



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Nursing
NURSING.USASK.CA

A background image showing a close-up of several interlocking gears. Some gears are white and some are dark blue. The gears are resting on a surface with faint, handwritten-style text including words like 'STRATEGY', 'GOALS', 'INP', and 'TIO'.

COLLEGE OF NURSING RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP SNAPSHOT

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

FEBRUARY 2026

Message from Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies

The nursing profession and discipline are confronted with diverse challenges of the 21st century, accompanied by emerging innovations that hold the potential to generate impactful solutions. These challenges encompass critical issues, such as local and global nursing shortages, inadequate access to primary care, burnout among both nursing students and practicing nurses, and persistent workforce retention difficulties.

Challenges arising from food insecurity, climate change, and increased economic and political migration, poverty, hunger, and other determinants of health add layers of complexities to the management and delivery of healthcare in Saskatchewan, across Canada, and globally. These realities underscore the significance of research in developing solutions to address these local and global issues. Take planetary health, for example. Planetary health represents a major global health concern that influences human, social, and environmental well-being, while affecting the quality of life of individuals and communities.

Nurses continue to advocate for social justice and raise awareness in addressing racism, ethnocentrism, ableism, and other racial, social and cultural forces that perpetuate social and health inequities.

Finally, artificial intelligence, advanced robotics, virtual reality, simulation, and big data will influence the profession and discipline of nursing. We need to explore these innovations and their impacts on nursing research, education, and practice. As nurses, we are accountable to examine and provide answers to these challenges. As nurse researchers, we hold moral, ethical, cultural, social, and professional responsibilities to engage with complexity, while advancing the future of nursing to enhance how healthcare and nursing services are delivered locally and globally.

Through its three signature areas, the College of Nursing engages in the future of nursing research that aligns with the University of Saskatchewan's research mission of being the "University the World Needs". Also, inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, our researchers and scholars address a variety of challenges facing the discipline of nursing with the aims of enhancing the health, well-being, and quality of life of individuals, groups,



Dr. Louise Racine

communities, and populations, while promoting and sustaining community development and engagement, empowerment, equity, and justice.

As part of the fabric of research and scholarship at the University of Saskatchewan, faculty and staff in the College of Nursing are active researchers in healthcare facilities, homes, schools, communities, and organizations. The profiles of the nurse scholars in this booklet highlight how the research being done at the College of Nursing addresses the needs of the people of your local community, Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world.

As you scroll through the following pages, you will notice our research and scholarship work is highlighted as the three signature areas; 1) Innovations in Health Systems and Education Research, 2) Community-Engaged Health and Nursing Research, and 3) Health Equity Research. Individually and collectively, the work being done in these three signature areas contributes to innovations, collaborations, and a local-global reach.

This snapshot was prepared with a lens toward discovery, scholarship, and community engagement.

Dr. Louise Racine RN, PhD, FTNSS
Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies
Professor and Transcultural Nursing Scholar
College of Nursing
University of Saskatchewan

College of Nursing | Research Signature Areas

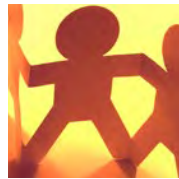
College of Nursing researchers aim to create equitable and sustainable solutions to improve health experiences and outcomes for individuals, families and communities provincially, nationally, and internationally.

The College of Nursing plans to achieve its research mandate through three research signature areas.



INNOVATION

In the College of Nursing, **Innovations in Health Systems and Education Research** pertains to innovations, ideas, and evidence-based strategies that influence nursing education, interprofessional education, leadership, and management. Our researchers explore how innovation can lead to new or better ways to solve problems in a relevant and meaningful manner. Through this research, we challenge existing ideas and assumptions of current health systems and education approaches, practices, and technologies; exploring how these are leveraged to provide the best outcomes for health care providers, patients, educators, and students. Research in this signature area contributes to improvements in the delivery of nursing care.



COMMUNITY

Our researchers in **Community-Engaged Health and Nursing Research** collaborate with communities and local partners to achieve mutually agreed-upon goals of addressing health needs, building capacity, and promoting improved health outcomes. We work with local agencies, urban and rural municipalities, faith-based organizations, school boards, advocacy groups, settlement organizations, Indigenous communities, and government agencies. Through giving voice to communities in research, we create and disseminate knowledge to advance the discipline of nursing, empower individuals and communities, and strengthen the health and well-being of communities. Our research aims to be responsive, respectful, and inclusive.



