

# *touch*POINTS

SCHOOL OF NURSING NEWS | SPRING/SUMMER 2019



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
School of Nursing

ONE HUNDRED YEARS  
1919-2019



**TOUCHPOINTS**

*Touchpoints* is published by the School of Nursing at The University of British Columbia [nursing.ubc.ca](http://nursing.ubc.ca)

**EDITOR**

Elizabeth Saewyc

**WRITING, DESIGN, & PRODUCTION**

Heather Swallow  
with assistance from  
Nicolas El Haik-Wagner  
Kathryn Choi

**MAILING ADDRESS**

T201-2211 Wesbrook Mall  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 2B5  
TEL: 604.822.7417  
Fax: 604.822.7466

**UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS**

Email: [alumni@apsc.ubc.ca](mailto:alumni@apsc.ubc.ca)  
Phone: 604.822.9454  
Online: [alumni.ubc.ca/connect/](http://alumni.ubc.ca/connect/)

**GOING GREEN OR PREFERRING PRINT**

To change how you receive *Touchpoints*, please contact: [communications@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:communications@nursing.ubc.ca)

**FOLLOW US ON THESE SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS**



@ubcnursing



ubcschoolofnursing



UBC School of Nursing



UBC Nursing Vancouver



/ubcnursing

For readers of the hard copy, please visit: [nursing.ubc.ca/touchpointsex](http://nursing.ubc.ca/touchpointsex) for a list of extras and active hyperlinks. A digital copy of *Touchpoints* can be found at [nursing.ubc.ca/newsletters](http://nursing.ubc.ca/newsletters)

**CONTENTS**

- Centenary Gala
  - A Special Evening for Special People . . . . .4
  - Centenary Medal of Distinction Awardees..5
- History of Nursing Symposium 2019
  - 100 Years of University
  - Nursing Education At UBC.....6
- Ethel Johns:
  - National Person of Historical Significance ..7
- Vivian Lucas
  - A Portrait in Giving . . . . .8, 9
- Giving Back to the Next Century
  - Philanthropic Couple Supports
  - Nurse Practitioners . . . . . 9, 10
- Systems Change
  - Envisioning a Canada Beyond Prohibition . . . . .10
- Local Engagement for Global Health Change
  - Seventh Annual GSNA Symposium . . . . .11
- From Undergrad project to Master’s Research . . . . .11
- Recognition of Student Leadership
  - Lara Gurney. . . . .12
  - Chantelle Recsky . . . . .12
- Students In Community
  - New Electives . . . . .13
  - ITCH Awards . . . . .13
- Student Awards . . . . .14
- Graduation | Reception 2019.....15
- Edge Festival
  - Nursing in the Arts and Films . . . . .16
- Kudos.....18
- Medical Assistance in Dying
  - UBC Nursing DIALOGUES . . . . .19
- The Role of Nursing in Promoting the Health of Indigenous Peoples
  - Indigenous Cultural Safety
  - Strategic Initiatives . . . . .20
- Twin Sisters are Amazing Alumni
  - Honoured by NNPBC
  - Jenifer Tabamo - MSN, 2015 . . . . .22
  - Jacqueline Lum - MN-NP, 2011 . . . . .22
- Congress 2019
  - Icons, Trailblazers, and Symbols of Virtue: Nurses in Public Memory.....23



# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

At this halfway point in our centenary celebrations, the School of Nursing is thrilled with the support and good wishes received from colleagues, partners, politicians, and others among our nursing community. Our last issue encapsulated some of the excitement we felt as we began planning for our year-long celebration. Now, the events are unfolding, and this issue is dedicated to keeping you up-to-date and informed about our memorable events, including: the Ethel Johns Plaque, honouring a woman of national historic importance as the founder of our School; our History Symposium, which considered the past as it set current goals; our dialogue on the role of nursing in promoting Indigenous health, at the First Nations Longhouse; and our third annual Edge Festival, which showcased innovative ways of sharing nursing research.

The Gala—which you can relive in these pages—was fantastic! Weeks after the event, I continued to receive email and comments from people who attended, and even from people who heard about the celebration from others! So many mentioned they were impressed and inspired by our Centenary Medalists, whose leadership and achievements reveal the School's influence in nursing here in BC, and throughout the world. I offer my heartfelt thanks to our faculty, students, staff, nursing partners, and community members who brought such energy and enthusiasm to the evening. You made the room hum with your excitement at sharing great memories and strong partnerships. Working together, we are a group that can achieve anything! We hope to keep this energy blazing as we look to the future of nursing in British Columbia and beyond.

While much of our centenary we are looking back in celebration, we are also looking forward, to consider how the School will remain an innovator and leader, a facilitator of "Nursing Now" and into the future. May the events shared in these pages keep you enthusiastic for the continuing celebration of UBC's School of Nursing. We have more to come!

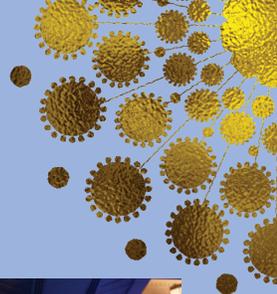
Elizabeth Saewyc, PhD, RN, FSAHM, FCAHS, FAAN  
Director and Professor



On the Cover: Medal of Distinction Awardee Elder Roberta Price at the School of Nursing Centenary Gala on May 2. Here, President Ono takes a selfie at the event. Photos by Martin Dee.

# Centenary Gala

## A Special Evening for Special People

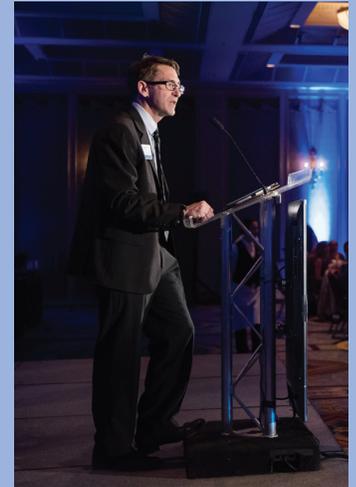


“We really set the bar!” Elizabeth Saewyc announced, after hosting the School of Nursing’s Centenary Gala on May 2, 2019. The sold-out event had received the generous support of the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science, James Olson, and benefited from the enthusiastic presence of UBC’s President and Vice-Chancellor, Santa J. Ono and other luminaries. The energy was high, the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver was sparkling, the plated meal was delicious, the formal program proceeded swiftly and was full of interesting and humourous content. It was all guided by the ever-entertaining Fred Lee, UBC’s Director of Alumni Engagement. In spite of the dynamic buzz at every table, Mr Lee expertly drew the attention of the delighted guests to view the special video address by the Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education and Training, and to hear the letters from members of the Royal Family. Somehow, without slowing the pace of the evening, Dr Saewyc managed to grant a moment in the sun to each one of the honoured guests who wore the coveted Centenary Medal of Distinction (see list on opposite page and follow the link to read their short biographies).

This level of success is not easy to attain and the school cannot offer enough thanks to members of the Centenary Committee who coordinated the event, especially those at Applied Science Alumni Engagement. Once again we acknowledge the generous support of the Faculty of Applied Science, and send kudos to several faculty members who sponsored tables for student attendees. To all of these people as well as those who work in the background quietly making things splendid, we extend heartfelt thanks for an evening that truly raised the bar.



Dr Santa J. Ono, President & Vice-Chancellor of UBC.



Dr James Olson, Dean of Applied Science.



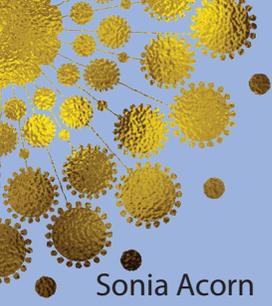
Dr Elizabeth Saewyc, Director of the School of Nursing.



A special address by the Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training.



Selfie with Lily Lee, Centenary Medal of Distinction winner.



