Welcome to the BISC Spring Newsletter!

After a hiatus, the BISC newsletter has returned with a fresh new look. Read on to find out about the latest updates on our educational programs, international collaborations and projects, and more!

We will be sharing stories of this year’s graduates from the Master of Global Surgical Care and Graduate Certificate in Global Surgical Care in upcoming issues. Four students are currently completing exciting and innovative projects for the SURG 560 Field Practicum. We wish them all the best on their projects!

We welcome feedback so if you have any ideas for upcoming newsletters, please email us at surgery.international@ubc.ca.

BISC Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026

BISC is reviewing its strategic priorities and developing a new strategic plan for 2022 – 2026. Building upon our foundational five-year strategic plan 2016 – 2021, the new plan will see the development of exciting areas of growth for the Branch with our educational programs and international initiatives. Stay tuned for updates in future newsletters!

Graduate Programs: Upcoming Application Deadline

BISC is pleased to announce applications are now open for September 2020 admission for the Master of Global Surgical Care (MGSC) and Graduate Certificate in Global Surgical Care (GCGSC) programs. The application deadline is June 19th, 2020.

Our graduate programs are innovative, online programs focused on the global burden of unmet surgical care. Learners will build on their healthcare related disciplines to gain the fundamental knowledge, critical thinking tools and practical skills needed to lead the way to improved access to care by addressing the gap that exists between surgical need and the equitable provision of safe surgical care in low resource settings.

By expanding students’ knowledge of conditions, and global circumstances that shape surgical care globally, graduates will become leaders in this emerging academic discipline and equipped to play an integral part in provision of global surgical care in low resource settings.

For more information on admission requirements and how to apply visit our website. If you have any questions, please send BISC an email at surgery.international@ubc.ca.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Melanie Morris

Dr. Melanie Morris joined BISC as a co-instructor of SURG 518 - Surgical Care in Canada’s Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities with Global Comparisons in January 2020. Dr. Morris is an Indigenous surgeon at the Children’s Hospital at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. She is Metis and a pediatric surgeon and urologist with a specialty in minimally invasive surgery.

Dr. Morris is an associate professor at the University of Manitoba and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. She is the founder and Medical Director of the University of Manitoba Global Surgery Office and has done extensive work and teaching in Kenya and Uganda.

Dr. Morris holds various teaching positions within the University of Manitoba including being a faculty in the curriculum for indigenous teaching for medical students.

International Projects Update

In 2019, a partnership between MSF Operational Center Paris (OCP) and UBC-BISC was agreed upon to create a surgical task-sharing curriculum, in order to help build capacity in MSF-surgical projects in South Sudan (MOU currently under review by UBC legal department). A team of UBC affiliated professors designed an Essential Surgical Skills (ESS) curriculum, targeted for implementation in Aweil, South Sudan.

The training officially began July 1st, 2019. BISC Associate Director, Dr. Emilie Joos, will be visiting Aweil in March 2020 to supervise and support the training program. Stay tuned for updates from her trip in upcoming newsletters.

Bethune Roundtable 2020

The Bethune Round Table (BRT) is an annual interdisciplinary meeting aimed at addressing the challenges of providing accessible, high-quality surgical care to marginalized patients in low-resource settings. The theme of the 20th Bethune Round Table will be on Indigenous Peoples and Global Surgery. This year, the organizers wish to highlight research and stories about strength and resilience, and the promotion of culture that is critical to improving access to safe equitable surgical services.

The 2020 Bethune Round Table will feature research that recognizes cultural differences and the impacts of racism. The goal is to celebrate and highlight initiatives that improve survival, dignity and health of the Indigenous peoples of the world through better surgical care.

The 2020 Bethune Round Table has been postponed due to COVID-19. BISC will share information on new dates as it becomes available.

New BISC Course: SURG 517

Clinical Research Methods for Surgical Procedures with Global Surgical Comparisons

This new graduate course in the Master of Global Surgical Care curriculum launched in January 2020. The course introduces learners to surgical clinical research methods and emphasizes approaches to clinical research that are different for surgical research compared to medical research.

Students learn many aspects of the research process from research proposal development, to data analysis and statistical methods used in surgical research, to grant writing. This course also provides an opportunity for students to learn about systematic reviews, quality improvement and assurance, and technology evaluation in surgical research.

The course will be offered in September 2020. Learn more on our Curriculum page.