

Distributed Medical Education
in Ontario: **Program Compendium 2014**

Bringing care
closer to home.

Winchester

M'Chigeeng

Ilderton

Oshawa

Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine

Table of Contents

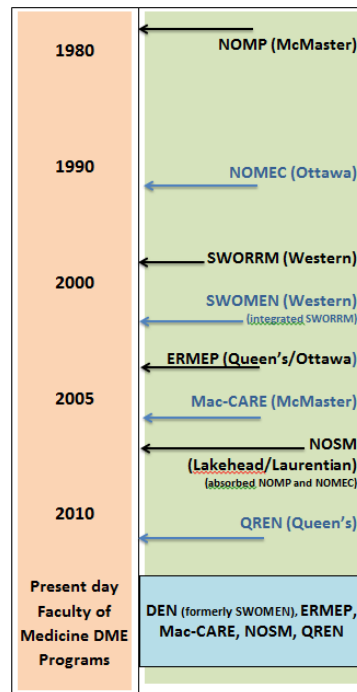
ONTARIO DISTRIBUTED MEDICAL EDUCATION (DME) OVERVIEW	4
DME Program Evolution.....	4
DME Growth and Funding.....	4
DME Success Factors.....	5
 McMASTER UNIVERSITY	
Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine	6
Niagara Regional Campus (NRC).....	6
Waterloo Regional Campus (WRC)	7
Mac-CARE	7
Community Partnership	8
 NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE	9
NOSM's model.....	9
NOSM Learners.....	9
Undergraduate Class Profile.....	10
NOSM MD Graduate Career Directions.....	10
 UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA	
Faculty of Medicine	11
Mission	11
DME Family Medicine Communities.....	11
Eastern Regional Medical Education Program (ERMEDP).....	12
Number of University of Ottawa Rural/Community Undergraduate Rotations 2012-13	13
 QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY	
School of Medicine.....	14
DME History.....	14
DME Programs - ERMEDP and QREN	14
Queen's School of Medicine Regional Sites	16
Number of Rural/Community Undergraduate and Postgraduate Rotations 2013	16
 UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO	
Faculty of Medicine	17
University of Toronto Community-Affiliated Sites	18
Integrated Medical Education	18
Community-Based Faculty Appointments	19
Mississauga Academy of Medicine.....	19
 WESTERN UNIVERSITY	
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry	20
Windsor Program.....	20
Distributed Education Network (DEN)	20
Postgraduate Residency Training	21
DEN Community Undergraduate and Postgraduate Rotations	22
Medical Learning in Community Settings (MedLINCS)	22
Faculty Appointments	22
Collaboration Across Faculties of Medicine	23

ONTARIO DISTRIBUTED MEDICAL EDUCATION (DME) OVERVIEW

DME Program Evolution

In recognition of the positive correlation between DME and physician recruitment to rural and community settings, The number and type of Faculty of Medicine DME programs has grown in Ontario since the 1980s and they have evolved into an integrated network:

Unlike the organizations noted above that are affiliated with specific Faculties of Medicine, the Ontario government also funds (since the mid-1990s) the Rural Ontario Medical Program (ROMP), a not-for-profit organization that was one of the first organizations in Ontario that encouraged and facilitated community physician recruitment and learner placement in south central Ontario.



NOMP = Northwestern Ontario Medical Program

NOMECE = Northeastern Ontario Medical Education Corporation

SWORRM = Southwestern Ontario Rural Regional Medicine Education, Research, and Development Unit

SWOMEN = Southwestern Ontario Medical Education Network

ERMEP = Eastern Region Medical Education Program

Mac-CARE = McMaster Community and Rural Education

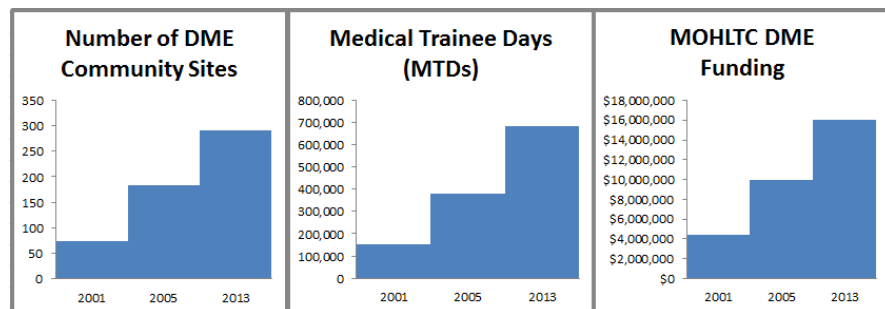
NOSM = Northern Ontario School of Medicine