# Centenary Gala

## Centenary Medal of Distinction Awardees

Sonia Acorn  
 Joan Anderson  
 Rebecca Armstrong  
 Lucy Barney  
 Jean Barry  
 Jennifer Baumbusch  
 Alice Baumgart  
 Lynette Best  
 Vivian Blake  
 Geertje Boschma  
 Janie Brown  
 Annette Browne  
 Linda Buchanan  
 Bernice Budz  
 Vicky Bungay  
 Elaine Carty  
 Marion Clauson  
 Susan Dahinten  
 Barj Dhahan  
 Ranjit Dhari  
 Elizabeth Mary Dick  
 Madeleine Dion Stout  
 Dianne Doyle  
 Susan Duncan  
 Helen Elfert  
 Mitchel Erickson

Lynne Esson  
 Dawn Faris  
 Beth Fitzpatrick  
 Sue Foster  
 Fin Gareau  
 Bernie Garrett  
 John Gilbert  
 Irene Goldstone  
 Frances Gowe  
 Kristyna Gustavson  
 Wendy Hall  
 Angela Henderson  
 Roberta Hewat  
 Ann Hilton  
 Yuko Homma  
 Laura Housden  
 Merrilee Hughes  
 Lillian Hung  
 Cathryn Jackson  
 Carol Jillings  
 Gloria Joachim  
 Raj Johal  
 Joy Johnson  
 Paula Kagan  
 Genelle Leifso

Lily Lee  
 Linda Leonard  
 Vivian Lucas  
 Judy Lynam  
 Martha Mackay  
 Sally MacLean  
 Maura MacPhee  
 Christine Maheu  
 Heather Mass  
 Heather McDonald  
 Debbie McDougall  
 Gillian McKay  
 Kate McNamee  
 Naomi Miller  
 Kathy Murphy  
 Tricia Newport  
 Stephanie Ngo  
 John Oliffe  
 Becky Palmer  
 JoAnn Perry  
 Barb Pesut  
 Alison Phinney  
 Roberta Price  
 Sheila Rankin Zerr  
 Pam Ratner

Sheryl Reimer-Kirkham  
 Alison Rice  
 Paddy Rodney  
 Rick Sawatzky  
 Helen Shore  
 Shelagh Smith  
 Vicki Smye  
 Colleen Stainton  
 Kelli Stajduhar  
 Jo-Ann Tait  
 Tarnia Taverner  
 Sally Thorne  
 Meaghan Thumath  
 Tracy Truant  
 Colleen Varcoe  
 Ethel Warbinek  
 Elvi Whittaker  
 Nora Whyte  
 Faye Wightman  
 Margot Wilson  
 Angela Wolff  
 Jennifer Wolowic  
 Sabrina Wong  
 M. Anne Wyness  
 Glennis Zilm  
 Bruno Zumbo

For more images, The Honourable Melanie Mark's video address, short biographies of the winners of the School of Nursing Centenary Medal of Distinction, and more, visit: [nursing.ubc.ca/gala-100](http://nursing.ubc.ca/gala-100).



Photos: Martin Dee

Four hundred tickets were released for this sold-out event, in addition to seats allocated for special guests, awardees and their family and friends—including one who travelled from Switzerland.

# History of Nursing Symposium 2019

## 100 Years of University Nursing Education at UBC Looking Back and Looking Forward



Keynote speaker Dr Susan Duncan, Professor and Director, School of Nursing, UVic



Ranjit Dhari and Frances Affleck present on "Wellness Wednesdays."



Guests visit displays including a book table staffed by UBC Press.

Photos: Nicolas El Haik-Wagner

"Do you think we can rest satisfied with what we have? It is good, yes, but not good enough. Now what are we nurses going to do about it?" This is the question posed in 1919 by UBC School of Nursing's first Director Ethel Johns in an address to staff and pupils at Vancouver General Hospital. Dr Susan Duncan, Professor and Director at the University of Victoria School of Nursing, offered this quote in the conclusion of her keynote address and it resonated throughout the daylong History Symposium that the School's Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry convened on March 14, 2019. Sixty participants sought to "look back and look forward" at the 100 years of university nursing education at UBC in the delightful setting of UBC's Cecil Green Park House.

UBC alumna Dr Duncan opened the symposium with some critical reflections on the legacy of Ethel Johns and other leaders of nursing education and with the conviction that history may enlighten current issues and debates in public health nursing. As the themes of knowledge, leadership, and social accountability that have historically shaped the nursing curriculum continue to resound with nursing education today, Dr Duncan called for a more vocal advocacy in favour of the BSN program and for the voice of nurses to be stronger in media. Increasingly moving towards social justice-oriented education and practices, drawing on feminist and postcolonial critical perspectives, and learning from Indigenous perspectives may be steps to include in defining a common agenda for Canadian nurses in the twenty-first century.

In the panel that followed, a number of former and current faculty members shared their experiences and reflections about nursing knowledge and practice. Professor Emerita Dr Joan Anderson discussed the culture of scholarship in the 1980s. She showed how both qualitative and quantitative paradigms developed into legitimate methods of scientific inquiry. Drawing on life stories, obtained through ethnographic research, she sought to better understand the social determinants of health and how the sociocultural context shapes the context of suffering. These new theoretical developments were a response to a new immigration and multicultural context and to a shared conviction about the need to provide equitable health care to everyone. This philosophy also informed the theorization of UBC Model of Nursing, which was the subject of Dr Geertje Boschma's presentation. In her comments, Dr Boschma developed the context within which nursing laid claim to the cultural rules governing science, research, and theory development, and highlighted the need not only to understand the "what" of behaviours, but also the "how," as well as the essential subjective meaning humans attach to critical periods of their lives.

The next presentation took up this theme and expanded on learning from clients' lived experiences and resilience in a description of Wellness Wednesdays. This initiative was developed within the context of the Primary Health Care Course. In their presentation, UBC Clinical Associate Frances Affleck and



Nursing archivists Francis Mansbridge and Nan Martin chat with Tassia Teles S. de Macedo, PhD Student (UVic).



Dawn Tisdale has a question for the keynote speaker.

Photos: Clare Kiernan

UBC Instructor Ranjit Dhari showed how this innovative program offers students an opportunity to provide general health information to underprivileged communities. “It helped me to humanize these communities we learn about theoretically,” one of the BSN students explained.

Students were at the heart of the workday experiences of Marion Clauson, Senior Instructor Emerita and nurse educator for almost 40 years. She offered her perspectives on the evolution of nursing education from the 1970s to the present, expanding on her involvements in hospital, college, and university-based programs. She recounted how developments in clinical learning helped her become a “guide on the side rather than the sage on the stage for students.” The development of distance and online learning further fostered this learner-centred approach

in Canadian nursing education. Sheila J. Rankin Zerr, who was involved in teaching complete computer-based courses at UBC in the 1990s, and PhD Candidate Catherine Haney reviewed these pedagogical strategies in a stirring presentation. Sheila recounted how she shared the development of a comprehensive national television teaching and learning initiative from the 1980s, while Catherine reflected on the student-centred and multisensorial aspect of these developments.

Passion was a recurring theme on everyone’s lips, and it is indeed with a renewed enthusiasm and determination that our panelists and guests will continue drafting a plan for today and tomorrow’s nursing education.

Nicolas El Haik-Wagner

## ETHEL JOHNS: National Person of Historical Significance

In February of 2015, Canada’s National Parks Board presented the School of Nursing with a plaque dedicated to Ethel Johns. One hundred years after she accepted the dual role as Head of the Department of Nursing and Superintendent of Nursing at the Vancouver General Hospital, Miss Johns’ plaque was erected on the path between the UBC Hospital and the Health Sciences Mall. On February 26, 2019, the official unveiling revealed the culmination of twelve years’ hard work by a committed group of historians, emeriti, faculty, staff, and friends of the School. Well-wishers gathered with the motivators of this honour for a brief unveiling, photographs, and refreshments.



Left: Bright sun and a gentle breeze enhanced the unveiling as current director, Elizabeth Saewyc, revealed the plaque to a cluster of onlookers.

