



# Rural Ontario Medical Program

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## The ROMP Newsletter

Summer 2006

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### Upcoming Events

Aug 13-16	ASPR - Minneapolis
Aug 21-22	Psychiatry Resident's Conference - Penetanguishene
Sep 17-21	2006 Health Professionals Recruitment Tour
Sep 25-26	TORC Regionalization & Rural Health Conference
Oct 15-17	Canadian Society of Telehealth Conference
Oct 22-25	Canadian Association of Radiologists' Conference
Oct 30-Nov 5	Family Doctor Week
Nov 2-4	Family Medicine Forum

## Rural Medicine Week 2006

Success! Triumph! Over the top! How ever you choose to look at it Rural Medicine Week (RMW) 2006 was a great success for both the communities and the medical students.

RMW is a great opportunity for any community to showcase their medical community, their technology and other community assets to a small self selected group of 1st and 2nd year medical students. Students were hosted in seven communities throughout south central Ontario for the period of June 5 to 9, 2006. Each community stepped up to the plate and welcomed the students with open arms.

With one on one clinical time the students are paraded around their chosen towns and shown all the jewels rural Ontario

has to offer. Events ranged from farm tours, boat tours and charity galas. They were welcomed with BBQ's and picnics. Everyone was showered with gift bags and some were even sent on scavenger hunts in order to become better acquainted with the community that has sponsored the event. They left with a feeling they would always be welcome to return, and a desire to hurry back with friends and family in tow.

Communities that hosted RMW 2006 include; Orillia, Orangeville, Midland, Campbellford, Simcoe, Fort Erie/Port Colborne and Cambridge. Peterborough and Lindsay hosted RMW in May and Mount Forest will host McMaster students in July.

On behalf of ROMP, thank you to all the communities that welcomed the students into their hospitals and homes. ❤️



Touring Christian Island during Midland's Rural Medicine Week



## Summer Is Here: Ontario's Medical Students Go Rural

Over one hundred of Ontario's pre-clerks (1st and 2nd year medical students) applied to ROMP this year looking for summer rotations in the ROMP region. The rotations are unfunded for both the learner and the preceptor and are often the first clinical experience for many of these learners.

This summer, ROMP was able to place over 90 first and second year students with preceptors in our area. This is quite a feat, juggling the many learners wanting a placement during a condensed time period with the holiday schedules of physicians and office staff.

ROMP would like to take this opportunity to thank all the preceptors who are taking on pre-clerkship learners this summer! ROMP preceptors are what make our program work and we can't thank you enough for taking the time to teach. ❤️

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## ROMP 2006 Spring Workshop – Fern Resort, Orillia

Like most workshops, there were the usual early morning sessions, packed days of networking and many moments of reasonable debate. This year's 6th Annual Spring Workshop also included spectacular lakeside views, visits to local attractions and most importantly, a fabulous line up of interesting presentations and sessions.

May 9th marked the first day of the three day workshop, which traditionally begins with the University and Education Coordinators Day. This year saw the largest group of coordinators yet, with 34 attendees coming from communities as well as administrators from Ontario's medical schools. This day is put together so people from across the region can connect to discuss issues and share experiences with university representatives regarding medical student, clerk and resident rotations.

The Annual Faculty Development Workshop took place on day two and provided ROMP preceptors with the opportunity to network, develop new ideas and learn best practices from others. There were a number of interesting sessions including DME updates, interactive breakout sessions and a presentation on the 'Problem Learner.' Veteran ROMP preceptors Dr. Jeff Remington (Port Colborne) and Dr. Gary Smith (Orillia) also shared their teaching experiences, tips and tricks in their presentations entitled 'Balancing it All'. It is no surprise that their ability to connect with and mentor learners have had positive impacts on their communities. In fact, five of Dr. Remington's former trainees have returned to work in the Niagara region, including Dr. Kamatovic who Dr. Remington actually stood up for as best man. Wow, talk about preceptor - learner bonding! Overall, it was a packed agenda that according to Dr. Gene Dagnone rivaled that of the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) Conference.



Recruiters networking



Linda Marsh and Sue Mills of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

The third day of the conference finished up with the Recruitment and Retention Workshop. The morning began with a LHIN panel session that included Vic Sahai and Jill Tettmann from North Simcoe Muskoka and Sandra Hanmer from Waterloo Wellington. The session provided valuable information and a further understanding about the role of the LHIN in our communities. We were also honoured to have Dr. Joshua Tepper, (MOHLTC Assistant Deputy Minister) present an outline on the most recent health human resource strategies. Other MOHLTC representatives Linda Marsh and Sue Mills provided an update on the Underserved Area Program (UAP).

