

## PRESENTING FACULTY



**Evan Ailon**

MD, FRCPC, Internal  
Medicine, Nanaimo, BC

Dr. Evan Ailon is a general internist and addictions physician in Nanaimo. He completed his internal medicine training in Toronto and practiced in both the academic and community setting for a few years before moving to the island to pursue a rural practice. He now practices full scope internal medicine, inpatient addictions consultation, and outpatient work with a focus on the management of alcohol use disorder.



**Terri Aldred**

MD, CCFP  
Prince George, BC

Dr. Terri Aldred is a Carrier from the Tl'Az't'En territory located north of Fort St. James. She is Lysiloo (Frog) Clan who are traditionally known as the voice of the people. Dr. Aldred was the Site Director for the Indigenous Family Medicine Program for 8 years, and she continues to work as a Family Physician for the Carrier Sekani Family Services Primary Care team which serves 12 communities in north-central BC.



**Shane Barclay**

MD, CCFP  
Sun Peaks, BC

Dr. Shane Barclay graduated from University of Saskatchewan in 1984. He practiced as a GP/OBs/ER in North Vancouver for 11 years, NWT/Nunavut for 7 years, Salt Spring Island GP/ER for 15 years and Sun Peaks Resort GP/Ski and bike injuries for 6 years.



**Bret Batchelor**

MD, CCFP (ESS)  
Revelstoke, BC

Dr. Bret Batchelor is a family physician with enhanced surgical skills who has spent a lot of time in the operating rooms in first Vanderhoof and then Revelstoke, BC where he currently resides. He is the Surgical Perioperative Lead at the Queen Victoria Hospital. He also hosts a medical podcast called Really Rural Surgery and Obstetrics.



**Floyd Besserer**

MD, MS DMM, FRCPC  
Prince George, BC

Dr. Floyd Besserer is an emergency physician and trauma team leader who works at the University Hospital of Northern BC in Prince George, BC. He currently holds a joint academic appointment as Assistant Professor in the UBC Department of Emergency Medicine and the UNBC Division of Medical Sciences. His research interests include emergency care, resuscitation and prehospital/transport medicine.



**Caitlin Blewett**

MPH, MD, PGY-2 Resident  
Nanaimo, BC

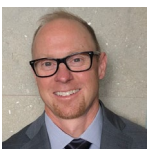
Dr. Caitlin Blewett is a second-year Family Medicine Resident in Nanaimo, BC on the territory of the Snuneymuxw people. She also holds a position on the BC Rural Health Conference Scientific Planning Committee.



**Sarah Broder**

MD, FRCPC, GIM/Respirology  
Okanagan Falls, BC

Dr. Sarah Broder went to Penticton to cover a maternity Respirology/GIM locum and never left. She has held a variety of administrative positions within her health region including Chief of Medicine for 10 years at Penticton Regional Hospital and since 2020 has been the Senior Medical Director for IH for Palliative Care and End of Life Services.



**Kevin Brown**

Executive Director,  
Physician Services Branch  
Victoria, BC

Kevin Brown is a health care executive with over 25 years' experience in the Provincial Public Service, with most of his time focused on major health system redesign initiatives. He has held multiple senior management portfolios within the Ministry of Health, including time as Executive Director of HealthLink BC. Currently Kevin is the Executive Director of the Physician Services Branch and is Co-Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues.



### **Josh Budlovsky**

MD, FRCPC, Geriatric  
Medicine Victoria, BC

Dr. Josh Budlovsky is a geriatrician. He lives and works in Victoria but does outreach work to Haida Gwaii, Prince Rupert and Bella Bella.



### **James Card**

MD, CCFP  
Prince George, BC

Dr. James Card is the Site Director for UBC's Northern and Rural Family Practice Residency program in Prince George, BC. He is also the medical lead for the Rural Medicine Interest Longitudinal Mentorship at RCCbc, and a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues (JSC).