EQUITY

Nursing researchers in **Health Equity Research** acknowledge that health inequities arise from social injustice inscribed in systematic differences related to race, gender, social class, culture, and geographic locations. We embrace a social justice lens that emphasizes the notion of fairness. Health inequities occur when this notion is challenged by structural barriers that lead to poor health outcomes across social, demographic, and geographic populations and subgroups. We believe that exploration of social determinants of health is likely to inform health policies and translate into health and social interventions that will reduce health inequities. Through our research, we strive to identify, prevent, and remove these barriers.

For more information on our signature areas and researchers, please visit nursing.usask.ca/research.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

College of Nursing researchers work in a variety of settings, study a wide array of topics, and conduct research with diverse populations. In many cases, the research they are working on directly aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

Throughout this booklet, we have included SDG icons on a number of research profiles to highlight the individual researchers work and the SDG goal(s) with which it aligns.



Indigenous Research Chair in Nursing

In April 2020, University of Saskatchewan's Dr. Holly Graham (PhD) was awarded an Indigenous Research Chair in Nursing. The goal of this Chair is to improve the health of Indigenous peoples.

The Indigenous Research Chair in Nursing will support and mentor Indigenous and non-Indigenous undergraduate and graduate student nurses to conduct research that will advance reconciliation in nursing practice, research, education, and administration.

With the guidance of an Indigenous Advisory Committee, both Indigenous and Western research paradigms will be utilized, and both First Nation and Métis worldviews will be integrated into the nursing curriculum. The overall goal is for all College of Nursing graduates to have an understanding of the traditional Western, First Nation, and Métis perspectives of health and wellness. Having this holistic understanding will enhance all aspects of nursing practice.

Entitled "wahkohtowin (we are all related)", the program will create the opportunity for personal, community, and collective wellness for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, with the ultimate goal of transforming current relationships. The Medicine Wheel will provide the framework for the holistic approach that considers the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual aspects of the individual. The Seven Sacred Teachings will provide the foundation for human conduct towards others by instilling the values and virtues of humility, honesty, respect, courage, wisdom, truth, and love in all interactions.

Funding for the Indigenous Research Chair in Nursing is \$1.05 million, with contributions of \$666,500 from Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), \$308,500 from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF), \$10,000 from the Canadian Nurses Foundation (CNF), and \$60,000 from the University of Saskatchewan.



holly.graham@usask.ca



306-966-2126

About Dr. Holly Graham

Dr. Graham is a member of the Thunderchild First Nation. She has worked as a registered nurse in a variety of northern communities, in addition to various other health care environments since 1985. She maintains an active practice as a registered doctoral psychologist, working primarily with individuals who have experienced trauma and symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Holly's research is strength-based and focuses on Indigenous health, mental health, and wellness.



FACULTY RESEARCH PROFILES

As a global health delivery systems researcher, my work advances understanding of organizational learning in health facilities, which serves as a foundation for strengthening learning health systems in Tanzania and other low- and middle-income countries.

Shehnaz Alidina ScD, MPH, MHA
Associate Dean, Engagement and Development,
Saskatoon



✉ shehnaz.alidina@usask.ca
📱 306-966-1927



I engage with interdisciplinary researchers, family and community members, and students to develop accessible supportive resources and care for families of children with serious and chronic illness. We build on past research to develop and test community-driven and patient-centred interventions to inform effective pediatric family care.

