northern Constellations 2026

Thursday April 30, 2026

<p>3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Room: Ballroom Foyer</p>	<p>Northern Constellations Conference Registration (unaccredited)</p>
<p>4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Room: Plaza A</p> <p>Career Progression CME</p> <p>EDIA Effective Teaching</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>All Career Levels All Roles</p>	<p>Welcome & Opening Dr. Tara Baron (NOSM U)</p> <p>Welcome from a Member of the Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers Circle Mr. Perry-McLeod-Shabogesic (Dokis First Nation)</p> <p>Francophone Welcome Dr. Nicole Ranger (NOSM U)</p> <p>After attending this conference participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorporate tools, resources, and frameworks in their teaching to support diverse learner needs. 2. Apply strategies to promote equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in educational and/or administrative settings.



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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implement leadership practices to cultivate psychologically safe and effective teams in educational and organizational environments. Identify resources and opportunities to assist with career progressions in health care education. Facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange between health professionals practicing in Northern Ontario. Continue to build skill and confidence in approaching common clinical presentations and procedures.
<p>4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Room: Plaza A</p> <p>Leadership CME</p> <p>All Career Levels</p> <p>All Roles</p>	<p>Keynote: Planetary Health - Using A Green Lens to Connect & Protect All Health Speaker(s): Dr. Anna Gunz (Western U) Description: Participants will learn how planetary health principles intersect with medical education, clinical decision-making, and health equity. The session highlights emerging environmental challenges and their implications for healthcare systems and learners, and concludes with Q&A for interactive dialogue. After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the impact of climate-related changes on health outcomes in Canada and Northern Ontario, and projected challenges for clinicians and the healthcare system in years to come. Utilize the 'green-lens', and 'mind-body-environment', concepts to develop an understanding of planetary health that easily revisions clinical decision-making and medical education to integrate environment into western health and healthcare. Explore how environmental sustainability overlaps with planetary health in the clinical context, and consider individual and institutional responsibilities to promote sustainable practice through mitigation and adaptation measures.
<p>5:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Room: Plaza A</p>	<p>Keynote Q&A</p>
<p>5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Room: Ballroom Foyer</p>	<p>Reception & Faculty Awards (unaccredited)</p>

Day 02: Northern Constellations 2026

Friday May 01, 2026

<p>7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Room: Ballroom Foyer</p>	<p>Conference Registration & Networking Breakfast (unaccredited)</p>
<p>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Room: Plaza A</p>	<p>Panel Session – Planetary Health Facilitator: Dr. Joseph LeBlanc (NOSM U) Speaker(s): Dr. Elaine Blacklock (NOSM U), Dr. Samantha Green (UofT), Eric Grim (NOMS U), Dr. Alex Aniwati (NOSM U), Bridget King RD (NOSM U)</p>



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<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">Leadership</div> <div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">CME</div> </div> <div style="background-color: #e67e22; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">All Career Levels</div> <div style="background-color: #9b59b6; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">All Roles</div> </div>	<p>Description: Panelists will share insights on environmental advocacy, curriculum innovation, and system-level strategies that support sustainable healthcare practice. Attendees will gain diverse perspectives on how the NOSM U community can collaboratively advance meaningful sustainability initiatives.</p> <p>After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine the relationship between planetary health and human health, with attention to impacts on health outcomes, disease patterns, and health equity in Northern and Indigenous communities in Northern Ontario. 2. Reflect on the responsibilities and opportunities of healthcare providers, learners, and medical educators to engage with planetary health through clinical practice, education, research, and institutional leadership. 3. Identify actionable pathways for faculty, preceptors, and learners to contribute to environmental sustainability, advocacy, curriculum innovation, and policy development at NOSM U. 4. Explore collaborative and community-engaged strategies that bring together the NOSM U community to advance sustainability initiatives and reduce environmental impacts across northern health systems.
<p>9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Room: Ballroom Foyer</p>	<p>Health Break & Poster Sessions (unaccredited)</p>
<p>9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Room: Plaza A</p> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="background-color: #2e8b57; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">Effective Teaching</div> <div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">Leadership</div> </div> <div style="background-color: #e67e22; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">All Career Levels</div> <div style="background-color: #9b59b6; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">All Roles</div> </div>	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p>A1</p> <p>Implementing and Teaching Planetary Health into the Curriculum Speaker(s): Dr. Samantha Green (UofT) Description: This workshop introduces evidence-informed approaches to embedding planetary health across undergraduate and postgraduate curricula. Attendees will explore inclusive teaching practices, community-engaged models, and assessment strategies that support competency development. After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze barriers to integrating planetary health curriculum into medical education. 2. Describe some curriculum initiatives that could incorporate planetary health principles into medical education both at the undergraduate and postgraduate level. 3. Identify teaching strategies that address learner needs related to environmental health. </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">Room: Plaza C</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p>A2</p> <p>Innovations & Impact: NOSM U Learner Presentations Moderator: Dr. Tara Baron (NOSM U) Speaker(s): TBD Description: This session will showcase innovative research and scholarly work by NOSM U Learners. Time for Q&A after each session will foster interactive discussions. After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> </div>