### **Lauren Copping**

MPT, MFA. Physical  
Therapist, Vancouver, BC

Lauren Copping is a physical therapist working in private practice at Myodetox Kitsilano in Vancouver, BC. She completed her Masters of Physical Therapy degree at the University of British Columbia. Lauren is part of ongoing research with Dr. Jackie Whittaker on acute knee injuries. She is also a committee member of the International Association of Dance Medicine and Science.



### **Sean Duke**

MD, PGY-3 Resident  
Vancouver, BC

Dr. Sean Duke is a third year Pediatrics resident in UBC's Community Impact Stream.



### **Madeleine Eames**

MSW, RSW  
Kelowna, BC

Madeleine Eames' background is in the area of trauma therapy and mind-body healing. She is a mindfulness teacher, yoga instructor and breathwork guide. She runs the online chronic pain education program for the Bill Nelems Pain and Research Centre which focusses on current research-based information and practices for supported self-management.



### **Sean Ebert**

MD, CCFP(FPA), FCFP,  
FRRMS, Coldstream, BC

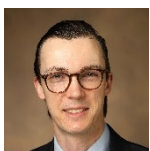
Dr. Sean Ebert is a family physician living in Coldstream, BC. He is a student of quality improvement, system change and mindfulness. He has a focused practice in pain and aviation medicine. He is privileged to continue to enjoy a rural lifestyle including hiking, biking, travel, and farming.



### **Alex Farrugia**

MD, CCFP, FCFP (FPA),  
PGDip Derm, Revelstoke, BC

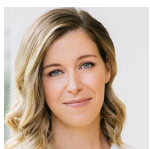
A family physician in Revelstoke, BC for 25 years, Dr. Alex Farrugia has added an interest in medical skin care to complement her family practice and anesthesia skill sets.



### **Connor Forbes**

MD, FRCSC, Endourology  
Vancouver, BC

Dr. Connor Forbes is an Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He completed a 2-year combined clinical and research fellowship in Endourology and Minimally Invasive Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. His research interests are in Benign Prostate Hyperplasia, including basic science mechanisms, and kidney stones.



### **Allison Gregory**

MD, FRCPC, Dermatology  
Vancouver, BC

Dr. Allie Gregory is a dermatologist working in Vancouver at Seymour Dermatology and BC Children's Hospital. Her practice focuses on adult and pediatric dermatology. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Gregory is also actively involved in medical education. She serves as the residency program director at UBC, as well as being a clinical assistant professor for both medical students and residents.

**Rachel Grimminck**

MD, FRCPC, DABPN, CGP,  
Psychiatry, Duncan, BC

Dr. Rachel Grimminck (she/her/hers) is a Psychiatrist on Vancouver Island where she serves in a leadership role with the provincial Mind Space (formerly CBT Skills) group program which provides high quality, evidence-based groups to patients across BC. She has many years of acute care psychiatry experience including emergency psychiatry, inpatients and ECT.

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**Alex Hale**

Registered PT, MScPT,  
AN-IMS, Nanaimo, BC

Alexandra Hale is a Registered Physiotherapist who specializes in Pelvic Floor and Pediatric Care. After graduating with a Master's Degree in Physiotherapy, Alex completed a Pelvic Health Residency focusing on persistent pain management. Alex takes a whole person approach to her assessment and treatment and feels all parts of a person need to be considered for optimal rehab outcomes.

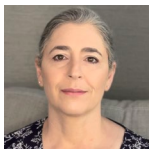
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**Ilona Hale**

MD, FCFP, Planetary Health  
Fellow, Kimberly, BC

Dr. Ilona Hale is family physician from the rural East Kootenays of British Columbia. She is currently doing a Planetary Health fellowship with Health Quality BC. She has recently led the production of a Canadian guide to Planetary Health in Primary Care and is working on incorporating environmental sustainability into quality improvement.

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**Renee Hall**

MD, CCFP, FCFP  
Vancouver, BC

Dr. Renee Hall is a Clinical Associate Professor at UBC who has been working in the area of family planning in Vancouver for 25 years. She is the Co-director of Willow Clinic and provides first and second trimester medical and surgical abortion and training at the CARE program at BC Women's Hospital, Everywomans Health Center, Elizabeth Bagshaw Clinic and Willow Clinic. She is the director of the UBC CPD IUD and contraceptive implant training program.