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) were a hot topic for the day as well. Kelly Kay (MOHLTC) discussed the IMG Ontario Program, Dr. Maureen Gottesman (UofT) shared a wealth of knowledge about community integration of IMGs and Carol Shapiro (CPSO) spoke to the Ready Practice Assessment Project. Provincial recruiter, Scarlet Hann joined us to share Newfoundland's approach to physician recruitment which was then followed by a description of strategies used by the Ontario Provincial Police given by Tom Mungham. PAIRO representatives Susan Adair and Charlotte Kirby energized the audience with their interactive presentation on the Resident Placement Program (RPP) and the upcoming Recruitment Tour. Finally, best practices for Rural Medicine Week were shared by Frances Roesch (Brantford), while Alison Braun showcased the Economic Development Council video 'Promoting Careers in Community Healthcare'.

With all the excellent speakers and topics, there was opportunity for a networking lunch in addition to fruitful discussion time as well as a question and answer period! Even though the storm had set in and we were left without power; a special thanks to the Fern Resort for accommodating us with a backup generator to power our speaker's audio visual presentations!

"Overall, I learned a lot and it gave me the information and ability to apply it to my daily work," said Robyn Innis, a private recruiter from Caledon East. It was Innis' first time attending the workshop. "But most of all, it gave me the drive to support myself and really give me the push to engage the town."

"It's actually my favourite workshop to go to because it applies to everything that I do...it answers all the burning questions," said Denise Ellis, Coordinator of Medical Affairs from Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay. "The opportunity to hear other people's stories to learn about their journey to get where they are is so interesting and important to my job. It helps me to understand and empathize where that person is coming from. It's just a fabulous time to network with fellow peers, which is really the most important part."

To get information or copies of presentations from the 2006 Spring Workshop please contact ROMP. Stay tuned for your 'save the date' announcement for the date and location of the 2007 ROMP Spring Workshop. ❤️

**Thank you to our sponsors for their continued support!**



## ANNUAL ROMP AWARDS

Six ROMP preceptors and one Education Coordinator were honoured for their dedication to medical education and the continued support of community medicine at the Rural Ontario Medical Program (ROMP) Annual Workshop on May 10, 2006.

Physician recipients were chosen from the hundreds of preceptors who regularly teach medical students, clerks and residents throughout the communities of South Central Ontario. In collaboration with ROMP, community representatives, coordinators and preceptors work toward ensuring the future of health care in our region. Congratulations to the following:

**New Preceptor of the Year:** Dr. Robert Doherty from Newmarket, ON

**Undergraduate Family Medicine Preceptors of the Year:** Dr. Deborah Zeni and Dr. Paul Zeni from Georgetown, ON

**Undergraduate Specialty Medicine Preceptor of the Year:** Dr Gordon Hitchcock, in Emergency Medicine from Simcoe, ON

**Postgraduate Family Medicine Preceptor of the Year:** Dr. James Lane from Collingwood, ON

**Postgraduate Specialty Medicine Preceptor of the Year:** Dr. Stephen Bates, in Obstetrics and Gynecology from Brantford, ON

**Educational Coordinator of the Year:** Frances Roesch from Brantford, ON

These individuals dedicate their personal time to teach medical students or residents who may wish to one day practice in smaller, rural or underserved communities in South Central Ontario. 🍷



*Dr. Gordon Hitchcock receives his award for Undergraduate Specialty Medicine Preceptor of the Year*



*Dr. Robert Doherty receives his award at a reception attended by East Gwillimbury Councilors and ROMP*



*Frances Roesch earns Educational Coordinator of the Year.*

## PAIRO ANNUAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS RECRUITMENT TOUR – SEP 17 – 21, 2006

The annual fall Health Professionals Recruitment Tour (HPRT) will be held from September 17-21 and will be visiting five of Ontario's medical academic centres beginning in Ottawa and traveling to Kingston, Hamilton, London and ending in Toronto.