QREN = Queen's Regional Education Network

DEN = Distributed Education Network

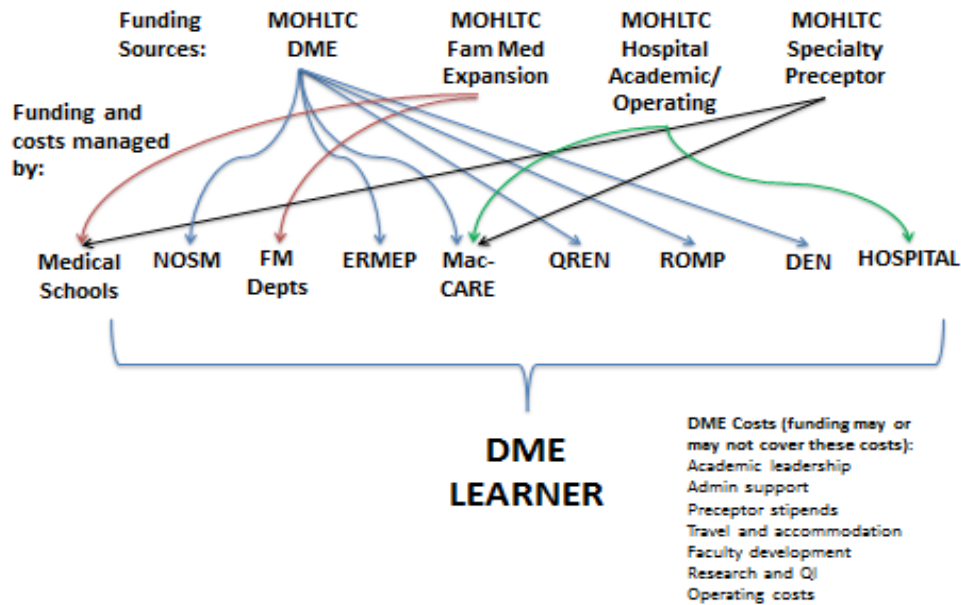
DME Growth and Funding

There has been steady growth in: the number of communities involved in DME; the number of medical trainees in community hospitals; and the amount of funding provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to support DME programs. This funding has stabilized the system and has now reached its steady state.



Source: Information from MOHLTC presentation to COFM, April 2014

With the rapid expansion of DME, its funding has become quite complex and inconsistent across medical schools and DME programs:



There is a need to improve the approach to DME funding in the province. The Faculties' aim with goal of DME is to ensure that learners have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences that will be relevant to their careers and societal needs. Therefore, the funding structure should be adjusted to ensure that learners are not restricted in their DME choices by geographical or administrative limitations.

DME Success Factors

The Faculties of Medicine and DME programs identify the following key factors that enable the success of DME programs:

- Government investment and partnership;
- Engaged communities and community physicians;
- Local program oversight, including academic lead and administrative coordinator;
- Core of family physicians who practice comprehensive family medicine and are willing and able to teach;
- Funding for travel, accommodation and preceptors;
- Specialist clinics/visits in the community and strong referral ties to the academic centre; and
- Leadership and educational infrastructure of the Ontario Faculties of Medicine.

A description of each Faculty of Medicine's regional and community programs and initiatives follows.

McMASTER UNIVERSITY Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine

Regional Campuses:	2	Waterloo, Niagara (provide comprehensive medical education)
Clinical Education Campuses:	3	Grand Erie Six Nations, Halton, Burlington (provide clinical rotations)
Community Family Medicine Sites:	11	Brampton, Collingwood, Fergus, Grimsby, Halton, Kitchener-Waterloo, Mount Forest, Niagara, Owen Sound, Grand Erie Six Nations, Simcoe (provide comprehensive family medicine training)
DME Program:	40 sites	Mac-CARE (McMaster Community and Rural Education), which includes all community teaching within the Regional Campuses, Clinical Education Campuses and Community Family Medicine Sites)

Niagara Regional Campus (NRC)

Niagara Regional Campus is located in the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex at Brock University. Clinical placements occur in seven Niagara Health System sites located in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Welland, Niagara on the Lake, Fort Erie and Port Colborne as well as in Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre in St. Catharines and West Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Grimsby. Clinical placements also occur in out-patient clinics, private offices and Niagara Regional Public Health across the entire Niagara Region.

Niagara has developed the Inter-professional Education (IPE) Wards initiative, which brings nursing, medicine, social work and physiotherapy staff and learners from Brock University, Niagara College and McMaster University together on the medicine ward of Niagara Health System, St. Catharines site where the team meets, works, rounds and functions as an inter-professional team.

NRC in numbers:

- 28 undergraduate medical students, 1 general surgery resident and 10 family medicine residents – including 1 IMG and 2 rural residents (Grimsby) – start training each year at Niagara Regional Campus.
- In 2013/14, NRC was the academic home base for 84 undergraduate medical students, 3 general surgery residents and 20 family medicine residents.
- By 2016, when the program reaches “steady-state”, NRC will train 5 general surgery residents.