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**Alisa Harrison**

PhD, ACC  
Vancouver, BC

Alisa Harrison (she/her) is passionate about enabling positive and strategic system change. With a diverse academic and professional background, she specializes in policy and leadership around mental health and substance use and primary care; intersectional, anti-oppressive and trauma-informed theory and practice; participatory approaches to research and organizational development; and collaborative governance.

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**Brett Heilbron**

MB ChB, FRCPC, Cardiology  
Vancouver, BC

Dr. Brett Heilbron completed his Internal Medicine and Cardiology training at UBC in 1995. He is currently a Clinical and Invasive Diagnostic Cardiologist and Co-Director of the Advanced Cardiac Imaging Program at St. Pauls' Hospital / Providence Heart + Lung Institute, and a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia. His interests include non-invasive cardiac imaging and information technology.

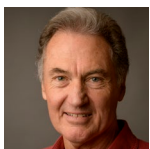
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**Denise Jaworsky**

MD, PhD, FRCPC, General  
Internal Medicine,  
Cranbrook, BC

Dr. Denise Jaworsky is a general internist living in Cranbrook on the unceded territory of the Ktunaxa Nation. She completed her GIM fellowship at UBC and her PhD in clinical epidemiology with a focus on rural health equity at the University of Toronto. Supported through the REAP Advanced Skills and Training Program, she completed informal training in obesity medicine in the clinic of Dr. Ali Zentner.

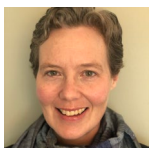
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**Stuart Johnston**

MSc (Civil Eng), MB, ChB,  
Retired GP, Oliver, BC

Dr. C.S. Johnston was a rural full-service GP in BC for 33 years. During this time he worked in 3 Health Authority areas, assisted with the negotiation of the Rural Subsidiary Agreement (RSA), the establishment of the Joint Standing Committee on rural issues (JSC) and the formation of the Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc).

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**Jennifer Kask**

MD, CCFP, FCFP  
Campbell River, BC

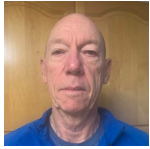
Jennifer Kask is a family physician locum who has made Campbell River her "home base" since 2005. In addition to caring for the patients of her colleagues, she is part of the Campbell River Maternity Clinic, which cares for pregnant people and their families from Northern Vancouver Island and the Discovery Islands. She has a keen interest in Quality Improvement.

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**Karin Kausky**

MD, CCFP, FCFP, Dip. Sport  
Med, Whistler, BC

Dr. Karin Kausky has been a full-service family physician in Whistler BC for over 30 years. She is a national ski cross team lead physician and has worked with numerous snow sports over the years. Karin is the co-lead of the network of rural divisions of family practice and is on the board of directors of Doctors of BC.

**Mike Makin**

M.BChb, CCFP  
Vanderhoof, BC

Dr. Mike Makin graduated from Cape Town University in 1980. He came to Canada in 1986 and has been a family doctor in Vanderhoof for 37 years. He has a special interest in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

**Shireen Mansouri**

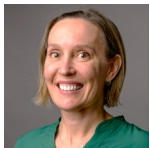
MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP  
Calgary, AB

Dr. Shireen Mansouri is a family physician who lives in Calgary and works in Yellowknife, NWT as a family physician and GP Oncologist. She is also a certified Compassion Cultivation Teacher and is passionate about ensuring physicians have the skills to thrive in medicine.

**Kirk McCarroll**

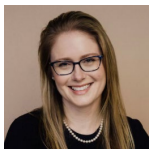
MD, CCFP-FPA, FCFP  
Revelstoke, BC

Dr. Kirk McCarroll is a member of the Selkirk Medical Group and works as a family practice anesthetist in Revelstoke BC, the traditional and unceded territory of the Syilx, Ktunaxa, Sinixt and Secwepemc. He and his wife, Dr. Kate McCarroll balance their family life with 2 sons and their busy rural medical practices. His professional interests include rural anesthesia care, emergency medicine and critical care.