The HPRT is a great opportunity for people to network, share ideas and make connections with over 90 communities and over 1000 medical students, residents and other health care professionals. Communities who registered should have received their confirmation packages, including a CD entitled "Successful Recruiting: The Health Professionals Recruitment Tour and Beyond". If you have any questions concerning the Tour, please contact Susan Adair (PAIRO) at 1-877-979-1183. Visit [www.pairo.org](http://www.pairo.org) for a copy of Tour News, the official newsletter of the HPRT, which has useful tips and information to make this the best tour ever. 🍷

## 2006 ROMP Rural Resident Retreat

This March, twenty medical students and residents from the Universities of Toronto, McMaster and Queen's arrived in Collingwood for the 3rd annual Resident Retreat. The event was held over two days and incorporated opportunities for educational sessions and community integration in a rural community. The retreat is an example of how community members, organizations, physicians and students work together to maintain the future of health care.

"Build it and they will come," said Dr. Brenda Prebble, McMaster Rural Stream resident (PGY1), about the retreat this past winter. "Rural trainees are separated from schools and other students who only train at their academic centre. We work a lot so it's nice to have opportunities like this to come together to share and compare," said Dr. Prebble.



*Skiing at Blue Mountain Resorts*



*Dr. Ohrling demonstrates with the new ultrasound machine*

The retreat kicked off with skiing at Blue Mountain and an evening social in the Blue Mountain Village at Skool Bar and Grill. Day two began with a Wednesday morning ritual for Collingwood doctors, "Doc Hockey" at the Eddie Bush Memorial Arena at 7:30 a.m. Then it was off to the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital for breakfast in the library and the educational portion of the retreat.

Sessions included hands-on learning with ultrasound, a locum talk via video conference and presentations on nerve blocks, skin cancer and urgent eye care. "It was an excellent review of things I should know but always forget!" said one resident.

"It was really great for networking," said Dr. Annie Lu, a McMaster Resident. "If other residents have the opportunity and the time, it's definitely worth their while to do it at least once during their residency."

A special thanks goes out to presenters Dr. Tim Hillson (Orillia), Dr. Karishma Mehta (Moose Factory), Dr. Ohrling (Collingwood) and Dr. Jesse Guscott (McMaster Rural Stream alumni). For more information on how to hold a Resident Retreat, contact ROMP. ❤️

## Alliston hosts U of T students for a Rural Clinical Skills Day

Ten first year University of Toronto medical students loaded onto a bus on Wednesday June 21 and headed to Alliston for a day packed full of clinical and community experiences. This Rural Skills Day was part of a Family Medicine Observership week that U of T puts on to promote family medicine to first year medical students. This is the second year the program has visited Alliston for such an event and has become quite successful!

The participating first year students use this opportunity to learn and practice clinical skills with local physicians and to explore the community. The clinical skill sessions included OR scrub-in and observation, intubation techniques, examining x-ray films in Diagnostic Imaging, suturing, and IV initiation. Students were given a brief history of the area at Museum on the Boyne and were able to explore Jebb Farms and the Banting Homestead. Highlights of the day included the presentation by Dr. Moreau about her role as a Family Physician and Coroner in a rural community, a discussion about Midwives and their role in the maternity ward and a presentation about infection control.

This educational and exciting day would not have been possible without the hard work of Cathie MacDonald, Kate Mooij, the Alliston Recruitment and Retention committee, local physicians, volunteers and community members.

Congratulations on another successful Rural Skills Day! ❤️



*U of T student scrubs in for an OR observation*

## MOHLTC NEWS

The McGuinty government is investing \$20.4 million towards education and support for health care professionals according to a news release on June 14.

Of the total investment, \$14.4 million will be spent on providing support for mentorship and coaching. This will bring nurses, doctors and allied health professionals together in teams to provide more comprehensive care. Mentorship eligibility is open to nurses, physicians, medical laboratory technologists, medical radiation technologists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

This is part of the 'Team Approach' strategy the government is focusing on which builds upon other goals like the creation of 150 Family Health Teams in 112 communities and more than doubling the access and numbers of international medical graduates (IMGs) this past year from 90 to 200. The number of medical licenses reached 2747 in 2005 almost doubling the number of medical licenses in Ontario, making it the highest number in the last 20 years. Of these, 39 per cent of them went to IMGs.