Waterloo Regional Campus (WRC)

This campus is located in the University of Waterloo Health Sciences Campus along with the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy and the McMaster primary care academic teaching program at The Centre for Family Medicine (CFFM). CFFM integrates clinical care and teaching in medicine, pharmacy, optometry and inter-professional activities with Wilfrid Laurier students in social work. This progressive, innovative new clinic has been built with the direct intent of providing a milieu of professionals working collaboratively side-by-side.

Clinical training hospital partners include Grand River General Hospital and Grand River Hospital Freeport Site, St. Mary's General Hospital, Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Guelph General Hospital, Homewood Health Centre, St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph, Groves Memorial Hospital (Fergus), Louise Marshall Hospital (Mt Forest), and Palmerston and District (Palmerston).

WRC in numbers:

- 28 medical students, 2 internal medicine residents, 1 pediatrics resident, 2 psychiatry residents and 21 family medicine residents start training each year at the Waterloo Regional Campus.
- In 2013/14, WRC was the academic home base for 84 medical students, 6 internal medicine residents, 2 pediatrics residents, 8 psychiatry residents, and 42 family medicine residents.
- By 2016, when the programs reach "steady-state", WRC will train 9 internal medicine residents and 10 psychiatry residents. The pediatrics program will reach steady-state, with 5 residents, by 2017.

Mac-CARE

Over the last 10 years, McMaster has worked closely with community partners to expand medical education and promote community-based teaching in smaller urban and rural areas to address Ontario's health system needs. The Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine has developed a high-quality, inter-dependent Distributed Medical Education network comprising of numerous hospital and family health team partners, and other affiliated community teaching sites.

Faculty and staff partners work collaboratively, within and across campus areas, to develop and manage clinical placement capacity for all DeGroote School of Medicine medical students and residents as well as visiting learners from other Faculties of Medicine. This involves monitoring, assessing and adjusting capacity year over year in light of accreditation requirements, educational objectives (e.g. quality, content, and IPE), student needs and interests, preceptor and hospital resources, regional health care needs, and joint ministry-COFM planning activities.

The Mac-CARE program works with campus and hospital partners to support core and elective clinical placements throughout the McMaster network, pays community preceptors for teaching activity, and provides travel and accommodation funding to learners for eligible rotations.

The richness of the community experience is a clear benefit to the learners, as they train in the places where they may choose to stay, or apply their acquired skill sets to practise in similar small urban and rural communities.

Over 900 community preceptors are now McMaster faculty who participate in training medical students and residents supported by Mac-CARE. In 2013/14, Mac-CARE funded 2,338 training months in these communities.

Community Partnership

Significant municipal and private donations from local communities have helped build regional and community campuses, including \$750,000 in Brantford, \$15 million in Kitchener-Waterloo and \$3 million in Halton. The development of the regional and clinical education campuses and family medicine teaching sites has created jobs, encouraged local economic growth and fostered regional pride. These investments help communities train and recruit new physicians, drive quality improvement and research with the goal to improved patient care.

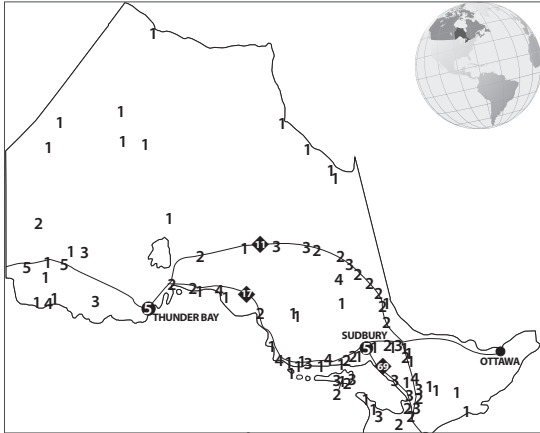


NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is a socially accountable medical school for Northern Ontario. NOSM serves as the Faculty of Medicine for Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and for Laurentian University in Sudbury, with over 90 teaching and research sites across Northern Ontario. Learning is supported by over 1,300 faculty members.



NOSM's Model



NOSM's model is comprised of partnerships and collaborations with individuals, communities and organizations (including Aboriginal and Francophone), hospitals and health services, physicians and other health professionals, universities and colleges, information communication technology organizations and other faculties of medicine. These partners and collaborators are working together to advance the vision of equitable, responsive health care for all Northern

Ontarians—in short, they are working together to achieve the NOSM vision of *Innovative Education and Research for a Healthier North*. NOSM is very connected with communities across the North and, as much as possible, is able to match learners with the health human resource needs of the communities. NOSM has a range of governance and consultative processes, from board composition, specific reference groups and periodic broad community gatherings, as mechanisms to hold the medical school accountable to the priority concerns of the communities served.