**Kirsten Miller**

MD, FRCPC, Pediatrics  
Prince George, BC

Dr. Kirsten Miller is a pediatrician in Prince George, on the traditional unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh people. She co-leads SPRUCe (Sustaining Pediatrics in Rural and Underserved Communities) and works as a pediatrician on call for CHARLiE (the pediatric RTVS pathway). She is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues and is Pediatrics Medical Lead for Northern Health.

**Kelsey Mills**

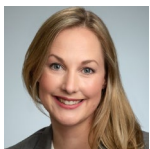
MD, FRCSC, MSc HSEd,  
MSCP, Victoria, BC

Dr. Kelsey Mills obtained her medical degree and OBGYN residency at the University of Toronto. She completed a fellowship in Mature Women's Health at Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto. Dr. Mills has been a North American Menopause Society Certified Menopause Practitioner (NCMP) since 2013 and is currently a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in Victoria, BC where she has a complex menopause practice. She is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia and Affiliate Associate Professor at the University of Victoria. She sits on the Boards of the Canadian Menopause Society and Canadian Women in Medicine (CWIM).

**Aron Nenninger**

BScPharm, RPh,  
Terrace, BC

Dr. Aron Nenninger has been working with the BC PAD service as an academic detailing pharmacist since July 2010 and has completed Basic and Advanced Academic Detailing training. Aron has extensive experience in providing education across Northern Health in the many topics PAD has offered, including type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, COPD, ADHD and insomnia. Currently, Aron combines his skills as an academic detailing pharmacist and as a hospital pharmacist in Terrace, BC.

**Heather O'Donnell**

MD, FRCSC  
Vancouver, BC

Dr. Heather O'Donnell opened her practice in Vancouver in 2016 and has been proudly serving patients in the lower mainland since then. She is passionate about ophthalmology and patient care. She is incredibly proud to have joined Providence Health Care's ophthalmology team and operates at Mount St. Joseph's, an exceptional public cataract surgical centre. Education is an ongoing focus of her non-clinical work, she is involved in medical student and resident clinical and surgical teaching.



**Melissa Paquette**

MD, FRCPC, Pediatrics  
Kamloops, BC

Dr. Melissa Paquette is a general Pediatrician in Kamloops, BC enjoying a mix of acute neonatal and pediatric hospital care as well as a busy office practice. She is also a CHARLiE physician for Real-Time Virtual Support's instant access pediatric pathway. She lives with her family in Sun Peaks and enjoys XC and DH biking, XC skiing and running.

**Chris Parfitt**

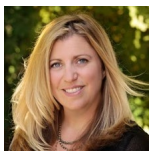
MD, FRCS, Orthopedic  
Surgeon, Salmon Arm, BC

Dr. Chris Parfitt is a Clinical Instructor at the UBC Department of Orthopaedics. He is a General Orthopedic Surgeon with 30+ years of rural practice. He is also a survivor of Rural Family Practice (5 years as a family physician).

**Matt Petrie**

MD, CCFP-EM  
Kelowna, BC

Dr. Matt Petrie practices emergency medicine at Kelowna General Hospital in the sunny Okanagan Valley: traditional territory of the Syilx Okanagan people. His clinical practice extends to virtual emergency care with the RCCbc Real Time Virtual Support team. He is also part of the Interior Health Simulation Education team and the IH Rural Outreach mobile simulation program.

**Sue Reid Schellinck**

Occupational Therapy  
Nanaimo, BC

Susan Reid Schellinck is an Occupational Therapist who works with people with chronic pain. She is a provincial, national, and international speaker on functional aspects of chronic pain. She is clinical faculty for Pain BC and Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists and is a yearly guest lecturer for UBC MScOT and Pharmacy students. In her spare time, she gets out in nature and enjoys her teenagers.

