



Janie Brown

2024 Alumni Award of Distinction

Janie Brown, an esteemed cancer nurse, embarked on a transformative journey in healthcare that traversed continents, leaving an enduring impression on the landscape of BC Cancer care. Initially educated in her native Scotland, her quest for comprehensive patient support led her to Canadian shores, where she joined the BC Cancer Agency. Armed with a master's degree in psychology and further honing her skills through the UBC MSN program, Janie's dedication transcended conventional norms. Her pioneering master's thesis laid the groundwork for a distinctive nursing practice, integrating psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual care into cancer treatment.

Since her graduation from UBC in 1992, Janie's influence has resonated internationally. As a Clinical Nurse Specialist, she illuminated a path for oncology nurses, emphasizing holistic patient care amidst life's most formidable challenges. Recognizing the unmet needs of patients without curative options, Janie spearheaded the Callanish Society, featuring a 'cancer retreat' program, fostering healing spaces for those facing life's end. Under her continuing stewardship, the Callanish Society has emerged as a beacon of compassionate dialogue, guiding individuals and families through the intricate journey of living and dying.

Beyond clinical practice, Janie's advocacy has extended to public platforms, amplifying conversations on death and dying through her blog, "Life in Death" and ground-breaking book, "Radical Acts of Love." Her tireless efforts garnered acclaim from healthcare professionals and the wider community, igniting a paradigm shift in end-of-life discourse. Janie epitomizes the symbiosis of professional expertise, intellectual curiosity, and unwavering compassion, inspiring a new generation of nurses to challenge conventions and redefine healthcare boundaries. Janie's legacy stands as a testament to the transformative power of empathy and innovation in confronting life's most profound transitions.