Representatives from a broad spectrum of the nursing/history community join celebrations. L to R: Shelagh Smith, Nan Martin, Lenore Radom, Sally Thorne, Fuchsia Howard, Suzanne Campbell, Francis Mansbridge, Kathy Murphy, Elizabeth Saewyc, Cathy Ebbehoj, Wendy Hall, and Ellen Siu.

Photos: Nicolas El Haik-Wagner

# Vivian Lucas

## A Portrait in Giving



Photo: Martin Dee

As a UBC Nursing alumna and retired nurse, Vivian Lucas is passionate about the value of education over training, so she created the Vivian Lucas Scholarship in Acute Care Nursing. The scholarship is offered to student nurses who have demonstrated excellent communication, leadership and adaptability—especially those with an interest in, and aptitude for, acute care nursing. One of our favourite “friends of the school,” Vivian answered a few questions about her experiences in giving, with a view to encouraging others to do the same.

You graduated from UBC’s School of Nursing in 1967 and have been a proud alumna since. Why has it been important for you to stay connected and engaged with the School since that time?

*I like to keep track of what is going on so I can still feel part of nursing when I am in retirement. I had a great education at UBC and it is gratifying to see how things have progressed with the school.*

You have also been a loyal, annual donor to the School for close to 15 years now. Thank you! Was there a special memory or a pivotal moment in your experience with UBC that inspired you to make your first gift to the School of Nursing?

*I had a sudden illumination several years ago that the government was going to get a lot of my money after I died unless I made provisions NOW to divert money elsewhere.*

A few years ago, you decided to increase your support by establishing the Vivian Lucas Scholarship in Acute Care Nursing to provide for generations of nursing students in perpetuity. Why was this such a meaningful opportunity to you?

*Being a student at UBC now is not an inexpensive proposition. It would be a shame if worthy students could not be educated in nursing simply because they lack the requisite funds. Lots of other faculties have lots of money put forward to help their students and I think nursing should support its students in the same fashion. The bursaries and financial help that I received when I was an undergraduate were very helpful. In the early years of my donation, I just gave to general UBC funds, but I soon came to the realization that it would be better to direct monies more specifically to areas of interest.*

“ This donation required more thought and planning, which is a good thing. Nursing is about thinking, planning and feeling after all. ”

Have you been in contact with any of the student recipients of your scholarship?

*As far as I know the scholarship has been awarded twice to date and each time the recipients have sent me an appreciative letter. I have not met with them personally. I prefer to keep the contact in a more private manner.*

As you know, the School is currently celebrating our milestone 100th anniversary during 2019. You made a most generous donation of \$100,000 to the School at the beginning of our 100th year. You have said that you consider yourself to be a “typical person” so could you please share your creative approaches to how you made this significant donation?

*I was fortunate to come into a bit of money in 2018 and so I thought I needed to share it with my scholarship fund, which was kind of small at that point. I wanted the student awarded the scholarship to receive a more significant amount, especially in view of the expensive nature of university education which I have noted above.*

*It's easy to cut a cheque for say, \$100 without much thought. This donation required more thought and planning, which is a good thing. Nursing is about thinking, planning and feeling after all. There are also significant tax benefits to making charitable gifts to UBC.*

I understand that you have encouraged other nursing alumni to consider making donations to the school both in the present day and also with a gift in their will. Why do you feel that both of these avenues for giving are important?

*It's nice to give NOW and see how people are helped in the now. It also helps with estate planning. Of course I don't have children so estate planning and income tax angles are important to me. At our 50th UBC reunion in 2017 I did encourage my classmates to contribute to the fund.*

What would you like to say to nursing alumni and friends of the School to inspire people to join you in making meaningful donations during this 100th celebration?

*Remember your education and your colleagues and what you gained from UBC and how the education you received there helped your career. Share a little more than you normally would in celebration of 100 years done and 100 years to come. Give something that you have thought carefully about and which is truly meaningful to you. Nursing should be in the forefront of health care.*

If reading Vivian's story has inspired you to explore your own passions and opportunities for supporting UBC, please contact Darya Sawycky in UBC's Gift & Estate Planning office by phone at 604.827.2973 or by email at [darya.sawycky@ubc.ca](mailto:darya.sawycky@ubc.ca).

## Giving Back to the Next Century

### Philanthropic Couple Supports a New Generation of Nurse Practitioners

Shallow breathing, fever, fingertips that turn blue. Pneumonia can be frightening at any age, but Ken McArthur's lungs had turned infectious not once but twice—before the age of six.

"Without my mother's dedication," he says, "I'm not sure I would be here today."

In his eighties now, Ken speaks reverently of his mother, Elizabeth McArthur. In 1917, she graduated from the Calgary General Hospital School of Nursing, before working in an Alberta county hospital. She was not only a highly skilled nurse, Ken says, but also "the strongest, most independent woman I have ever met."

Sheila and Ken McArthur recently chose to honour her memory with a gift to UBC. As part of that generous one million dollar donation—one half of which will be directed to the Sauder School of Business, Ken's alma mater, and the other to the UBC School of Nursing—the couple has created the *Elizabeth McArthur Memorial Bursary in Nursing*. The remainder will support the *Ken and Sheila McArthur Fund in Gerontological Research*.

Interestingly, the gift falls on the Centenary, the 100th anniversary of the UBC School of Nursing. And, in another coincidence, the doors of the school opened in 1919, just two years after Elizabeth McArthur's graduation.

"At my age, you think back on your life, you reflect," Ken says. "My mother was a supportive person, and we wanted to acknowledge her, fundamentally, for that reason."

Ken's life began in Burnaby and Sheila's in nearby New Westminster. After graduating from Simon Fraser University, Sheila moved to Montreal, Quebec with her teaching degree in hand, but her lack of bilingual status kept her from the classroom; she quickly found rewarding work, though, at the Westmount

Library in the children's department. Ken, meanwhile, followed his graduation from UBC with a career in finance, eventually assuming the role of Senior VP of Nesbitt Thomson Inc. and CEO of Shurway Capital Corp., his own private investment company.

"I've learned that it's much easier for business schools to attract donations than nursing schools," says Ken. "And I am biased towards supporting things that are underfinanced. That seems to be one of my personality quirks."

With Canada's aging population expected to double in the next 25 years—a segment that, in just seven years, will comprise one-quarter of the population—the expertise of Nurse practitioners (NP) is needed more than ever. The province has been, until recently, slow to bring NPs into the healthcare system. While Ontario has, according to the BC government, only 20 NPs for every 100,000 people, and the Prairie and Atlantic Provinces 16, BC has even fewer: only 8 per 100,000. Recognizing this shortage, the BC government has funded 200 new Masters of Nursing-Nurse Practitioner (MN-NP) positions, including 15 for UBC.

While this is certainly promising for nursing grads, student costs—escalating Vancouver rent, sky-high tuition rates—have risen to \$30,000 per year, which may dissuade even the keenest, most qualified students from leaving full-time jobs to earn their Master's degree. The *Elizabeth McArthur Memorial Bursary in Nursing*, however, will alleviate some of that financial queasiness by providing recipients of the endowed award with \$12,000 per year in perpetuity.

continued on page 10



Photo: Martin Dee

Ken and Sheila McArthur: Giving Back to the Next Century—continued from page 9

“Without these bursaries, some of our most talented nurses would be unable to pursue the advanced education to become NPs,” says Elizabeth Saewyc, Director of the UBC School of Nursing. “And Canadians would miss out on extraordinary NPs who can provide expert primary health care for people of all ages.”

The dearth of NPs isn’t the only issue related to Canada’s aging population that concerns the McArthurs. Having made lifelong donations to researchers who study everything from Arthritis and brain health to Alzheimer’s and juvenile diabetes (a condition that runs in the McArthur family), the couple has also devoted a portion of their recent UBC donation to gerontological research. And the gift is admirably open-ended: The *Ken and Sheila McArthur Fund in Gerontological Research* will support Masters and PhD students undertaking a range of gerontological nursing studies.

“It’s actually hard to pick a disease (to fund), and so we thought of things whose end date we couldn’t anticipate,” Ken says. “I’ve learned that trying to predict the future isn’t easy.”