Jill Bally BSN, RN, BA (Psych), MN, PhD
Professor, Saskatoon



jill.bally@usask.ca



306-966-7391




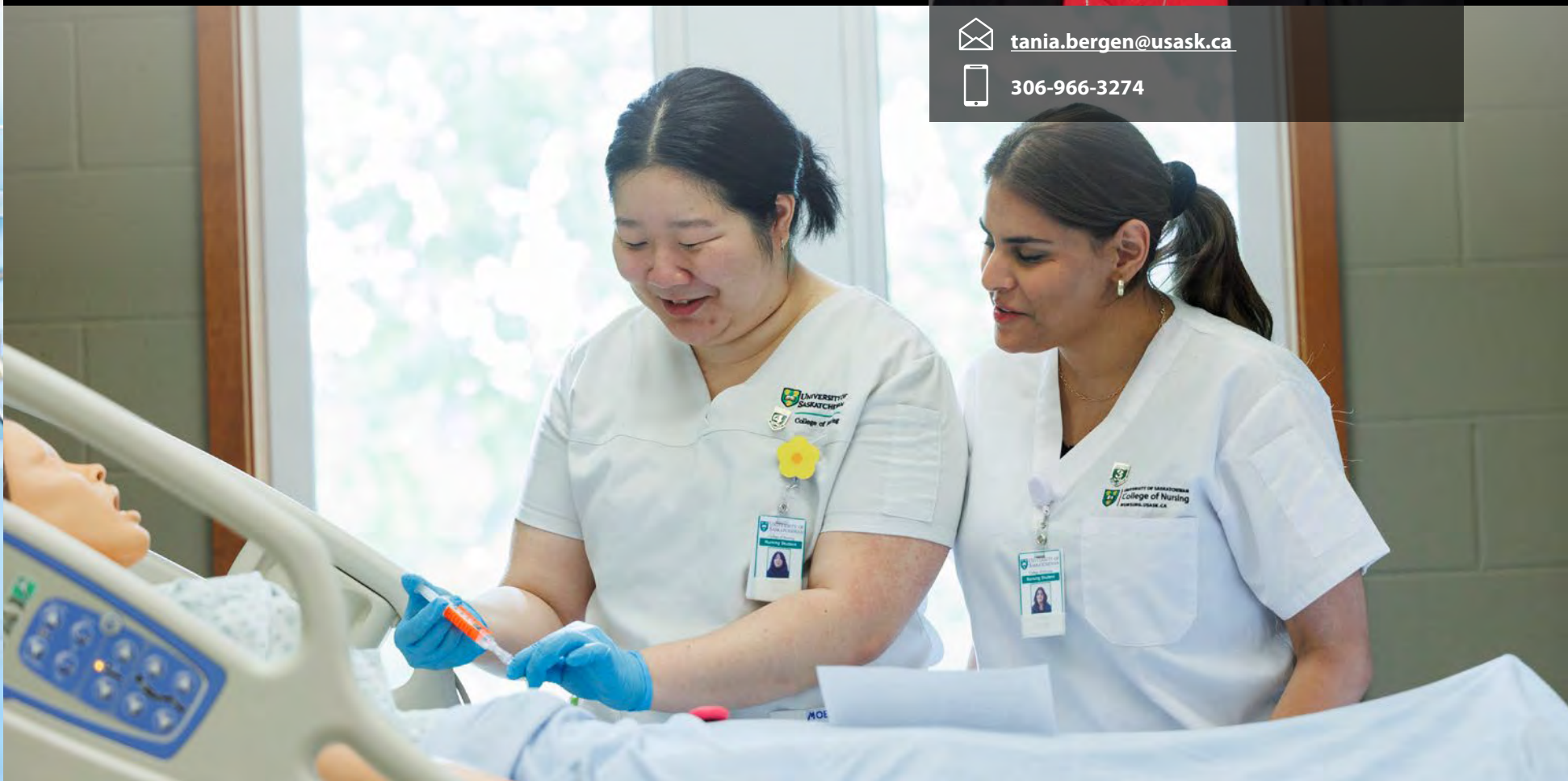
I am interested in the scholarship of teaching and learning. My most recent endeavors explore the concept of creating spaces for students to thrive and peer mentorship.

Tania Bergen RN, BSN, MN
Instructor, Saskatoon



 tania.bergen@usask.ca



 306-966-3274



I am interested in the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL), focusing on teaching innovations and providing effective feedback to enhance student learning in the clinical setting.

Cheryl Besse BScN, RN, MN
Associate Professor – Academic Programming
Saskatoon





 cheryl.besse@usask.ca
 306-966-6248



My current research focuses on the health equity of women and gender diverse populations and seeks to create community partnerships that work to develop comprehensive services and improve health.

Jodie Bigalky RN, BScN, MN, PhD, PNC(C)
Assistant Professor, Regina



 jodie.bigalky@usask.ca
 306-337-3801




My research focuses on co-developing educational tools to improve treatment option decisions for Indigenous peoples living with Chronic Kidney Disease. Other interests include the prevalence of undiagnosed prediabetes and diabetes in Indigenous adolescents.

