



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Branch for Global Surgical Care

Department of Surgery | Faculty of Medicine

# BGSC INSTRUCTOR APPRECIATION

2023 – 2024 Academic Year

This year, we wish to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the significant contributions of BGSC Instructors, Dr. Nadine Caron and Dr. Melanie Morris. They are instructors for **SURG 518: Global Disability: Surgical Care in Canada's Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities**.

Through this course, students learn from Indigenous voices and experiences, and examine challenges and opportunities confronting both the clinician and the service delivery system, embracing lessons learned from these communities. The course promotes critical thinking on, and ultimately will improve the provision of surgical care services to Indigenous communities in Canada and abroad.

The course instructors both bring a wealth of experience, knowledge and leadership as Indigenous surgical care professionals who have worked in rural and Indigenous communities in Canada. They were also instrumental in reviewing and updating the course recently to reflect new information, particularly residential schools and bringing in new models, ideas and initiatives including cultural safety and care as case studies.

Dr. Caron and Dr. Morris have also provided guidance and support to students and responded to discussion posts with thoughtful questions which stimulated dialogue and development of a learning community in the course. As a result, the course and their instruction as well as that of co-instructors, have been highly valued by learners as evidenced in evaluations. Their perspectives as Indigenous people and surgeons is extremely valuable to the course and our learners.

BGSC would like to recognize the significant and continued contributions of these two instructors this past term in providing an enriching learning environment for our students. Dr. Caron has been an instructor on the course since she co-created it with Dr. Robert Taylor and it was launched in 2018. Dr. Morris has been an instructor since 2019 and will be taking a break from instructing next year, so we thank her very much for all of her efforts over the years.

Here is some of the positive feedback received from students about Dr. Caron and Dr. Morris:

*“Thank you for the great content presented during the course.”*

*“I think all the instructors provided a unique perspective in this course and each person’s passion for the topic was obvious. Thank you!”*

## BGSC Instructor Appreciation 2023-2024: Biographies

*“It has stimulated thinking in a different perspective taking into consideration the inherent and indirect causes that are strongly causing poor access to surgical care in Canada and other HICs.”*

*“Very interesting online discussion, especially by the students and guest instructor. Really appreciated the extra experience that was shared, in addition to other suggested resources and materials.”*

*“Safe, non-judgmental space to learn about some difficult truths/realities. Instructors were approachable.”*

*“Great overview of knowledge. I appreciate the surgical lens placed on indigenous health. I have taken other courses on indigenous health before but this course offered many new perspectives.”*

*“I really appreciated the online discussions from the students, which provided a lot of original ideas and did a great job of helping me to better understand the course content.”*

*“Very thoughtful comments on our postings and scenarios to further critical thinking on the topics presented.”*



### **Nadine Caron**

MD, MPH, FRCSC

**Nadine Caron** is an Professor in UBC’s Faculty of Medicine, Department of Surgery and is teaching in the Northern Medical Program. She has served on numerous committees including the Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Health – Advisory Committee on Provincial Health Goals; British Columbia Medical Association – Committee on Health Promotion; Native Physicians Association of Canada; and is currently Chair of the BC

Medical Association’s Committee on Aboriginal Health. Her work involves a variety of audiences and knowledge users including governments, provincial health authorities, national medical organizations, health research funding bodies, and several universities to achieve identified and overlapping objectives.

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## BGSC Instructor Appreciation 2023-2024: Biographies



### **Melanie Morris,**

BSc, MD, FRCSC

**Dr. Morris** is an Indigenous surgeon at the Children's Hospital at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. Melanie is Métis and is a pediatric surgeon and urologist with a specialty in minimally invasive surgery. She is the first Indigenous pediatric surgeon in Canada. 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. She has recently developed initiatives and outreach clinics in Northern Manitoba and Nunavut. She has founded the Pediatric Surgery of the North program and is being funded by the Winnipeg Foundation and the Children's Hospital Foundation to create indigenous initiatives in the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg.

Dr. Morris holds various teaching positions within the University of Manitoba including being a faculty in the curriculum for indigenous teaching for medical students. Melanie is a standing member of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada since 2016, prior to this was a member of the Canadian Aboriginal Leaders in Medicine (2000-2004). Dr. Morris has a medical degree from the University of Alberta and a B.Sc. from the University of Winnipeg.