FALL NEWSLETTER

AI NORTH

The Community for Inclusive and Ethical Artificial Intelligence in Northern Ontario Healthcare.

AI-NORTH IN ACTION

WHAT'S NEW IN THE NETWORK?

>>> AI-NORTH QUARTERLY SEMINARS

Impactful presentations by **Dr. Arnold Kim**, **James McCormack**, and **Dr. Brian Ross** were delivered at AI-NORTH's 2nd seminar of 2025 "**Leaders in Northern AI Research & Innovation**". The community gathered on September 29th to connect, learn, and celebrate the growing impact of AI research & innovation in Northern Ontario.

"Learning about local AI initiatives to improve Northern clinical operations and rural perspectives on AI innovation was both interesting and inspiring."

Jhanvi Zala, MSc

"I learned the importance of Northern inclusion in AI development and implementation."

Amanda Bakke, MSc

More coming in 2026…

THE NEURAL NOOK

AI tools for school, work, and life.

Rev.ai

AI transcription software

Generates text documents from audio & video

AI in Medicine Living Glossary

Definitions for medical AI terms

From the International AI in Medicine Education Working Group

Breathhh

AI mindfulness browser extension

Provides prompts for work breaks, guides breathing & stretching exercises

NotebookLM

AI research & study assistant

Summarizes documents, provides insights and practice questions

>>> A NORTHERN COMMUNITY FOR AI IN HEALTHCARE

AI-NORTH is a network that aims to promote the ethical and effective use of AI in Northern Ontario healthcare. Our diverse membership bridges expertise in AI, healthcare and education to guide responsible implementation, address community concerns, and equip leaders to harness AI's potential.

AI-NORTH IN ACTION

WHAT'S NEW IN THE NETWORK?

AI-NORTH <<< STREATH STREAMS: *HEALTH DATA IN THE AGE OF AI*

Snacks, coffee & national discussions about AI and health data were enjoyed at AI-NORTH's streaming of "**Health Data in the Age of AI**", a panel hosted by AMS Healthcare, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, & Bruyère Health Research Institute.

The network will be converging again:

December 12th
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

for the Royal College Annual Professor-in-Residence Lecture **Your AI Prescription** by Dr. Bertalan Meskó & a coffee social.

SCAN ME!

[Click here](#)
OR scan the **QR code** to register!

>>> AI-NORTH MICRO-CREDENTIAL

Artificial Intelligence for Health System Transformation, AI-NORTH's micro-credential course on ethical and effective AI implementation will be **piloting early 2026**. This course will equip healthcare providers and administrators with the necessary know-how to responsibly implement AI innovation into their practice, with a special focus on Northern Ontario health systems.

We are still accepting volunteers to participate in our pilot!

Interested? reach out to: ✉ **ai.north@nosm.ca**

HOT OFF THE PRESS

AI INNOVATION & PSYCHEDELIC NEUROSCIENCE ≪≪≪

Dr. Brian Ross successfully published "<u>Leveraging psychedelic neuroscience to boost human creativity using artificial intelligence</u>" in *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence* as a sole author, in June.
Three key points of research:

- Like psychedelics, AI may **enhance creativity** by disrupting habitual thought patterns
- Individualizing AI to personal traits may enhance creativity while **supporting accessibility & equity**
- Addressing **bias, dependency,** and **creative homogenization** is essential for positive outcomes

≫≫≫ RURAL PERSPECTIVES ON AI & HEALTH EQUITY

Drs. Yifan Zhang, Sarah Newbery, David Savage, & **Brian Ross** successfully published their article "<u>Artificial Intelligence and Rural Health Equity: Perspectives from Northern Ontario</u>" in *Journal of Rural and Community Development* in September.
Three key points of research:

- Healthcare workers' concerns center on **infrastructure**, **resources**, and cultural & linguistic **inclusion**
- Optimism about AI's potential is tempered by concerns over its **contextualization with local needs**
- Early **local community input** is vital to effectively serve rural and underserved populations

ASSESSING LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS (LLM) WITH USMLE QUESTIONS ≪≪≪

Dr. Sabah Mohammed, Dr. Jinan Fiaidhi & their **graduate student research team** published a preprint of their article "<u>Investigations on using Evidence-Based GraphRag Pipeline using LLM Tailored for USMLE Style Questions</u>" in *MedRxiv Health Science Server* in May.

Three key points of research:

- AI achieved **83% accuracy** on USMLE questions but were constrained by black-box limitations
- Adding an interface that links USMLE answers to medical evidence (Known as a "white-box" layer) **increased accuracy to >90%**
- The white-box interface integrates evidence-based reasoning with retrieval-augmented generation (I.e., GraphRAG)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

>>> AMS HEALTHCARE: AI RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Lead the movement towards improving Northern Ontario's AI research capacity with funding opportunities from **AMS Healthcare**! Three AI research funding pathways are open to applicants (**until early 2026**), covering stakeholders at all career levels:

- **Fellowship** in Compassion & Artificial Intelligence (**Jan 8**)
- **Small Grants** in Compassion & Artificial Intelligence (**Feb 10**)
- Technology & Compassion Care Med Student Education **Research Grant** (**Jan 10**)

SCAN HERE

Click here!
OR scan the **QR code** for more information!
Questions? Contact: ✉ **info@amshealthcare.ca**

AMS
advancing innovative healthcare
with compassion at its core

GOT NEWS?

If you have news you'd like to share with the network, please get in touch!
Reach out to: **ai.north@nosm.ca**

AI FOR ACCESSIBLE STUDENT EDUCATION RESOURCES <<<

Join **Dr. Stephen Murgatroyd** of **Contact North / Contact Nord** to explore how AI can make Open Education Resources (OER) more dynamic, personalized, and inclusive. Learners will gain skills to **enhance resource quality, access, and student engagement** through adaptive AI tools, personalized lessons, improved accessibility, and transparent use.

Date: **Wednesday, Nov 26,** 2025
Time: **1:00 pm - 2:00 pm** (ET)

Contact Information:
✉ **help@contactnorth.ca**

Click here
OR scan the **QR code** to **register!**

Join the AI-NORTH Network!

Get involved with the AI network for inclusive and ethical AI innovation in Northern Ontario Healthcare through:

Connect with us on LinkedIn here.

For general inquiries, email us at ai.north@nosm.ca

Sign up for our mailing list here.