The couple divides their time between Florida and their home on Bowen Island, in Howe Sound. Eight years ago the couple fell for the latter locale, although it lacks a healthcare centre, unlike Galiano Island, an adjacent island near Victoria with a similar demographic. “Unfortunately, 24-hour emergency services aren’t available,” says Sheila. “So if someone needs stitches or breaks an arm they must take the water taxi to Vancouver.” And so the McArthurs are supporting the proposal—and hopefully construction—of a healthcare centre on Bowen Island. Having spent their lives in cities like Montreal and New York, they took healthcare for granted, the couple says, until they moved to a rural area.

It was a rural area, actually, to which Elizabeth, Ken’s mother, moved to pursue her nursing career over 100 years ago. After she married, though, she and Ken’s father moved to the city of Vancouver and Elizabeth left nursing. “It was a long time ago, and my mother,” Ken says, “followed the traditional role of looking after her family. It was a very different world back then.”

Undoubtedly, Elizabeth McArthur would be surprised to have an endowment at a nursing school named after her. “Yes, she would be surprised,” says her son, “but I think she would also be grateful.”

[nursing.ubc.ca/giving](https://nursing.ubc.ca/giving) **DONATE NOW**

# Local Engagement for Global Health Change

## Seventh Annual GSNA Symposium

The UBC Graduate Students in Nursing Association (GSNA) held its seventh Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium “Local Engagement for Global Health Change.” Hosted in the beautiful Great Hall of the AMS Nest, the event was kicked off by Dr Elizabeth Saewyc with an exciting launch of the Nursing Now BC campaign. This was followed by a warm Territorial Welcome by Elder Thelma Stogan and her brother. The inspiring morning continued, with the event’s keynote speaker Dr Marilou Gagnon from the University of Victoria, who used her work with harm reduction as a case study for the linkage between local and global health change. We also had the wonderful opportunity to be absolutely blown away by 13 Oral and seven poster presentations facilitated by graduate and senior undergraduate students from a myriad of schools of nursing including UBC, University of Victoria, University of the Fraser Valley, Trinity Western University, Douglas College, and Langara College. While rich conversations and networking were filling up all the ‘in-between’ moments, every member of the audience was engaged in a meaningful afternoon plenary session that

featured a panel discussion on “Challenging Assumptions of Global Health Approaches.” Our impressive panel featured UBC School of Nursing’s own MSN student Dawn Tisdale, Dr Prince Adu from the UBC School of Population and Public Health, Gwyneth McIntosh, a nurse practitioner working with the RICHER team in the Vancouver community, and the session’s moderator Paisly Symenuk who is a UBC MSN/MPH student. We were honoured to have Elder Roberta Price share her unique ceremonial closing to the day that left everyone inspired and with a breath of fresh air!

We are so thrilled to have had such a successful event and we are beyond thankful to the UBC School of Nursing, the volunteers who dedicated their time to help out during the event, our sponsors, student presenters, and guests for participating and making all the moments of the day special in every way! On behalf of the GSNA I would like to extend our warmest thanks and we look forward to engaging with you all once again at next year’s symposium!

Submitted by Raluca Radu, MSN student  
and President, Graduate Student Nurses Association



Photo: Gabriel Morosan

At the Graduate Research Symposium the launch of Nursing Now BC group was announced as a partnership between UBC School of Nursing, University of Victoria School of Nursing, and Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC to raise awareness and leadership of Nursing for Health for All.

## From Undergrad Project to Master’s Research

Kelsi Jessamine’s undergraduate “synthesis project” (in which students bring what they are learning into real-world scenarios) offered free pet care to vulnerable folk and their companions (featured on p.15 of [Touchpoints Spring/Summer 2017](#)). Her master’s research carries on with her passion to bridge the gap between marginalized communities and the health care system. For more, read our web-story researched and written by work-learn student Nicolas El Haïk-Wagner: [nursing.ubc.ca/pulse-and-puppies](http://nursing.ubc.ca/pulse-and-puppies).



Photo provided by Kelsi Jessamine

# Recognition of Student Leadership

## Lara Gurney

### The Sharon Stapleton Memorial Leadership Education Award

The UBC School of Nursing extends our sincere congratulations to Lara Gurney, a graduate student who was recently awarded the Sharon Stapleton Memorial Leadership Fund.

Lara is currently an Emergency Nurse Clinician, with a strong focus and background in Critical Care Nursing, at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH). In addition, she is currently completing her thesis—on a very unique approach to curbing nurses' emotional fatigue in critical care settings. At VGH, she initiated the Patient Stories Project (PSP) as a means to address burnout and to cultivate positivity in the workplace. The PSP aims to accomplish this by acknowledging nurse achievements in the critical care environment.

Burnout is prevalent among nursing staff in critical care units, and exerts significant influence on job dissatisfaction, absenteeism, and high staff turnover rates. This syndrome is characterized by emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and reduced personal accomplishment. It is common among occupations that involve extensive interactions with others and chronic exposure to workplace stressors such as anxiety, physical labour, and shift work.

Through the PSP, patients are provided with the opportunity to share with the nurses and the health care team their recovery and personal life accomplishments since hospital discharge. This story-telling project has the potential to offer meaningful enrichment for both parties involved. Nurses are reminded of the value of their profession while patients are prompted to reflect on their recovery progress. When nurses are able to derive meaning from their work, they are less likely to exhibit burnout symptoms, promoting better quality patient care.

***Congratulations Lara!***



Photo provided by Lara Gurney

Lara Gurney, the recipient of the 2019 Sharon Stapleton Memorial Leadership Education Award is photographed with the Stapleton family.

[L-R]: Bud Stapleton (Sharon's father); Sandra Stapleton (Sharon's sister); Lara Gurney, RN; Geoff Davenport (Sharon's husband)

### *VGH Nurses Say ...*

*"[The PSP] reminds us of the importance of our jobs; everything we do is important even when we feel it is not."*

*"[The PSP] helps humanize the experience and bring explicit meaning to what we do."*

*"Reading patients' stories gives me a sense of pride in what my colleagues and I do and acknowledges that our efforts do pay off."*

Submitted by Kathryn Choi

## Chantelle Recsky

### Dr Kathryn J Hannah's Nursing Informatics Scholarship

Chantelle Recsky, doctoral student at the School of Nursing, was awarded the Canadian Nurses Foundation "Dr Kathryn J Hannah's Nursing Informatics Scholarship" at the eHealth Conference in Toronto on May 27, 2019.

This is a highly visible award in the informatics community and we are extremely excited about Chantelle's achievement. As part of the award, she will present her research in a webinar to the Canadian Nursing Informatics Association.

# Systems Change

## Envisioning a Canada Beyond Prohibition

Imagine a future where people have access to a safe and regulated supply of substances. That was the vision of about 300 people who attended a free public forum on “new models for drug policy grounded in compassion, human rights, and public health,” held at the SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts on Hastings Street in Vancouver on May 15, 2019.

The event was co-sponsored by the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, BCCDC Foundation for Public Health, the Community Action Initiative, and SFU’s Vancity Office of Community Engagement. It was organized by the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition and the UBC School of Nursing.

Garth Mullins, activist, award-winning broadcaster, and member of the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users, moderated a panel consisting of Steve Rolles, Senior Policy Analyst at the Transform Drug Policy Foundation (UK); Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto; Suzanne Fraser, Professor of Public Health at Curtin University (Australia); and Zara Snapp, Co-founder of the Instituto RIA (Mexico).

The event was part of a four-day International Research Roundtable at Peter Wall Institute (UBC) that brought together global experts, including people with lived experience of drug use, to strategize about how to create a system for the legal regulation of currently illegal drugs in Canada. Of highest importance to the Canadian context is the immediate provision of a safe supply of drugs to address the overdose crisis—or what the panel organizers term the “drug policy crisis” to draw attention to the bad policy that is at the root of the over 10,000 deaths that have occurred in Canada since 2016.

Panelists considered what they hope will be a not-too-distant future, to frame a discussion about what the next steps would be after ending prohibition, such as how to implement a safe supply, and what “decriminalization” means.