Northern Ontario
School of Medicine

École de médecine
du Nord de l'Ontario

ᐅ·ᐅᐅᐅ· ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ
ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ· ᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ

NOSM Learners

NOSM Undergraduate Learners 2014-15	
Medical Students Total	256
NOSM Postgraduate Learners 2014-15	
Anesthesia	4
Family Medicine	87
Family Medicine - Anesthesia	2
Family Medicine - Emergency Medicine	9
Family Medicine - Enhanced Skills	5
General Surgery	10
Internal Medicine	26
Orthopedic Surgery	9
Pediatrics	13
Psychiatry	5
Public Health & Preventative Medicine	7
Postgraduate Total	177

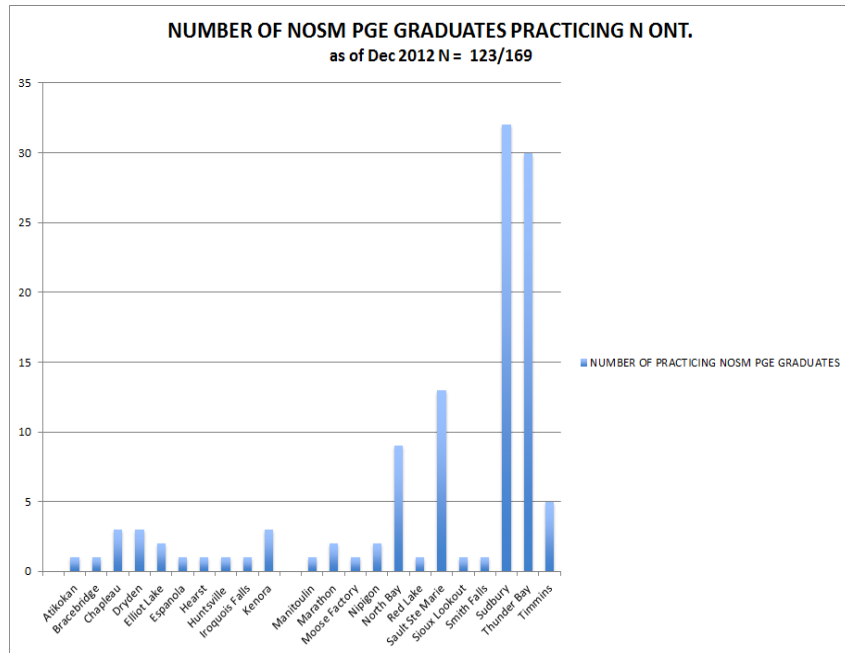
Undergraduate Class Profile

NOSM's MD class has 91% of its learners from Northern Ontario, including 7% Aboriginal and 22% Francophone medical students. Of its graduates who go on to complete postgraduate residency training with NOSM, 94% are practising physicians within communities in Northern Ontario, including 33% in small remote and rural communities.

NOSM MD Graduate Career Directions

- 62% go into family medicine, mostly rural
- 33% go into general specialties
- 5% go into sub-specialties
- 37% do their postgraduate residency with NOSM

NOSM graduates practise throughout Northern Ontario



UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA Faculty of Medicine



uOttawa

DME Program:	39 sites	ERMEP (Eastern Region Medical Education Program)
Community Family Medicine Sites:	2	Pembroke, Winchester (provide comprehensive family medicine training)
Undergraduate Community Week:		All first year medical students experience a typical week in a smaller community, shadowing a physician and experiencing some of the highlights of rural life
Mandatory Rural/Community Clerkship Rotations:		All medical students must complete a rural or community rotation of four consecutive weeks during either third year mandatory rotations or fourth year rural electives

Mission

The mission statement of the Ottawa University Faculty of Medicine includes support of rural and small Northern and Eastern Ontario communities - areas that have struggled to recruit physicians and maintain high quality health outcomes.

The Ottawa DME Office helps achieve the Faculty's mission by creating and supporting local medical education programs. It strives to understand the needs of the community medical preceptors and to support them through Continuing Medical Education and Faculty Development.

The DME program gives students the opportunity to understand and appreciate the needs and charms of rural communities and opens their minds to a future in small community and rural medicine. All first year medical students participate in Community Week and mandatory rural/community rotations must be completed during clinical clerkship.

DME Family Medicine Communities

DME is also promoted at the postgraduate level, particularly in family medicine where over 22 communities are involved in educating family physicians.

Family Medicine Sites



Eastern Regional Medical Education Program (ERMEP)

ERMEP facilitates the majority of University of Ottawa Community Week and clerkship DME rotations. The time that medical learners spend in rural and regional practice is often the highlight of their training. It is an intense, exhilarating and demanding period of rapid professional and personal growth which appeals to each and every learner. Education in rural and regional areas is also integral to rural recruitment. Training in these communities allows learners to make an informed decision about opportunities beyond the academic centres.

"Fantastic preceptor and setting with lots of learning opportunities available. Excellent environment for learning...felt welcome and good variety of patients. Fantastic preceptor and role model. Did an excellent job easing me into the rotation and helping me improve my interview skills in particular." Third year psychiatry clerk, University of Ottawa

When ERMEP first started in 2002, 8 learners were placed, with another 30 informal rotations. Last year ERMEP had 450 rotations. DME makes learning fun. It allows students to exercise and apply their knowledge, have more patient contact and more responsibility. Communities like meeting new students and patients like the extra time they spend with them. DME is a stimulus for change, helping community hospitals and clinics stay at the forefront of health care delivery.