Carol Bullin RN, BScN, MCEd, PhD
Assistant Professor, Saskatoon



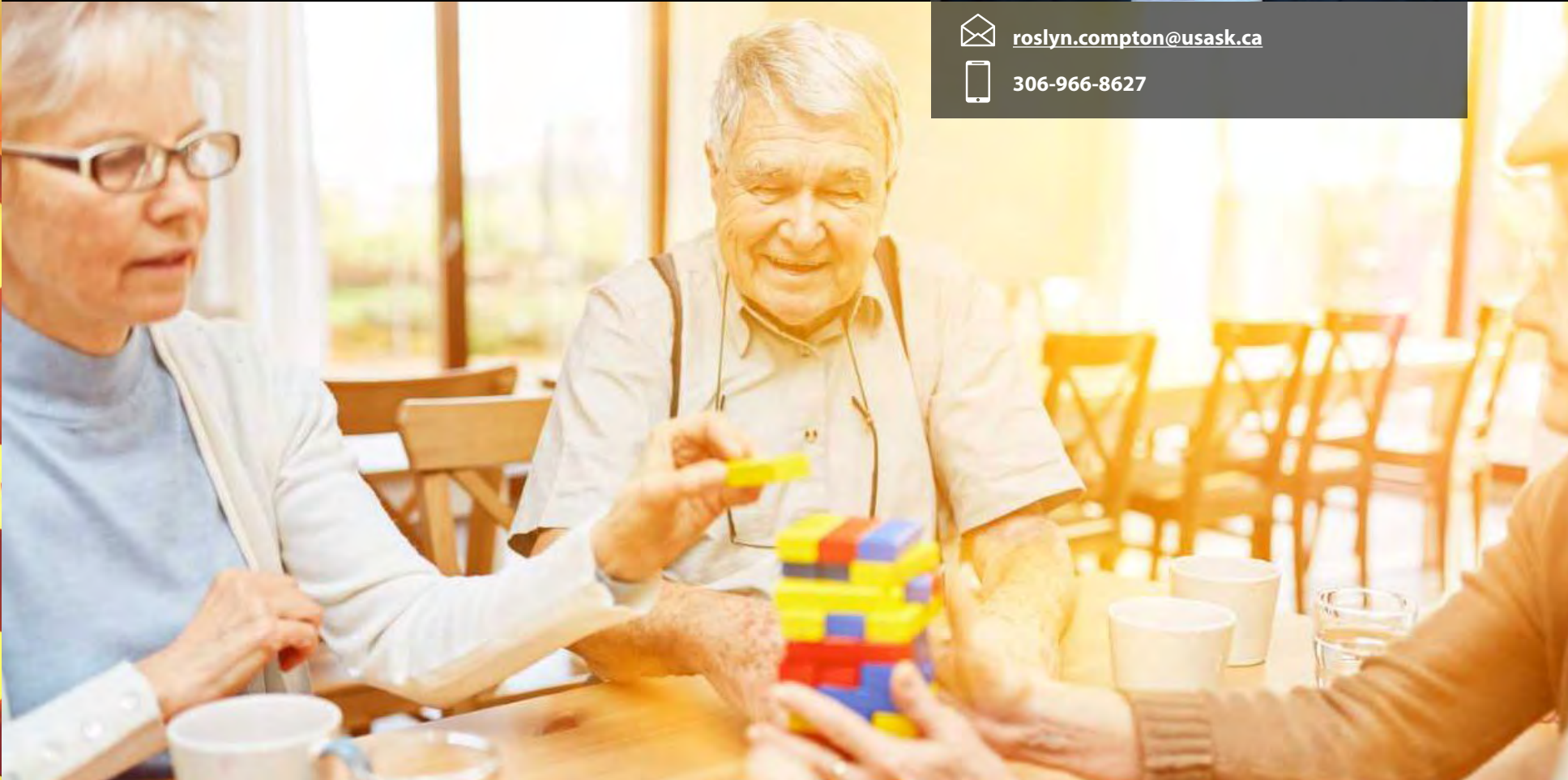
 carol.bullin@usask.ca

 306-966-7540




Using a patient-oriented research approach, older adults living in long-term care, their close ones, staff, and communities are meaningfully engaged to build models of care that support “caring in relation” to improve quality of life.

Roslyn Compton PhD, RN, GNC (C)
Associate Professor, Saskatoon




 roslyn.compton@usask.ca

 306-966-8627

My research focuses on reducing pediatric death in Uganda, where children have high mortality rates after leaving the hospital. I use predictive modeling to identify high-risk children so patient education and follow-up care within the community can be undertaken.