Garth Mullens is the founder of the podcast *Crackdown*, which recorded the full event. A link to the 1.5 hour podcast can be found here: [nursing.ubc.ca/SystemsChange](http://nursing.ubc.ca/SystemsChange).

# ITCH Awards

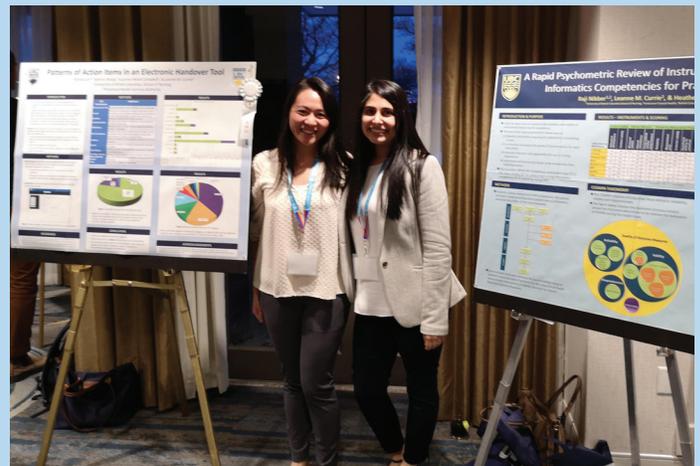
Two of our recent MSN graduates, Raji Nibber and Patrina Lo, won first and third prizes for best student poster at Information Technology and Communications in Health (ITCH) in Victoria on February 14, 2019. Thirty student posters were presented from Canada, US, and the UK. The best poster event was sponsored by Canada Health Infoway. It was a great night!

Raji Nibber completed her Scholarly Practice Advancement Research (SPAR) in Aug 2018, and at ITCH, took first prize for her poster entitled: *A Rapid Review of Psychometric Properties of Instruments that Measure Informatics Competencies for Practicing Nurses*.

Patrina Lo completed her thesis in Oct 2018, and won third prize for her poster entitled: *Patterns of Action Items in an Electronic Handover Tool*.

Two other students presented posters: Jillisa Byard, MSN Oct 2018 and Abdul-fatuwa Abdulai, PhD student. Jillisa then presented her findings during a Canada Health Infoway Webinar on March 27, 2019.

Submitted by Leanne M. Currie  
Associate Professor



Patrina Lo and Raji Nibber pose with their winning posters at ITCH in Victoria on February 14.

## New Electives

The principles for long-lasting satisfaction like social connectedness, expression of gratitude, living in the present, daily workout, and sufficient sleep, are essential for building an emotionally rich and balanced life. Around the world, educational institutions from elementary schools through post-secondary are introducing methods for building that balance right into the curricula. The School of Nursing’s new electives offer additional tools for creating balance in the life of all students at UBC.

Check out **NURS 180** *Stress and Strategies to Promote Wellbeing*, **NURS 280** *Human Sexual Health*, and **NURS 290** *Health Impacts of Climate Change* to see how the school is offering the UBC student community fresh initiatives for a balanced life: [nursing.ubc.ca/electives](http://nursing.ubc.ca/electives).

# Student Awards

We acknowledge and thank our donors for these important scholarships and awards, and congratulate the following students:

## Alice Diane Bray Memorial Scholarship in Nursing

Catherine Chan

## Birgit and Ingrid Currey Award in Nursing

Alyssa Byland	Kelsie Wamer
Angie Sievert	Keren Aminov
Annie Switzer	Kirk De Lint
Breanna Sorensen	Kirsten Larsen
Bronwen Cheung	Madeleine Welch
Carmen Saucier	Maggie Horner
Caroline McNeill	Makayla Rittinger
Elizabeth Powell	Matthew Mak
Elizabeth Ramsden	Matthew Yee
Emily Groundwater	Megan Dunlop
Erica Tobias	Megan Everall
Gabriella Petrollini	Paige Williams
Geoffrey Liew	Rachel Leung
Honor Walmsley	Renee Bellefeuille
J Katannya Tahirih Jantzen	Stephanie Scaglione
Julia Anderson	Tanya Hill
Kelly Dennis	Tiffany Le Nguyen

## D.C. & H.L. Kigge Scholarship in Nursing

Abby Rolston	Kaitlin Sterndale-Bennett
Adrienne Leitch	Kate Crowley
Alecia Tingling	Madison Cannard
Alex Martin	Matthew Del Mundo
Amanda Comuzzi	Maya Ellison
Amy Poon	Megan Crofts
Anthony Daniele	Mhairin Macdonald
Blake Knoll	Michelle Liu
Brianna Thalheimer	MJ Ziemann
Brianna Willard	Molly Anggo
Cam York	Molly Starko
Dayna Ortner	Pamela Patterson
Denise Williamson	Pushpkiran Ubi
Emily Mills	Ryan Gregoire
Erin McCall	Sadaf Hashemi
Evan Takaoka	Sarah Sutanto
Garett Blanksma	Shane Otto
George Kachkovski	Sheena Gordon
Gurleen Dhaliwal	Sheila Allenbach
Gwen Brockman	Sophia Knowles
Henry Wu	Sophia Swanson
Jenna Dorais	Sophie Yeates
Jennifer Hitti	Su Han Ong
Jessica Ganaden	Tiana Stuart
Jessica Howardson	Yasaman Bonyanpour
Joanna Paterson	Zihan Guo
Kaitlin Reich	

## Dell and Del Johnson Memorial Prize in Nursing

Andrew Primavera

## Doris Pearson Memorial Scholarship

Kelsie Wamer

## Dorothy J. Logan Memorial Scholarship in Nursing

Caitlyn Andres	Melissa Pak
Julia Anderson	Miriah Hodgins

## Elizabeth and Leslie Gould Scholarship in Nursing

Dannika Rogowsky

## Flora S. Musgrave Scholarship in Nursing

Elizabeth Straus	Pam Weiss
Laura Mills	Sam Song
Leah Nicholson	Sierra Peterson

## Frances Hodgkinson Scholarship in Nursing

Julia Lehn	Annie Heslup
Dustin Ross	Shea Sanderson
Caitlin Lavoie	Jessie Lin
Kateryna Zaslavets	Olivia Maracle
Mahtab Borhani	Helen Okoye

## Frederick and Agnes Eatock Memorial Fellowship

Elizabeth Straus

## Grace Torchy Stewart Adamson Memorial Scholarship in Nursing

Nav Mann

## Hamber Scholarship in Nursing

Ashley Hultman	Jack Wershler
Courtney Morice	Raveena Jhally

## Helen Badenoch Scholarship

Laura Finkler-Kemeny  
Severin Vaillancourt

## Helen L. Balfour Prize

Jennifer Pooni

## Helen Russell McKechnie Scholarship

Elizabeth Powell  
Gabriella Petrollini

## Henry and Lily Kung Award in Nursing

Jaewon Choi

## Irene Goldstone HIV/AIDS and Social Justice Graduate Scholarship

Hrag Yacoubian

## J. Kirstine Griffith Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Nursing

Jillisa Byard	Helen Okoye
Emily Kupp	

## Janet Gormick Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Nursing

Abdul-Fatawu Abdulai

## Janet Gormick Memorial Scholarship in Nursing

Katie Hilton

## Janet Macdonald Rush Prize

Caitlyn Andres  
Kirk De Lint

## Jessie MacCarthy Scholarship in Nursing

Jaimie Kendal-Ward

## Jim and Helen Hill Memorial Service Award in Nursing

Alanna Griffin	Grady Chalmers
Amanda Goulding	Jasmine Tam
Caryn Dooner	Katiana Shahbahrami
Elizabeth Ramsden	Keara Graham