**Jenny Retallack**

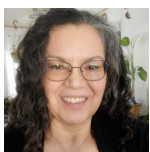
MD, FRCPC, Pediatrics  
Vancouver, BC

Dr. Jenny Retallack a general pediatrician in Vancouver on the traditional and unceded territories of the x̣ʷməθkʷəỵ'əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and Səl'ílwəta? Nations. Her work is focused within the PICU at BC Children's Hospital, where she leads outreach work. She also supports the Wit'issuwit'en and Gitxsan territories as a visiting consulting pediatrician, co-leads SPRUCe (Sustaining Pediatrics in Rural and Underserved Communities), and works as a pediatrician on call for CHARLiE (Child Health Advice in Real-time Electronically) virtual pathway.

**Virginia Robinson**

MD, CCFP(EM)  
Ferne, BC

Dr. Virginia Robinson started her career as a full-service family doctor in Northern Quebec in the community of Chisasibi. For the last 20 years Virginia has worked in Fernie, BC where she developed a passion for the use of ultrasound in rural and remote communities to improve access and quality of care for patients. Virginia has been teaching ultrasound for the last 10 years and is currently also a professor for the Rural Ultrasound Fellowship. She is the POCUS lead for the Rural Coordination Centre of BC and the medical lead for the UBC OB Hands On Ultrasound Course (HOUSE OB).

**Cheryl Schweizer**

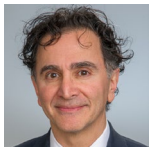
M.Ed, BCom  
Prince George, BC

Elder Cheryl Schweizer is a Tl'azt'en Nation member and frog clan, a mother to 6 and grandmother to 13. She is honored to live, work, and play on ancestral territory of Lheidli T'enneh. She has been working with the UBC CPD Indigenous Patient-Led working group since 2020.

**Tim Shaw**

PhD. Professor of Digital  
Health, Sydney, AU

Dr. Tim Shaw is Professor of Digital Health at the University of Sydney and Solutions Domain Lead for the Charles Perkins Centre. He specialises in building partnerships across industry, services, government, communities and academia to deliver high impact research translation. He is currently chief investigator on the Northern Territory Digital Remote Care Project.

**Kam Shojania**

MD, FRCPC, Rheumatology  
Vancouver, BC

Dr. Kam Shojania is Clinical Professor of Medicine, UBC, Head of the Division of Rheumatology, Vancouver General Hospital and the Medical Director of the Mary Pack Arthritis Program which provides quaternary care for rheumatic diseases in BC. He has been in clinical practice since 1995 and has a special interest in dermatological manifestations of rheumatic disease, working in the St. Paul's Hospital Dermatology And Rheumatology (DART) clinic. His research interests include systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases, gout, laboratory testing in rheumatic diseases.

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**Caroline Shooner**

MD, CCFP, FCFP  
Daajing Giids, Haida Gwaii

Dr. Caroline Shooner has been practicing family medicine on Haida Gwaii for over twenty years. She is interested in how the Arts and Humanities can help promote health and allow us to look more critically and meaningfully at how we deliver medical care. In 2015, she completed a MSc in Medical Humanities at King's College London. During this year, she was also introduced to the field of Graphic Medicine and started drawing cartoons, inspired by the comic side of small-town medicine: The Boon Docs.

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**Ezekial Steve**

MD, CCFP  
Campbell River, BC

Dr. Zeke Steve is a rural generalist family physician who has been working as a locum in rural and remote BC since 2017. When not living out of his suitcase, he makes his home in Black Creek on Vancouver Island.

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**Tandi Wilkinson**

MD, CCFP-EM  
Nelson, BC

Dr. Tandi Wilkinson is a long-time practitioner of rural emergency medicine from Nelson, BC. Her special interest in physician wellness arose from a need to understand her own experiences. She has created many workshop offerings to support physician wellness and is currently leading 'The Thriving Project' for the Rural Coordination Center of BC. She keeps (mostly) thriving by spending her spare time in the wilderness, having a regular yoga practice, and continuing to build connections in her community.

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