Brooklyn Derksen RN, BSN, MN
Lecturer, Saskatoon



 brooklyn.derksen@usask.ca
 306-966-8681



One quarter of us are caregivers. I partner in research and development of education initiatives to support belonging for caregivers who assist friends, family, and neighbours to live well, safely, and affordably, in their communities.

Natasha Hubbard Murdoch BScN, RN, MN, PhD
Assistant Professor, Saskatoon



natasha.hm@usask.ca



306-966-6184



My current work in this area explores the healthwork of parents and caregivers who have declined some or all routine childhood vaccines for their children. This nuanced approach provides insights into the health and advocacy work that caregivers engage in after their initial decisions about vaccination rather than solely focusing on their perspectives and opinions.

Christine Huel NP(F), BN, MScN, PhD
Assistant Professor, Saskatoon



christine.huel@usask.ca



306-966-2325



I am interested in medical-surgical nursing, patient care quality, quantitative methodology, and use of the latest technologies in patient care and health systems. My goal is also to create linkages between surgical nursing and disease prevention to collaborate with other nursing disciplines within an educational approach based on technological developments to create culturally safe health care.

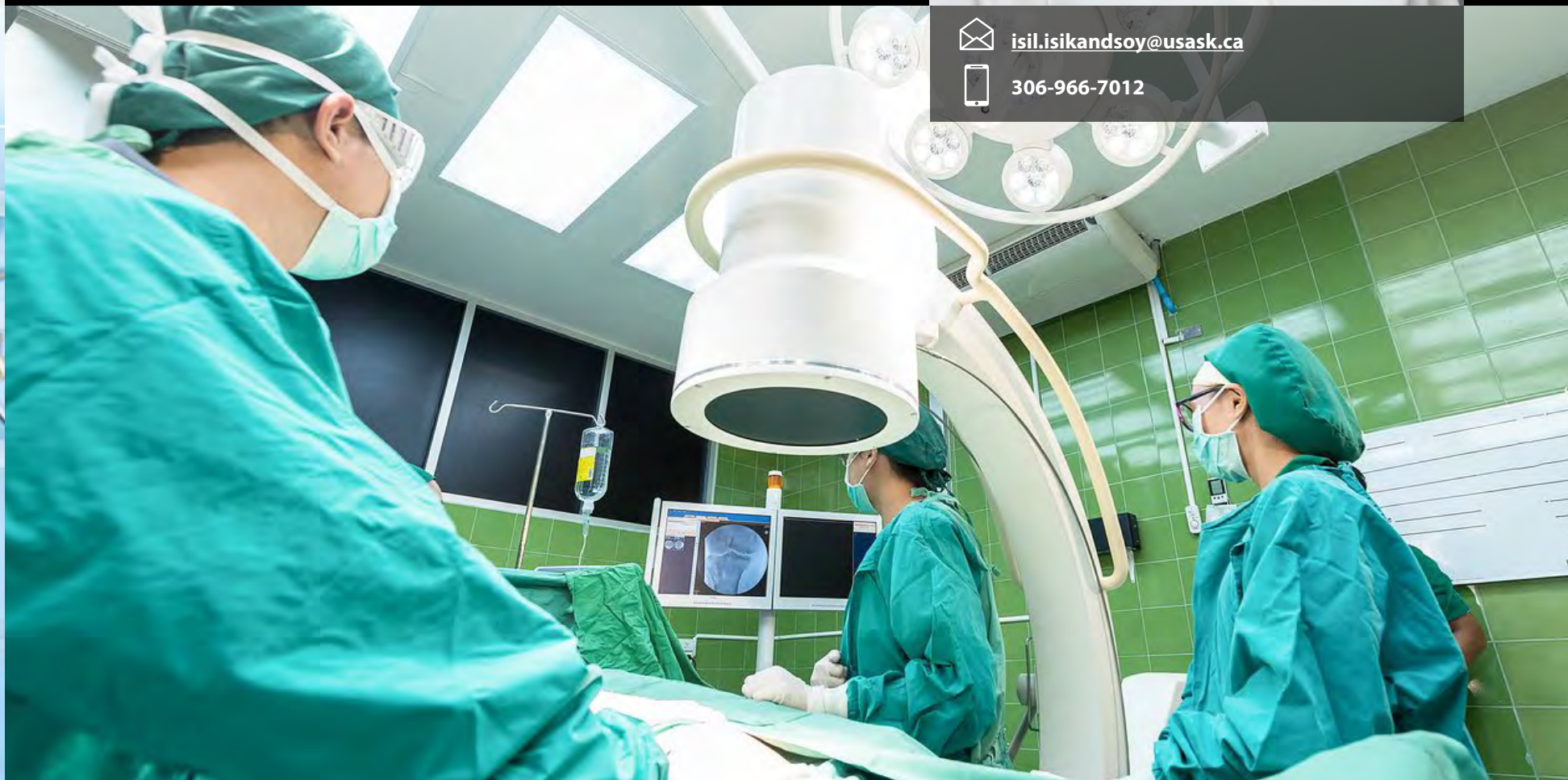
Isil Isik Andsoy BSc, MN, PhD
Assistant Professor, Saskatoon



