

Niagara Regional Campus – history and development

June 2009

Mission

To provide excellence in education for physicians of tomorrow in a supportive, sustainable community environment.

Goals

- To address the shortage of physicians
- To enhance patient care
- To improve research and education capacity
- To foster collegial relationships across communities

Principles

- Community-based teaching
- Educational excellence and innovation
- Interprofessional education and care
- Distributed education
- An educational network in Niagara and the broader McMaster community

History

Occasional teaching has occurred at various Niagara hospital sites for many years. West Lincoln began increasing the volume of teaching in the mid 1990's, and until 2005 was the busiest teaching site in Niagara.

Prior to 2003:

- A small amount of pediatrics teaching
- Occasional anesthesia teaching
- Regular family medicine and ER teaching at West Lincoln for medical students and residents

The Niagara Health System started a Clinical Teaching Program in 2003:

- 2003 General Surgery and Orthopedic surgery
- 2004 Internal Medicine
- 2005 Emergency Medicine training for Family Medicine residents
- 2006 OB-GYN

The Niagara Regional Campus was announced in Feb 2007

- 2007-08 our faculty and leaders were selected, all are from the Niagara Region
- December 2008 our first 15 students arrived in Niagara

Concepts and current plans

- A regional campus – students travel to all communities from day 1
- Hospital partners: Niagara Health System, West Lincoln Memorial, Hotel Dieu Shaver
- Collaboration with Brock University and Niagara College
- We use McMaster's curriculum and McMaster trains our teachers
- Our students will graduate with McMaster MD degrees
- The students spend the first 3 months in Hamilton. After that, the entire medical school program takes place in Niagara

Support from the medical community

- Local doctors do the teaching.
- Local doctors form the campus leadership.
- Local doctors are incredibly supportive. It will take some time to include everyone who wants to help!

The Campus Grows

- From 15 students in 2008, in 2009 the Niagara Regional Campus will admit 20 new students.
- In 2010, we will grow to 28 students per year.
- By 2012, our 3-year program will have a total of 84 medical students.

After medical school

Residency training is required before a doctor can practice.

Training to become Family Doctors

- The Niagara Family Medicine residency program begins in July 2009 with 5 residents.
- They will be based in: Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls, and St. Catharines.
- They will study in all major hospital sites and several of our smaller communities.

Training to become Specialists

- Surgery, Internal Medicine, Anesthesia, Emergency Medicine, and others are in our plans.

Recruiting doctors through education

- Some doctors will move to Niagara because of our campus.
- Some of our students and residents will stay.
- Some will leave for further training and return.
- All will talk to their friends about their experiences. We want our grads to spread far and wide and tell everyone about Niagara!
- This is not a quick fix, but a long-term investment in our future.

Size of our campus in 2014

- 84 students and 80+ residents
- Over 164 young doctors-in-training will live, study and work here.