Number of University of Ottawa Rural/Community Undergraduate Rotations 2012-13

SITE	COMMUNITY WEEK	UNDERGRAD ELECTIVE ROTATIONS	UNDERGRADUATE CORE ROTATIONS
<i>Core Sites with Site Director and Administrative Assistant</i>			
Cornwall		8	22
Hawkesbury		9	2
Pembroke		10	16
Queensway Carleton		4	13
Winchester		22	9
<i>Other Sites and Programs</i>			
Brockville			15
CNFS			6
Cobourg			7
ERMEP	127		50
Fergus			3
Guelph			8
Moose Factory (starting in 2013-14)			
NOSM	12		7
Orillia			3
Other special requests	12		
ROMP	15		9
Shawville			3
Total	166	53	173





QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY School of Medicine

DME Programs:	18+ sites	ERMEP (Eastern Regional Medical Education Program) QREN (Queen's Regional Education Network) administered by the Queen's Regional Education Office
Community Family Medicine Sites:	3	Belleville, Peterborough, Oshawa (provide comprehensive family medicine training)
Undergraduate Community Week:		100 first year medical students participate in Community Week, a rural week arranged by the Department of Family Medicine through ROMP and ERMEP
Integrated Clerkship Rotations:		Perth, Picton (QHC), Brockville/Prescott (18 clerks per year complete a community-based, longitudinal core psychiatry, pediatric and family medicine rotation)
Other Undergraduate DME:		Queen's DME also provides pre-clerk observerships, summer research studentships and electives

DME History

Queen's University's tradition of Distributed Medical Education began many years ago. In 1965, an agreement was established between Queen's University and the Moose Factory Hospital to provide medical services in the James Bay lowlands. This led to the development of predictable medical care in the region and links to the tertiary care facilities in Kingston. This agreement provided an opportunity for students and residents from Queen's University to be educated and practice medicine in a remote and underserved area of Ontario.

Soon afterwards, the Department of Family Medicine, recognizing the value of community based education, developed opportunities for their residents to work and learn in community hospitals.

Regional education or DME has grown steadily since that time. Family medicine and specialty training programs have increasingly recognized the value of DME in the process of training highly competent and well-rounded physicians.

DME Programs - ERMEP and QREN

Over time, a model of education that began in response to both societal and educational needs led to the formation of a network of regional training sites and committed physician educators that facilitated the successful expansion of the undergraduate and postgraduate training programs at Queen's.

The Eastern Regional Medical Education Program (ERMEP) facilitates the Queen's University Community Week, undergraduate longitudinal DME rotations and family medicine rotations.

QREN (Queen's Regional Education Network) was established in 2011 to support postgraduate and undergraduate regional rotations in Southeastern Ontario, complementing the efforts of ERMEP and the Department of Family Medicine.

The collegial atmosphere of the Queen's medical school and the Kingston based residency programs has been key in recruiting and retaining the network of community faculty required for a successful DME program. Key educational leaders at community teaching sites maintain strong links with their Kingston based counterparts and are instrumental in maintaining the enthusiasm and dedication required among their community colleagues. OTN-based and more recently web-based videoconferencing provides much of the formal educational material to the community rotations, and keeps the distributed learners in touch with their peers in Kingston and around the network.

Dr. Phillip Wattam, Assistant Dean, Distributed Medical Education, indicates that "with DME, the students and residents have more respect for the quality of medicine in the community. DME provides a degree of fulfillment for preceptors – it keeps them sharper, links them into the university centre, creates contacts for consult referrals, and provides for continuing medical education and professional development."

Dr. McLean, Medical Director of ERMEP notes that "DME is beneficial to patient care – through our link with medical education we now have a pediatric outreach clinic in Perth and are linked by telemedicine to a psychiatrist in Kingston for complex mental health issues."

A broad spectrum of clinical experiences is now available in our community sites.

High quality primary care exposure is available in traditional office settings in many communities as well as in multi-disciplinary and collaborative family health teams across the southeast LHIN.