isil.isikandsoy@usask.ca



306-966-7012



My research fosters working relationships among older adults, Indigenous community members, healthcare providers, and researchers to co-develop knowledge sharing strategies for chronic disease management.

Lynn Jansen BSN, MN, PhD
Associate Professor, Saskatoon



lynn.jansen@usask.ca



306-966-6297



My research focus is pain management, specifically pediatric procedural pain, chronic pain across the lifespan, and interprofessional education (IPE) in pain. My research approaches include Participatory Action Research (PAR) and Community-Based Participatory Action Research (CBPR) with patient partners.

Karen Juckes BSN, MN, PhD
Assistant Professor, Regina



✉ karen.juckes@usask.ca
📱 306-337-3813

My current research focuses on assessment and diagnosis of dementia of persons in the criminal justice system, with the goal of moving some older persons in custody with a diagnosis of dementia out of institutions and into secure community settings to support a better quality of life. I also have a passion for nursing archives, nursing history, mental health, Indigenous health, and forensic nursing education.

Arlene Kent-Wilkinson RN, CPMHN, BSN, MN, PhD
Professor, Saskatoon



arlene.kent@usask.ca



306-966-6897



I work in community partnerships and school-based health promotion, where the family comes first as a critical partner for health and wellness. My work focuses on relationships for health promotion and health education, media production, policy development, and advocacy.

Tish King RN, BSN, MN
Instructor, Saskatoon



✉ patricia.king@usask.ca
☎ 306-966-8729



I am interested in using simulation as a teaching strategy, to promote clinical decision making and build confidence in nursing students.

Tania Kristoff RN, PhD, CCSNE
Associate Professor – Academic Programming,
Prince Albert



tania.kristoff@usask.ca



306-765-3873



My research focuses on rural and remote nursing practice (including advanced practice nursing) and the delivery of primary health care to address the determinants of health of populations in rural and remote communities.