## Joyce and John MacConnal Graduate Scholarship in Nursing

Abosede Ojerinde

## Joyce and John MacConnal Undergraduate Scholarship in Nursing

Katelyn Merrett	Wes Killen
-----------------	------------

## Karen Elaine Florence Madsen Memorial Scholarship

Andrew Primavera

## Kievell Scholarship

Hana Mildenberger

**Lillian Esther Beek and Sterling Herbert Beek Memorial Scholarship**

Courtney Devane

**Lily Lee Scholarship in Nursing**

Andrew Tsang

**Lyle Creelman Scholarship**

Aly Marohn  
Sara Masoum

**Margaret A. Campbell Scholarship in Nursing**

Abosede Ojerinde

**Margaret Duncan Jensen Memorial Scholarship**

Christine Ou

**Marion Ricker Memorial Scholarship in Nursing**

Jessica Bilkey

**Mary Graham Holland Scholarship in Nursing**

Jennifer Pooni

**Meg Hickling Prize in Sexual Health Education and Development**

Alix Corbet  
Christopher Lim

**Muriel Upshall Memorial Scholarship**

Catharine Eckfeldt  
Matt Russell

**Nini M. Harris-Lowe Memorial Prize in Nursing**

Emily Kupp

**Pauline Capelle Memorial Prize in Nursing**

Marina Kolar

**Pearl MacKenzie Scheel Scholarship in Nursing**

Renee Bellefeuille

**Reid-Wyness Graduate Scholarship in Nursing**

Linda Leung

**School of Nursing 80th Anniversary Scholarship**

Claire Dickens Kai Graham-Wood  
Jalila Devji Tara Mah  
Jasmine Redmond

**Shelagh J. Smith Award for Mature Students in Nursing**

Arveen Sandhu

**Stephanie Gnuip Scholarship in Nursing**

Alix Corbet Caitlin Leahy  
Brigitte Moran Karen Liu

**UBC Nursing Division Alumni Association Scholarship**

Caitlyn Longmuir Kirsten Perris  
Jayson Tan Stephanie Aitken

**UBC Nursing Division Golden Jubilee Scholarship**

Jennifer Knoll

**UBC Nursing Division Beth McCann Memorial Scholarship**

Angela Rivers-Bowerman  
Kirsten Larsen

**Undergraduate Nursing Society Leadership Award**

Amanda Goulding Jaimie Kendal-Ward  
J Katannya Tahirih Jantzen

**Vancouver Branch of the BC Retired Teachers' Association Award in Nursing**

Mariko Sakamoto

**Vivian Lucas Scholarship in Acute Care Nursing**

Tanya Hill

**Women's Canadian Club of Vancouver Scholarship in Nursing**

Madeleine Welch

---

We gratefully acknowledge the donors who have made additional scholarships and bursaries available to students. These are administered through Enrolment Services, so the names of student recipients are not available to us.

**Anne Toupin Award in Nursing Leadership**

**Ethel Johns and Isabel Maitland Stewart Memorial Scholarship**

**Harriet Evelyn Mallory Memorial Scholarship**

**Mabel Johnston Scholarship in Nursing**

**Wil Evon McCreery Memorial Scholarship**

# Graduation | Reception 2019

Additional photos of the 2019 graduation and reception can be found at: [bit.ly/UBCSonGrad2019](https://bit.ly/UBCSonGrad2019).



Grad Photos: Clare Kiernan

Reception Photos: Jody Larkin

# Edge Festival

## Nursing in the Arts and Films



Photos: Nicolas El Haik-Wagner



See the Lives - Petra

Taking Steps



[nursing/ubc.ca/edge](http://nursing/ubc.ca/edge)

During the school's centenary, arts in nursing took the stage. A February 6 lunch and learn session at the school introduced guest speaker M. K. Czerwiec who considered the idea of Comics in Nursing, asking "Can Comics Make Us Better Caregivers?" More: [comicnurse.com/book/taking-turns/](http://comicnurse.com/book/taking-turns/).

In past years, the Edge Festival has exclusively showcased nursing research films. This year, several research projects and teaching tools have been introduced that were not part of a research film, but which were worthy of sharing. In this, its third year, and to celebrate UBC Nursing's centenary, Edge Festival moved to VanCity theatre in downtown Vancouver. In keeping with the venue's history as a movie theatre, organizers sought

out new films to present by initiating a short film competition. Several films won the opportunity to be showcased at Edge. Organizers also opened up the festival to multi-media works by trans youths and a demonstration of forum theatre by Cognitive Rehearsal to Address Bullying (C.R.A.B.). The youths' works included poetry, paintings, and a board game, all of which were on display during the intermission. C.R.A.B. performers, in partnership with Tom Scholte of the UBC Department of Theatre and Film, offered short demonstrations of forum theatre, a tool for problem-solving and practicing techniques to diffuse problematic real world situations - in the case of C.R.A.B, to reduce bullying in the workplace.



When Compassion Counts



See the Lives - Phil



Beauty in Pain

# KUDOS



**Suzanne Campbell** has been designated as one of the first Certified Canadian Simulation Nurse Educators (CCSNE) by the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing.

Dr Campbell and her fellow editors were recognized by the American Journal of Nursing (AJN) Book of the Year Awards, earning second place for *Core Curriculum for Interdisciplinary Lactation Care*.

**Elizabeth Saewyc** has been named a Sigma Theta Tau Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame Honouree for 2019. Dr Saewyc is the only researcher from Canada among 22 others who will be inducted to the Hall of Fame at the 30th International Nursing Research Congress in Calgary in July.



**Vicky Bungay** was awarded an Excellence in Advancing Nursing Knowledge and Research Award at the 2018 Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC (NNPBC) ceremony on December 17, 2018.

**Helen Brown** received an Excellence in Nursing Education Award from the NNPBC at the same event.

Also at the NNPBC event to accept their awards were School of Nursing alumni **Silvia Nobrega**, RN, BScN, BA, MSN (2016) *Excellence in Nursing Education*; **Jacqueline Lum**, MN-NP(F) (2011) *Excellence in Nursing Practice Award*; **Jenifer Tabamo**, RN, BSN, MSN (2015) *Innovation in Nursing Award*; and **Jessica Kwanxwalaogwa Key**, RN (2017) *Rising Star Award*.



**Lillian Hung** was awarded 2018 Gobaal Qualitative Nursing Research Best Paper Award in the methods category for *Using Video-Reflexive Ethnography to Engage Hospital Staff to Improve Dementia Care*.

**Emily Jenkins**, her University of Calgary colleague Rebecca Haines-Saah, and their research partners, including youth representatives, received federal funding for cannabis research to build tools to reduce the potential harms of cannabis use among youth.



**Stigma and Resilience Among Vulnerable Youth Centre (SARAVYC)** research team members and Dr Elizabeth Saewyc were awarded the Robert H Durant Award for Statistical Rigor and Innovation from the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM). On March 8, 2019 at the SAHM Annual Meeting this award was given for the innovative new [SLEPHI](#) method for evaluating population health interventions.

On May 17, 2019 the Public Health Agency of Canada announced that SARAVYC will receive a grant worth almost one million dollars over five years for a project that will help LGBT youth to establish positive and healthy relationships.

**Peggy Chinn** is a nurse scholar and activist who has pushed boundaries in social justice advocacy and scholarship, including rights of women and children, ethnic and racialized minorities and the LGBTQ community. On May 30, during UBC's 2019 convocation, she received the degree Doctor of Science, *Honoris Causa*.



# Medical Assistance in Dying

## UBC Nursing DIALOGUES

Since June 2016, it has been legal in Canada for an eligible person suffering intolerably from a grievous and irremediable medical condition to request assistance from a doctor or nurse practitioner in voluntarily ending their life. Nevertheless, ensuring that the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) care option is accessible and equitable to British Columbians is an ongoing process.

In March 2019, the UBC School of Nursing's Dr Sally Thorne moderated a dialogue with a clinical nurse specialist (Laurel Plewes), nurse practitioner (Pamela Trant), nurse ethicist (Dr Paddy Rodney), and researcher (Dr Barb Pesut) to explore the nuances of this health care landscape almost three years after the initial legislative changes.

As a pediatric palliative care nurse on the brink of completing her MSN at UBC on the topic of assisted dying legislation, Laurel Plewes was the first nurse recruited to the Assisted Dying Program when Vancouver Coastal Health launched it in January 2017.