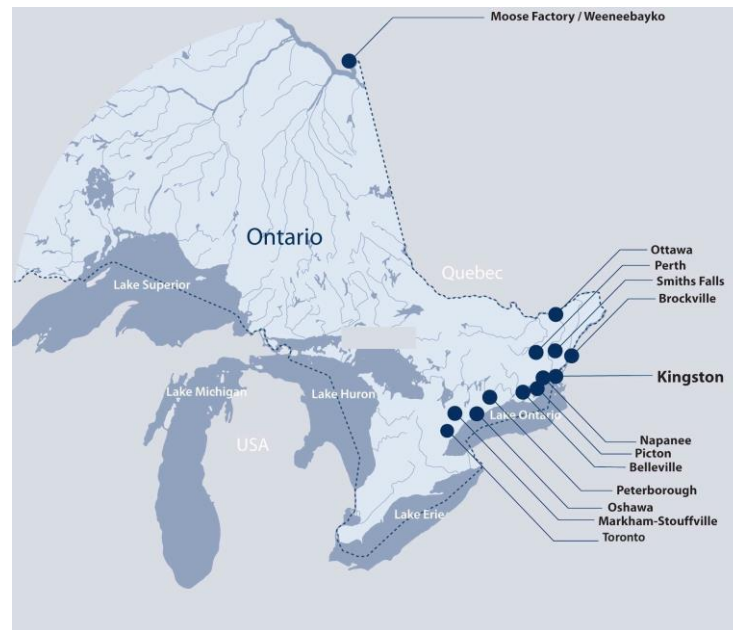
Training in Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada specialty programs is offered in settings that provide exposure to different models of practice and allow the trainee to become excited by the challenges and rewards of community medical practice.

Spending time with a solo specialty practitioner in a preceptor model in Belleville, or experiencing interdisciplinary care in a busy intensive care unit at Lakeridge Health in Oshawa, provide very different experiences and highlight the diversity and excitement of community practice. Such exposure demonstrates the quality and diversity of medical practice outside of the AHSC.

The highly successful integrated clerkship is available in Perth-Smiths Falls, Picton and Brockville-Prescott. This model allows undergraduate medical students (clerks) to spend 18 continuous weeks in a family practice setting and concurrently learn specialty medicine through exposure to specialty clinics. Students become part of the practice community, develop clinical maturity and confidence and have the opportunity to experience the care of "real patients" in "real clinical settings".

Queen's School of Medicine Regional Sites

(Note: family medicine also partners with other sites)



Number of Rural/Community Undergraduate and Postgraduate Rotations 2013

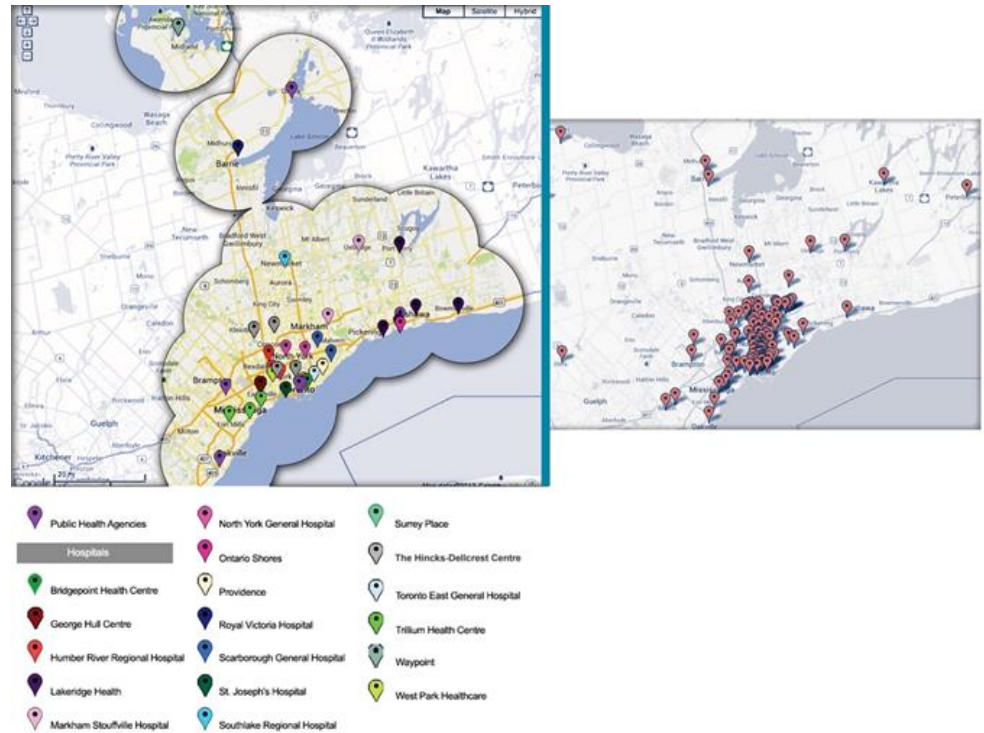
SITE	# LEARNERS Core Rotations 2013	# MONTHS Core Rotations 2013	# PRECEPTORS
Brockville	90	98	32
Humber (2014-15)	68	72	49
Lakeridge	190	409	108
Markham	21	29	20
Ottawa	56	70	AHSC
Perth	9	23	12
Peterborough	75	209	106
Quinte	120	342	123
Toronto	54	72	AHSC
Total	683	1324	450

Note: Family medicine rotations not included.