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<p>Leadership</p> <p>All Career Levels</p> <p>All Roles Learners</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enable participants to identify opportunities for collaboration with NOSM U administrators, preceptors, faculty and learners. 2. Apply best practices when integrating research and scholarly activity into teaching and clinical practice. 3. Identify resources and strengthen leadership and team-building skills.
<p>Room: Toronto AB</p> <p>Career Progression</p> <p>Mid-Career 16+ Years</p> <p>Faculty</p>	A3	<p>Choosing Your Next Adventure: Late Career Finance and Retirement Planning</p> <p>Speaker(s): Dr. Mark Soth (McMaster)</p> <p>Description: Participants will engage in structured discussions to strengthen their confidence and knowledge in planning the next phase of their professional and personal journey as they look into retirement planning and late-career financial strategies.</p> <p>After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the components of a diversified retirement plan. 2. Develop a strategy for smoothing the financial transition into retirement. 3. Determine how you can tap the wealth reservoir you've built with tax efficiency.
<p>Room: Montreal AB</p> <p>Leadership EDIA</p> <p>All career levels</p> <p>All Roles</p>	A4	<p>Interprofessional Care: Bridging the Gap Between Clinic and Community</p> <p>Speaker(s): Dr. Ivy Oandasan (U of T)</p> <p>Description: Participants will examine challenges, solutions, and consider strategies that promote continuity of care and educational partnership.</p> <p>After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the opportunities and barriers to interprofessional collaboration in healthcare settings. 2. Develop approaches to enhancing continuity of care across clinical and community settings. 3. Analyze factors that influence effective collaboration between clinic-based and community-based care teams.
<p>Room: Ottawa</p> <p>Career Progression</p> <p>All career levels</p> <p>Faculty</p>	A5	<p>Promotion</p> <p>Speaker(s): Dr. Katie Richardson (NOSM U) & Dr. Anil Joseph (NOSM U)</p> <p>Description: Participants will be guided through the key requirements and criteria for academic promotion at NOSM University, including clinical competence, teaching, administration, and scholarly activity. Attendees will learn how to develop a well-structured promotion portfolio and reflect on their readiness for promotion, with opportunities for Q&A to enhance clarity.</p> <p>After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the key requirements and criteria for promotion at NOSM University, including metrics for clinical competence, teaching contributions, administration and scholarly activities. 2. Develop a portfolio that highlights clinical competency teaching, administration and scholarly contributions, structured to meet academic promotion standards.



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		3. Facilitate participants' reflection on their personal readiness to seek promotion by evaluating their strengths and areas for improvement in relation to promotion criteria.
<p>Room: Windsor</p> <p>EDIA All Career Levels</p> <p>All Roles</p>	A6	<p>How to Teach, Mentor and Model Work-Life Balance Speaker(s): Dr. Bryan Macleod (NOSM U) Description: Attendees will explore strategies for teaching and modeling healthy professional boundaries and resilience within clinical and educational settings. After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify influences on work-life balance for physicians, educators, and learners. 2. Develop teaching practices that foster sustainable workload habits. 3. Analyze approaches to modeling healthy professional boundaries during clinical and academic work.
<p>10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Room: Ballroom Foyer</p>	Health Break & Poster Sessions (unaccredited)	
<p>11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p>	Concurrent Sessions	
<p>Room: Plaza A</p> <p>Effective Teaching EDIA</p> <p>All Career Levels</p> <p>All Roles</p>	B1	<p>Learner Accommodations 2.0 – NOSM U Speaker(s): Dr. Jason Shack (NOSM U), Dr. Sean Sullivan (NOSM U), Jennifer Turcotte (NOSM U) Description: This session will provide practical guidance on navigating the accommodations process and developing individual support plans for learners. The Q&A period will offer the opportunity to explore best practices for fostering accessibility in medical education. After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe accommodations in the learning and clinical environment. 2. Explain the accommodations process for learners at NOSM U. 3. Co-develop and implement a learner accommodation plan.
<p>Room: Plaza C</p> <p>Effective Teaching EDIA</p> <p>All Career Levels</p> <p>All Roles</p>	B2	<p>The Unique Challenges in Recruiting and Training Rural Generalists Speaker(s): Dr. Sarah Newbery (NOSM U) Description: Participants will examine the realities of training and sustaining a rural generalist workforce. The session highlights innovative educational models that support career development and rural identity formation. After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the current rural generalist physician workforce context in rural Northern Ontario. 2. Apply evidence informed strategies for training, recruitment and retention of rural generalists.
<p>Room: Toronto AB</p>	B3	<p>AI Office Uses for More Efficiencies Speaker(s): Dr. Keith Thompson (Western U) Description: Participants will learn about benefits, risks, and best practices for responsible use of generative AI in academic and clinical settings.</p>



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<p>Leadership</p> <p>All Career Levels</p> <p>All Roles</p>		<p>After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify AI tools that enhance administrative efficiency and resource management in clinical settings. 2. Analyze opportunities and risks of generative AI integration in clinical communication and operational processes. 3. Assess privacy, safety, and regulatory considerations associated with clinical use of AI systems.
<p>Room: Montreal AB</p> <p>Effective Teaching Leadership</p> <p>All Career Levels</p> <p>All Roles</p>	B4	<p>Sharing Circle Speaker: Mr. Perry McLeod-Shabogesic (Dokis First Nation) & Dr. Joseph LeBlanc (NOSM U) Description: Participants will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue about traditional healing practices, reflect on personal beliefs and biases, and respectfully engage with Indigenous health perspectives.</p> <p>After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage respectfully in a Sharing Circle with an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper to deepen understanding of traditional healing practices. 2. Reflect on personal beliefs and biases that may impact interactions with Indigenous patients, using insights gained from the Sharing Circle. 3. Evaluate the experiences and outcome of incorporating traditional Indigenous healing practices shared in the Circle, focusing on the benefits to patient-centered care.
<p>Room: Ottawa</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>All Career Levels</p> <p>All Roles</p>	B5	<p>Providing Difficult Feedback to Your Peers Speaker(s): Dr. Hillary Writer (U of Ottawa) Description: This workshop focuses on building the communication skills and confidence needed to deliver constructive, respectful, and bias-aware feedback to colleagues. Participants will learn practical frameworks, explore emotional dynamics, and practice approaches that support psychologically safe team cultures.</p> <p>After attending this session participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop strategies to deliver honest peer to peer feedback while preserving respect and safety. 2. Use active listening skills to facilitate dialogue in charged conversations.
<p>12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Room: Ballroom Foyer</p>	Lunch (unaccredited)	
<p>1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Room: Plaza A</p>	<p>Innovations & Impact (15 minutes each) Description: This session will showcase innovative research and scholarly work by NOSM U learners. Each innovation will be allotted time for Q&A. After attending this session participants will be able to:</p>	



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All Roles		
C1	TITLE Speaker(s): TBD Description: TBD	
C2	TITLE Speaker(s): TBD Description: TBD	
C3	TITLE Speaker(s): TBD Description: TBD	
C4	TITLE Speaker(s): TBD Description: TBD	
C5	TITLE Speaker(s): TBD Description: TBD	
C6	TITLE Speaker(s): TBD Description: TBD	
C7	TITLE Speaker(s): TBD Description: TBD	
C8	TITLE – Learner Innovations Winner Speaker(s): TBD Description: TBD	
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Room: Ballroom Foyer	Health Break & Poster Sessions (unaccredited)	
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Room: Plaza A	Keynote Putting AI to Work in Healthcare Speaker(s): Sonia Sennik and Dr. Laura Rosella Description: Participants will examine approaches for integrating AI tools into educational and clinical training environments while considering issues of digital equity and the evolving role of health professionals in technology-rich systems. <i>After attending this session participants will be able to:</i>	



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<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div style="background-color: #0070c0; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">CME</div> <div style="background-color: #0070c0; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">Leadership</div> <div style="background-color: #e67e22; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">All Career Levels</div> <div style="background-color: #9b59b6; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">All Roles</div> </div>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze why healthcare represents a highly compelling and high-impact domain for artificial intelligence and consider where Canada is positioned globally. 2. Differentiate the layers of AI adoption including examples from the healthcare system. 3. Identify key barriers to the adoption of artificial intelligence in healthcare and consider strategies to address fear, misaligned incentives, and knowledge gaps within the Canadian context. 4. Outline strategies to help overcome the barriers to adopting artificial intelligence in healthcare, using Canadian healthcare as an example.
4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Room: Plaza A	Day 2 Closing and Reflections
4:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Room: Ballroom Foyer	Reception & Learner Awards (unaccredited)

Accreditation Statements:

Northern Constellations Conference only (7.5 hours)

This activity meets the certification criteria of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and has been certified by the Continuing Education and Professional Development Office at NOSM University for up to 7.5 Mainpro+® Certified Activity credits.

This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and approved by the Continuing Education and Professional Development Office at NOSM University. You may claim a maximum of 7.5 hour(s) (credits are automatically calculated).

Northern Constellations Conference & Leadership Forum (12.5 hours)

This activity meets the certification criteria of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and has been certified by the Continuing Education and Professional Development Office at NOSM University for up to 12.5 Mainpro+® Certified Activity credits.

This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and approved by the Continuing Education and Professional Development Office at NOSM University. You may claim a maximum of 12.5 hour(s) (credits are automatically calculated).

Northern Constellations Conference, Leadership Forum & Skills Station (14.0 hours)

This activity meets the certification criteria of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and has been certified by the Continuing Education and Professional Development Office at NOSM University for up to 14 Mainpro+® Certified Activity credits.



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This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and approved by the Continuing Education and Professional Development Office at NOSM University. You may claim a maximum of 14 hour(s) (credits are automatically calculated).

Northern Constellations Conference & Skills Station (9.0 hours)

This activity meets the certification criteria of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and has been certified by the Continuing Education and Professional Development Office at NOSM University for up to 9.0 Mainpro+[®] Certified Activity credits.

This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and approved by the Continuing Education and Professional Development Office at NOSM University. You may claim a maximum of 9.0 hour(s) (credits are automatically calculated).