In that role, Plewes is front row to the full spectrum of contexts in which MAiD is provided. In the most well-managed cases, a nursing leader supports nursing staff through the process of understanding and enacting care options. When this support happens, patients are guided through the process unconstrained by administrative burdens or situational tensions, nursing staff report feeling comfortable to engage with the process and debrief with colleagues and leaders, and families can focus on saying farewell and grieving. When the process goes poorly, this can often be attributed to nursing leaders failing to engage or failing to invite another leader to respond. These leadership gaps can result in staff becoming conflicted or even divided while patients and families are left to advocate for themselves.

"Nursing has a massive part to play in the patient outcome, the family outcome, and the staff feelings about this care option," explained Plewes. She therefore urges all nurses—regardless of their specialties—to equip themselves to respond compassionately and knowledgeably when queries about MAiD arise.

In Canada, nurses and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) play a key role in MAiD, and nursing has been "at the table" in the ongoing policy dialogue from the beginning. NPs can do the assessment, prescribing, and the provision of assisted dying. It is one of the few areas where NPs do not have physician oversight other than specialist consults as needed.

NP Pamela Trant is the first to applaud that the legislation makes it possible to help someone truly suffering towards the end of their life. "It's absolutely remarkable that we have this option in Canada now. Modern medicine has tinkered with people's health so much to give longevity of life, but we haven't offered quality of life in all cases," she adds.

Canadian legislation sets out the eligibility requirements for MAiD, the procedural safeguards for protecting patients, and the process by which MAiD can be provided. Important as they

are, these can also create substantial administrative processes and logistical hurdles, and some patients are still not eligible. In particular, requests from mature minors, advance requests from patients not yet incapacitated, and requests where existential suffering from mental illness is the sole underlying concern remain ineligible.

The federal government tasked the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) with interpreting the available evidence to inform future decisions regarding these three patient groups. Dr Paddy Rodney, an associate professor in the UBC School of Nursing, was recruited to contribute to this complex evidence assessment process. The reports are now available on the [CCA website](#).

Reflecting on that experience, Dr Rodney highlighted the ongoing challenges of expanding the availability of MAiD to Canadians while access to comprehensive palliative and chronic care services is still inadequate. She also advocated for ongoing work to prepare supports for patients, their families, and care providers to make ethical decisions about MAiD, including supports for those who conscientiously object to MAiD.

Dr Barb Pesut, a UBCO Nursing Professor and Canada Research Chair, shared preliminary results from the ongoing program of research she leads on nurses' engagement with MAiD. In addition to the many requirements associated with MAiD assessment and coordination of provision, nurses are having to establish an intimate rapport with clients more quickly, learn to say goodbye to patients more explicitly, and monitor for capacity while providing high quality pain and symptom management.

Dr Pesut shared that the emotional response a nurse may have to a MAiD experience can be "unpredictable and ineffable." Some nurses in a study she is co-leading with Dr Thorne have considered the moral labour associated with MAiD to be so difficult that they may need to leave their profession or change positions, while others have found supporting patients through MAiD to be among the most important nursing work of their careers.

The role of "orchestrating death" can be a fraught one for even the most experienced nurses—from ensuring patient autonomy throughout a complex leave-taking journey, to upsetting the normal order of not knowing when death will occur, to witnessing the startling greying of patients' complexions that happens when medication is delivered.

For many nurses, this work is only possible through strong teams and their own supportive families. It is deeply dependent on nurses' willingness to revisit their reasons for working at the threshold of life and death. Dr Pesut describes nurses' engagement with MAiD as reconciling the malleable influences of intuition, reasoning, and experience.

As the legislative framework changes to enable more Canadians to access a wider range of care options as they near the end of life, nursing will continue to be at the forefront of promoting safe, compassionate, competent, and ethical care.

To listen to the recorded session: [nursing.ubc.ca/MAiDdialogues](https://nursing.ubc.ca/MAiDdialogues)

# The Role of Nursing in Promoting the Health of Indigenous Peoples

## Indigenous Cultural Safety Strategic Initiatives



On March 26, 2019, guests gathered in the Sty-Wet-Tan Great Hall at the First Nations Longhouse at UBC to consider and discuss the role of nursing in the promotion of health for Indigenous peoples.

Helen Brown, the chair of the newly minted Indigenous Cultural Safety and Strategic Initiatives (ICSSI) committee at the School of Nursing, introduced Elder Thelma Stogan and her brother, Arthur, who attended on behalf of the Musqueam Band. They revealed how their memories of family and tradition weave into the fabric of the land and the history of the building. They reminded us to raise our hands in recognition of and honour to the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations on whose unceded territories the people at Point Grey live, meet, work, and play.

Margaret Moss, our newest associate professor and Director of the First Nations House of Learning, gave a detailed description of the Sty-Wet-Tan Great Hall and its remarkable house posts (see inset). The carvings bring a sense of history and tradition to a relatively new building. A place of awe, strength, and respect, it was a fitting venue for the members in the circle of voices to speak their truths and be heard.

Elizabeth Saewyc, Director of the School, underscored the importance of sharing all perspectives, not only those voices in praise of nursing, but also those offering first-hand knowledge of how health systems have impaired the promotion of health among Indigenous peoples.

Elder Roberta Price united the attendees and speakers in a traditional blessing and then joined the Circle of Voices for the dialogue. Seated with her were Dawn Tisdale, RN, UBC MSN student; Margaret Moss, UBC Faculty; Tania Dick, RN MSN-NP, UBC Alumni; and Becky Palmer, RN, PhD and Chief Nursing Officer for First Nations Health Authority.

Prompted by a single question, the stories came: hesitant at first, testing, and then pouring forth. Dawn spoke of justice, action, and global initiatives for anti-racism. She spoke of hope, confidence, and the power of 20 million nurses worldwide, learning from the intimate relationships they build with people. The opportunities exist, she believes, to open the practice of health care to new ideas. Instead, those who attempt to reform and redefine health care practices to reject stigma and prejudice, face walls of suspicion and habit, opposition to change, and resistance to cultural safety.

Margaret compared American and Canadian health care and told stories from the perspective of both patient and nurse. As a patient in the United States, her self-identity was not merely unrecognized, but replaced. On

*The stunning house posts in the Sty-Wet-Tan (Spirit of the West Wind) Great Hall are the offerings of artists from several First Nations as a reminder of the diversity inherent among the people who use the space. The Raven with spindle whorl, carved by Susan Point (Musqueam), evokes the dual nature of trickster-creator. Lyle Wilson (Haisla) represented his clan houses in a Beaver and Eagle. Chief Walter Harris, in partnership with his son Rodney (Gitskan artists from Kispiox), honoured his mother's clan with a Wolf and Wolf Pup. Stan Bevan (Tahltan-Tlingit-Tsimshian) with Ken McNeil (Tahltan-Tlingit-Nisga'a) imagined the uniting of the spirits of Man with Raven as the giver of knowledge.*

admission forms she had identified as an enrolled Tribal member but her discharge papers claimed she was "White." "We are not just invisible," she said, "we are erased. That is important because it means we are denied 'culturally competent care.'"

Margaret went on to elaborate that this idea of competency "needs to be flushed from the literature." As a nurse, she has been required to take courses to gain competence for caring for people of "other cultures." The materials presuppose a classroom filled with all-white nurses, but she has already gained those skills from lived experience. "Do I feel competent to care for white people? No one ever asks. If a professional is following the tenets of nursing, they look at the whole – mind, body, and spirit – that is how Indigenous cultures all over the world already approach health care."

Tania opened her dialogue by stating "It's hard to find positives." She needed to look no further than the story of [Brian Sinclair](#) to illustrate the problems infecting the health care process for Indigenous people. And, unfortunately, she was also able to relate the tale of an aunt whose story echoed Brian's. In both cases, and countless others, they were labelled "drunken Indians" and ignored, failing to receive the treatment that would have saved them, and dying in the waiting room as health professionals passed by, or at home where they were sent to "sleep it off." "Every community has this story," she added, calling for "changing the heart of society, one nurse at a time."