Among this investment is another 104 new spaces for medical training. There will be four new satellite campuses to teach undergraduate medicine in Ontario. This expansion will provide the opportunity for students to study closer to home because, according to the ministry, studies have shown that medical students who come from and train in smaller urban centers are more likely to practice in those communities. ❤️

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
<b>McMaster</b> <i>(Waterloo Region &amp; St. Catharines)</i>	10	0	12	16
<b>Ottawa</b>	16	0	0	4
<b>Queen's</b>	0	0	0	6
<b>Toronto</b> <i>(Mississauga)</i>	6	14	6	0
<b>Western</b> <i>(Windsor)</i>	0	6	8	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

*Planned allocation of first-year medical training spaces in Ontario*

## Nine More Family Health Teams!

Congratulations to the following communities who have recently been awarded a Family Health Team.

For more information on how your community can be involved please visit the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care online at [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca) or contact ROMP.



**Rural Ontario Medical Program**  
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Family Health Team	Location
<b>Guelph</b>	Guelph
<b>Two Rivers</b>	Cambridge
<b>Niagara Medical Group</b>	Niagara Falls
<b>Niagara-on-the-Lake</b>	Niagara-on-the-Lake
<b>Dufferin Area</b>	Orangeville, Grandvalley
<b>New Tecumseth</b>	Alliston
<b>Couchiching</b>	Orillia
<b>Georgian Bay</b>	Wasaga Beach, Creemore, Collingwood, Stayner
<b>The Cottage Country</b>	Gravenhurst, Bracebridge

## Strategy Aims to Fill Shortage of Health Care Professionals

The McGuinty government is launching *HealthForceOntario*, a new health human resources strategy aimed at ensuring Ontario has enough health care professionals to meet the needs of Ontarians.

**The HealthForceOntario Strategy has three components:**

1. Creating four new roles in areas of high need – Physician Assistant, Nurse Endoscopist, Surgical First Assist, Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist.
2. Developing Ontario's workforce by setting up a one-stop centre for internationally educated health professionals to obtain the information they need to work in Ontario.
3. Better equipping Ontario to compete for scarce health care professionals, in the rest of Canada and throughout the world, by establishing a marketing and recruitment centre including a comprehensive job portal.

For more information on this or any Ministry of Health and Long Term Care news please visit [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca) or contact ROMP. ❤️

**VIDEO COMPETITION WINNER**

And the winner is...the Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee of Trent Hills!

In fall 2005, ROMP announced its first video competition open to all communities in South Central Ontario. It was an opportunity for communities to showcase their site for family medicine education as well as highlight the rich rewards of the generalist in the community. The \$5,000 prize is to be used to help with the community medical education, recruitment and retention committee.

The Trent Hills submission entitled 'Portraits of a Rural Practice', takes the viewer on a heart-felt tour through the seasons and lifestyles of the people and medical community of Trent Hills.

"In our case, it started as a mission to document the life stories of one inspirational local physician and became quite something else," said Laurie Smith, the Physician Recruiter for Trent Hills. "We actually started filming in July 2005 and wrapped up in spring 2006. This allowed us to capture our "rural portraits" through the various seasons and events that happened right in our community." According to Smith, that was the key that really helped with the success of the video.



*The Trent Hills Screening Gala*



*Laurie Smith accepts the prize money from Michelle Hunter, ROMP Program Manager on the 6th Annual Workshop on May 11<sup>th</sup>*

The video was screened in Trent Hills at a red carpet event during their Rural Medicine Week in June. Physicians and medical staff as well as community members and students were among the viewers and the video was a hit. "That night, everyone was a recruiter," said Smith. "So many people have come up to me and told me how touched and uplifted they were. I didn't expect it."

Dr. Robert Henderson is a main character in the video and Campbellford Memorial Hospital Chief of Staff. "I felt great about it," he said about being involved. "The ideas came from several sources...I just made myself available."

"Mike did a fabulous job," said Dr. Henderson of filmmaker Mike Boland who took on this project as his way of giving back to the community. "He captured the essence of the community and was able to give a sense of what our region and our medical community are really like, and that is important in any recruitment initiative. From the physician's point of view we really wanted to present an honest picture of who we are and how we work together," said Dr. Henderson.

The winning video as well as others will be used at various ROMP presentations to provide students and physicians with a better understanding of what practicing and learning medicine in a smaller community is like. As with all things, medicine included, a picture can say a thousand words. Special mention goes out to Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton Highlands and the Greater Dufferin recruitment committees for their great entries. For more information or to get a copy of a video please contact ROMP. ❤️

**ROMP wishes you a safe and happy summer!**

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