Regional Campus:	1	Mississauga (provides comprehensive medical education)
Community-based Hospitals:	19	Bridgepoint Health, George Hull Centre for Children and Families, Hincks Dellcrest Centre, Humber River Regional Hospital, Lakeridge Health Network, Markham-Stouffville Hospital, North York General Hospital, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, Providence Healthcare, The Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, The Scarborough Hospital, Southlake Regional Health Centre, St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, St. Joseph's Health Centre, Surrey Place Centre, Toronto East General Hospital, Trillium Health Partners, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, West Park Healthcare Centre
Independent Community-based Sites:	175+	Includes, Kensington Eye Institute, community access centres, independent doctor's offices, and public health agencies
Community-based Family Medicine Sites:	9	Markham-Stouffville Hospital, North York General Hospital, The Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, The Scarborough Hospital, Southlake Regional Health Centre, St. Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto East General Hospital, Trillium Health Partners (2) (provide comprehensive family medicine training)
Rural Family Medicine Sites:	4	Midland, Orangeville, Orillia, Port Perry (provide second year family medicine training)

University of Toronto Community-Affiliated Sites



These sites provided 124,019 learner days in 2012-13, including 26,184 clerk days and 97,835 resident days.

Integrated Medical Education

Integrated medical education (IME) represents a project of transformational change. IME changes the way that our learners, full and community-affiliated hospitals, faculty members and staff think about – and engage with – the delivery of medical education at the University of Toronto across the continuum and sites. The goals of the U of T IME program are to:

- Establish a sustainable framework for integrated medical education that puts the university's programs at the forefront of producing health care professionals who meet the needs of society.
- Expand MD teaching and learning to set new standards for accreditation, teaching capacity and delivery of patient centered, inter-professional, evidence based health care, in urban, suburban and community settings.
- Enhance learners' access to clinical teaching for all programs along the continuum of medical education.
- Align the Clinical Departments' education programs with the Mission and Vision of the Faculty of Medicine, while enabling our clinical adjunct and part-time faculty to benefit from the resources, academic excellence and innovation of the university.
- Develop an accountability framework to support integrated MD education which flows with the learner and teacher, and is across our programs rather than across sites.

- Develop a sustainable financial plan that funds programs and teachers according to societal needs and learners' requirements; and monitors resources utilization for accountability and quality improvement.

Community-Based Faculty Appointments

Department	June 2010	June 2013	Growth 2010 to 2013
Anesthesia	55	120	118%
Family Medicine	230	803	249%
Lab Med & Pathobiology	38	62	63%
Medical Imaging	3	42	1,300%
Medicine	156	348	123%
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	43	89	107%
Ophthalmology**	n/a	33	n/a
Otolaryngology	14	40	186%
Paediatrics**	n/a	185	n/a
Psychiatry	156	222	42%
Radiation Oncology	1	15	1,400%
Surgery	78	179	129%
Total	774	2,138	176%

**n/a =data not available*

The opening of the Mississauga Academy of Medicine and a comprehensive affiliation with Trillium Health Partners, together with the introduction of community preceptor payments, has resulted in unprecedented growth in the number of community-based appointments at U of T. These represent not just numbers, but the engagement of the 19 community affiliates in the delivery of education integrated with the Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network (TAHSN) sites. See the IME KPI reports at <http://oime.utoronto.ca/Assets/Root+Digital+Assets/KPI/KPI+documents/KPIs+Report.pdf>.

Mississauga Academy of Medicine

The Mississauga Academy of Medicine (MAM) admits 54 students each year and is located in the new Terrence Donnelly Health Sciences Complex. The Academy provides state-of-the-art classrooms, seminar rooms, computer facilities, learning spaces and laboratories. A fully-equipped student lounge and a unique outdoor terrace provide students with contemporary and comfortable spaces to socialize and relax. Advanced videoconferencing and other technologies connect students across multiple teaching sites, allowing students to share lectures and learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

MAM links Peel region's vibrant community health-care network with excellence in teaching and research. The Academy partners with Trillium Health Partners (THP) to offer students clinical experiences in a wide range of health-care settings. THP is one of Canada's largest academically-affiliated hospitals, providing care to more than one million residents in Mississauga, southwest Toronto and the surrounding areas. In addition to providing clerkship for 54 medical clerks each year, THP provides training for 36 family medicine residents, as well as core and elective specialty rotations.

WESTERN UNIVERSITY Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

Regional Campus:	1	Windsor (provides comprehensive medical education)
Community Family Medicine Sites:	7	Chatham-Kent, Goderich, Hanover, London Regional, Petrolia, Stratford, Windsor (provide comprehensive family medicine training)
MedLINCS		Chatham, Leamington, Mount Elgin, Owen Sound, Sarnia, Seaforth, Walkerton (medical students help run a week-long health care exploration program to grade 10 and 11 high school students)
Other Undergraduate DEN:		Community observerships and undergraduate elective opportunities include: discovery week, pre-clerkship summer electives (Year 1 & 2), MedLINCS pre-clerkship elective, summer research electives, clerkship rotations (Year 3), clinical electives and visiting student electives program
DME Program:	60 sites	Distributed Education Network (DEN)

Windsor Program

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University began offering clerkship rotations in Windsor in 2002. Since 2008, Western's complete four year undergraduate medical education program has been provided in Windsor; training is mainly based at the University of Windsor's Dr. Murray O'Neil Medical Education Centre, with clinical experiences provided at Windsor Regional Hospital, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare and at a variety of other sites through the Distributed Education Network (DEN). From its initial cohort of 24 students per year, the Windsor program has grown to 38 students annually; to date, 91 of 92 Windsor Program graduates have matched in the first round of CaRMS.