Tania recognized that "pockets of champions" exist, but they are too few and often absent from the field where support is required for Indigenous nurses and patients. Every day, Tania said, she is "pushed back and down and space is taken away." She noted that the first step in achieving Truth and Reconciliation is for each Canadian to recognize their own role.

Becky reflected on the challenges currently in place for nurses, nurse educators, and researchers. She promoted "nothing about us without us" in which Indigenous representatives sit in partnership with others to plan ways of "shifting the mental map." Learners must be leaders, open to a new way that invites the holistic method of health care, incorporating it at a systems-level to end discrimination.

Elder Roberta told the story of how, while watching a documentary about Nanaimo Indian Hospital, awful memories

of being in that hospital—memories she did not even know she had—resurfaced. Over the years, as she transformed from stolen child to respected elder, her relationship to hospitals also changed, but not without continuing challenges. Having an elder present at the bedside of a patient at one time involved a complicated process that sometimes took so long the patient was discharged before the elder had arrived. Elder Roberta has been part of necessary changes in hospital systems so that now, as part of a spiritual care team, she receives calls directly whenever needed. However, even that advancement is not absolute. She explained that once, she had been wandering the hospital halls looking for a patient. No nurse engaged with her, but rather, viewed her with suspicion. Finally, a non-Indigenous person recognized and affirmed her right to be there. Only then was she seen as beloved Elder Roberta. Looks of suspicion changed to welcome, and reticence changed to helpfulness.

Each speaker in the Circle of Voices expressed the value and necessity of an Indigenous perspective in the health care system. However, confidence in that value is challenged by the harsh inequities in the field. Despite little evidence of moving forward, these nurses constantly endure, challenge, and resist. Their difficult work is more disheartening when their own likeness is rarely mirrored back in the faces of colleagues, mentors, co-workers, or authorities. These leaders are tired, but strong. They have to be. They devote themselves to blazing the trail, uplifted by the hope that in doing so, others may walk behind with less effort.

In closing their session, members of the Circle of Voices expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak their truths, but made it clear that this is only the beginning. Not only do Indigenous patients suffer indignity in the health care system, but Indigenous health care professionals also face significant barriers to success and progress. Those barriers need to be recognized before they can be removed. Every day, racism undermines workplace comfort for nurses and prevents proper care for patients, yet it goes unnoticed and unchallenged. The voices from this circle call on nurses to recognize and address such conduct. Stories such as theirs are the stories that need to be heard, believed, and acted upon. "There can be no reconciliation without truth."

# Twin Sisters are Amazing Alumni Honoured by NNPBC

Jenifer Tabamo - MSN, 2015

Jacqueline Lum - MN-NP, 2011



Photo: Joseph Tabamo

Jenifer Tabamo (l) and Jacqueline Lum (r) pose at the 2018 Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC award celebrations with their mother, Maria Roman, who is an LPN at Vancouver Coastal Health Banfield Pavilion.

*During the 2018 Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC (NNPBC) ceremony on December 17, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Vancouver, the NNPBC “recognized the contributions of nurses to the transformation of the Canadian health care system and their impact on the daily lives of British Columbians.” Some of the individuals being honoured are affiliated with the School (see Kudos page 18), and of those, two of our alumni are twin sisters, Jenifer Tabamo and Jacqueline Lum. Below are excerpts from the program of the evening. For full bios of all our faculty and alumni honoured by the NNPBC as well as pictures of the event, please visit: [www.nnpbc.com/programs-and-services/awards-and-recognition/nursing-awards](http://www.nnpbc.com/programs-and-services/awards-and-recognition/nursing-awards).*

## INNOVATION IN NURSING AWARD

Jenifer Tabamo is clinical nurse specialist and innovative and visionary leader at Vancouver General Hospital who advances nursing practice in the care of complex adult and older adult patients in the medicine program. She has extensive clinical background in acute medicine, critical care, gerontology and dementia care. She graduated from UBC with an MSN with specialized focus in advanced practice nursing clinical nurse specialist role, leadership and education streams in 2015, and is certified in both medical-surgical and gerontology nursing specialties through the Canadian Nursing Association (CNA) certification and credentialing program.

Through Jenifer’s research, she facilitates critical dialogues with patients, families, and care staff, leads integration of evidence into practice and shapes the future of hospital care.

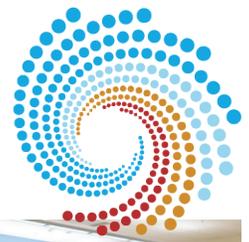
## EXCELLENCE IN NURSING PRACTICE

Jacqueline Lum exemplifies advanced practice by integrating both the science and art of nursing. She has over ten years experience and training in critical care and acute medicine. She graduated with distinction from our Master of Nursing-Nurse Practitioner program in 2011. She successfully trained for the six-month acute care cardiac-surgery NP post-graduate fellowship program, the first of its kind in Canada, and worked in Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) cardiac surgery units as one of its very first NPs.

Through her research works, Jacqueline participates in peer and self-reviews to assess, evaluate and discover impact of cardiac services at the client, community and population level and shares these findings across broad avenues. In addition, patients and families praise her high standards and compassionate presence.

# Congress 2019

## Icons, Trailblazers, and Symbols of Virtue: Nurses in Public Memory



The joint conference of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine and the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, held during the Congress 2019 at UBC from June 1 – 3, was host to a special program celebrating the centenary of the UBC School of Nursing. In a pre-lunch seminar session Geertje Boschma (UBC) and Margaret Scaia (UVic) examined the beginning decades of the first nursing degree program in Canada. They highlighted the contextual influences of public health and higher education that shaped the course of the degree program, and explored its meaning for women who took the program in the 1950s and 1970s. Following a festive luncheon, sponsored by the UBC School of Nursing and the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry, the program concluded with an open, interdisciplinary round table session on the commemoration of nurses in public memory, entitled “Icons, Trail-blazers and Symbols of Virtue.” Five presenters – Jill Campbell-Miller (Carleton University), Sioban Nelson (University of Toronto), Sarah Glassford (Prov. Archives of New Brunswick), Andrea Mcenzie (York University) and Peter Twohig (St. Mary’s University) explored the multiple uses of commemoration in and of nursing and caring work and engaged the audience in vivid debate on commemoration, nursing, and professional history.



The audience of students, scholars and community members at the opening of the round table.



The panel members engaged in discussion during the open session.

## CENTENARY EVENTS CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

#### **Special Welcome to the Centenary Class**

Each member of our 100th cohort of nursing students will be recognized with a special welcome during their orientation.

**Sept 3, 2019**

#### **Verna Huffman Splane Public Health Nursing Lecture**

Mike Villeneuve, CEO of the Canadian Nurses Association

**September 18, 2019 | Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue**

[nursing.ubc.ca/events](http://nursing.ubc.ca/events)

### NOVEMBER

#### **Marion Woodward Lecture**

Richard Booth, Arthur Labatt School of Nursing reflects on the future of nursing education and practice.

**Nov 14, 2019 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

#### **Afternoon Symposium**

A brief panel discussion on a companion topic to the Marion Woodward Lecture.

**3:00 - 5:00 pm**

[nursing.ubc.ca/centenary](http://nursing.ubc.ca/centenary)

### PLANNING A REUNION?

To plan your reunion, please contact Alumni Relations by email at [alumni@apsc.ubc.ca](mailto:alumni@apsc.ubc.ca) or telephone at 604.822.9454.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Nursing

T201 – 2211 Wesbrook Mall  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 2B5

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

1919–2019

[www.nursing.ubc.ca](http://www.nursing.ubc.ca)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**MHLP**

Master of Health Leadership and Policy

# WHERE HEALTHCARE LEADERS ARE MADE.

Discover the UBC Master of Health Leadership and Policy in **Seniors Care** or **Clinical Education**.

Get the business management, leadership and specialized healthcare technical skills you need to progress in your career.

Take the next step and advance your skills with a comprehensive 12-month professional master's degree at one of the world's top 40 universities.

[mhlp.ubc.ca/nursing](http://mhlp.ubc.ca/nursing)



UBC Applied Science

UBC School of Nursing

UBC SAUDER  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS