

NOAMA RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

OBJECTIVES

The Northern Ontario Academic Medical Association (NOAMA) Research Committee is established to oversee the allocation of NOAMA AFP funds designated for research initiatives across Northern Ontario. The committee aims to promote diversity, inclusivity, and social accountability in research endeavors throughout the region.

The primary purpose of the NOAMA Research Committee is to provide recommendations for the distribution of NOAMA AFP research funding within Northern Ontario. While working within NOSM U's social accountability mandate, the committee will prioritize projects that advance scholarly activity, enhance healthcare outcomes, and address the diverse needs of communities across the region.

PRINCIPLES

In determining the allocation of research funding, the NOAMA Research Committee shall adhere to the following principles:

- **Equity:** Ensuring fair and equitable access to funding opportunities for researchers from all backgrounds and geographic areas within Northern Ontario.
- **Diversity:** Promoting diversity in research topics, methodologies, and participant populations to reflect the multifaceted healthcare landscape of Northern Ontario.
- **Innovation:** Supporting innovative research initiatives that have the potential to significantly impact healthcare delivery and improve patient outcomes.
- **Collaboration:** Encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and partnerships between academic institutions, healthcare providers, and community organizations.
- **Sustainability:** Prioritizing research projects that demonstrate long-term sustainability and potential for scalability beyond initial funding periods.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The NOAMA Research Committee shall be responsible for:

- Reviewing the NOAMA research distributions and recommend funding allocations.
- Assessing the potential impact by promoting questions that address the impact to health care in Northern Ontario (align funding to health care in Northern Ontario).
- Ensuring equitable distribution of funds across diverse research areas and geographic locations within Northern Ontario.
- Promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange among researchers and healthcare agencies (HSNRI, TBRRI, NOSM U, LEGs, Universities, etc.) across the region.
- Mitigating any perceived COI with the NOAMA supported research initiatives (including review of the call for proposals and oversight of the NOAMA peer review process).
- Assist with equitable access to information around research support, grant agency access, approved fund managers, etc. through various communications.
- Provide direction for managing fund recouperation and target timelines.
- Upholding principles of social accountability.

MEMBERSHIP

The committee shall consist of members representing AFP signatories, including but not limited to the following:

- a) Three appointees from PCTA (consideration to the following)
 - a. Community representatives
 - b. Experienced researchers
 - c. New researchers
- b) One appointee from the NOSM University (NOSM U)
 - a. Researcher with expertise in fields relevant to NO's healthcare landscape
- c) One appointee from the Northern Hospitals
 - a. Academic institutions or research organizations
- d) Executive Director of NOAMA (Ex-Officio)

MEETING SCHEDULE

The NOAMA Research Committee shall periodically evaluate the effectiveness of its funding allocation process and report on the outcomes and impact to the NOAMA Board. Meetings will be scheduled at the call of the Chair and will take place virtually.

These Terms of Reference shall be subject to periodic review and may be amended as necessary to reflect changes in the healthcare landscape of Northern Ontario or the evolving needs of the research community. Any proposed amendments shall be discussed and approved by the NOAMA Board.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Committee members shall maintain strict confidentiality regarding sensitive information discussed during meetings.

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Version	Date	Authors/Comments
1.0	2024.05.21	Original ToR