As the number of medical learners has grown in Windsor, so too have the number of medical educators/preceptors. Currently, there are approximately 325 faculty members at the Windsor Program, the vast majority with adjunct faculty status. Highlighting the program's success, some Windsor Program graduates are now teaching the medical students who are following in their footsteps.

Distributed Education Network (DEN)

Distributed Education Network (DEN) is a partnership of over 60 communities located throughout Southwestern Ontario that offer rural and regional education and training opportunities to undergraduate and postgraduate learners. A strategic benefit of high quality community rotations is that it offers learners the exposure to various Southwestern Ontario communities, their physicians, healthcare teams and their practice models.

Postgraduate Residency Training

Family medicine residency training is offered in a number of communities across the DEN region, including Windsor, Chatham, Stratford, Petrolia, Hanover, Goderich, and regional sites near London such as Mount Brydges and Ilderton. Selected Family Medicine-Enhanced Skills positions (PGY-3) are also offered in Windsor and other communities.

Growing numbers of residents in Royal College-accredited specialty training programs also undertake portions of their training in DEN sites. In 2013-2014, 116 residents participated in 160 training blocks in the DEN region, a 22.5% increase over the previous year. In 2015, a Windsor-based stream of Schulich's psychiatry residency will accept its first two trainees.

POSTGRADUATE ROTATION LOCATIONS

	Chatham	Goderich	Leamington	Owen Sound	Sarnia	St. Thomas	Stratford	Tillsonburg	Windsor	Woodstock
Anesthesia	✓					✓	✓		✓	
Emergency Medicine	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
General Surgery	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internal Medicine	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ob/Gyn	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Paediatrics	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	
Psychiatry	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Radiology	✓						✓		✓	

Other specialty rotations and subspecialty rotations are available, such as Orthopedic Surgery, Pathology, Respiriology, Plastic Surgery, Oncology, and ENT. There are many more – please feel free to inquire.

Family Medicine rotations are widely offered also in many smaller rural centres through the Department of Family Medicine. SWOMEN-funded PGY3 rotations are available in Geriatrics, Palliative Care, Hospitalist, etc.



Contact: Charlotte Sikatori, Southwestern Ontario Medical Education Network (SWOMEN)
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University
e. charlotte.sikator@schulich.uwo.ca – t. 519.858.5152 x. 22146 or 1.877.237.9676



DEN Community Undergraduate and Postgraduate Rotations Based on MOHLTC fiscal year – April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014

	# of Trainees	# of Months	# of Preceptors
Chatham	32	46	43
Goderich	3	5	7
Hanover	1	2	8
Listowel	2	4	5
Muncey	1	1	1
Owen Sound	8	14.5	19
Petrolia	1	1	5
Sarnia	12	13	36
Stratford	55	65.75	42
Strathroy	13	17	14
St. Thomas	39	47.5	45
Thorndale	1	1	1
Tillsonburg	1	1	3
Woodstock	19	23.5	13
Zurich	1	1	2
Total	189	243.25	244

Note: Family medicine rotations not included.

Medical Learning in Community Settings (MedLINCS)

The MedLINCS program reflects the medical school's commitment to building a continuum of medical and health care learners in partnership with communities in Southwestern Ontario. By 2014, 152 medical students and 1,200 high school students had participated in the program. In collaboration with the Huronia Aboriginal Management Board, an Aboriginal MedLINCS elective was developed in 2014.

Faculty Appointments

Schulich has recruited more than 400 faculty appointed preceptors across its DEN network. Faculty are practicing family doctors and specialists, who have community practices in addition to strong academic medical interests. They provide high caliber teaching and are the backbone of the network.

Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry appointed faculty have access to:

- Extensive online medical and e-journal resources from the Allyn & Betty Taylor Library at Western with comprehensive training on access to these resources
- A wide range of faculty development seminars provided in London and throughout Southwestern Ontario communities by Continuing Professional Development
- Annual opportunity to participate in our Faculty Development Teaching Retreat, and
- Access to mini fellowship funding to support education.

Collaboration Across Faculties of Medicine

A DME:COFM agreement stipulates mutual recognition of faculty by all Ontario Faculties of Medicine. As such, a pilot project was initiated between Western and McMaster University in 2014 whereby preceptors and student housing would be shared by the two medical schools for learners placed in Woodstock General Hospital.

Distributed Medical Education
in Ontario: **Program Compendium**