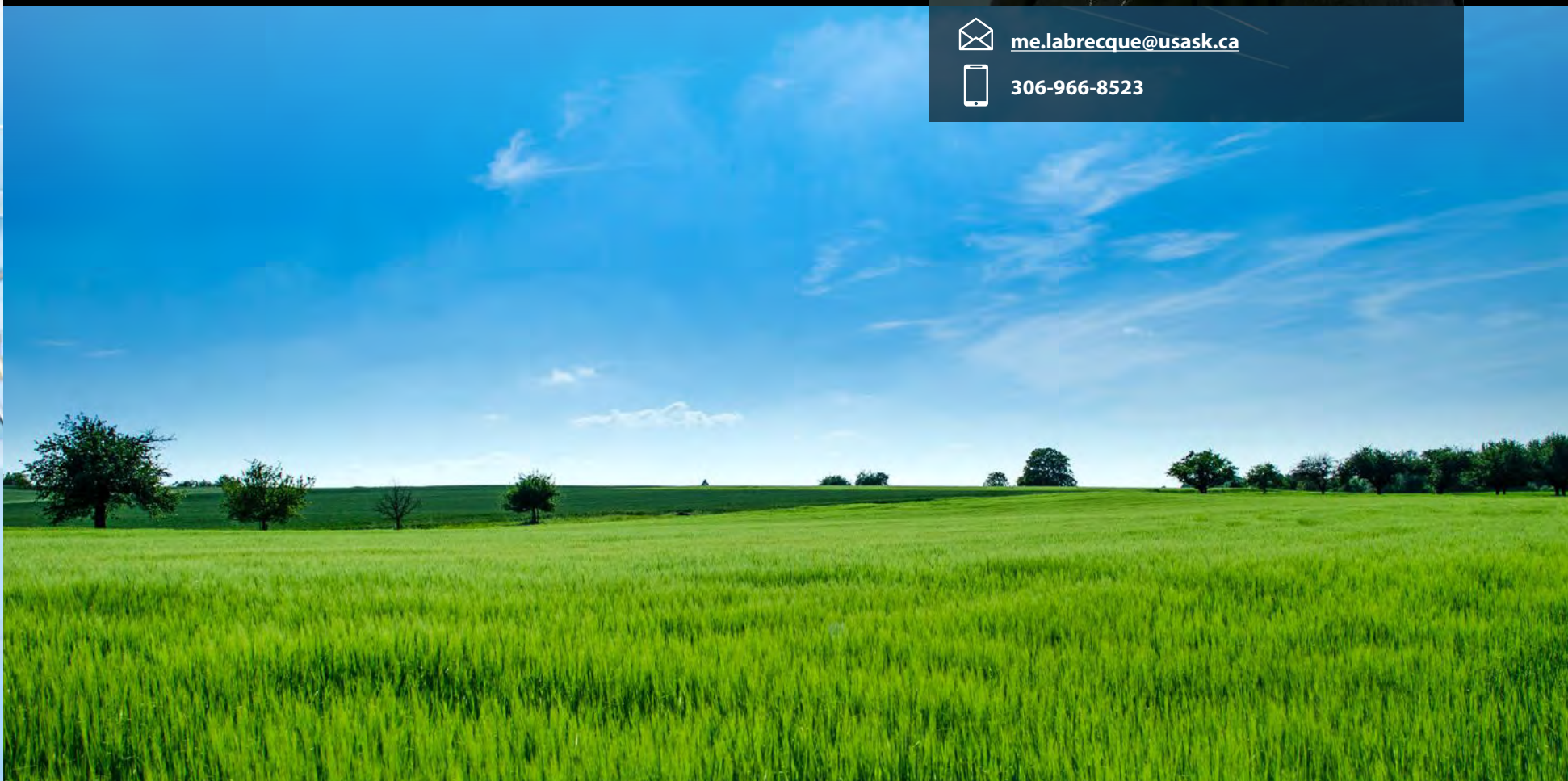
Mary Ellen Labrecque RN (NP), PhD
Assistant Professor, Saskatoon



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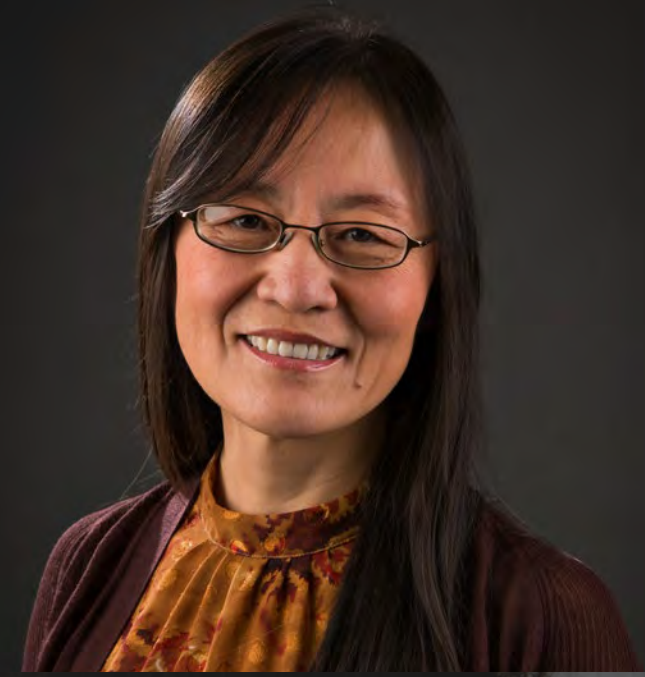


306-966-8523



My research focuses on enhancing mental health and well-being, specifically in patients living with mental health and addiction disorders, and improving maternal mental health for new mothers.

Hua Li RN, BSN, MPH, PhD
Associate Professor, Saskatoon





✉ hua.li@usask.ca
☎ 306-966-2158



My research focuses on nurse practitioner education and integration of nurse practitioners into the health care system.

Janet Luimes RN (NP), MScN
Associate Professor – Academic Programming
Saskatoon



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 306-966-8426



In my research, I work with communities in Canada and globally to improve health equity for marginalized groups by addressing gender-based violence, menstrual health, and access to care through collaborative and trauma-informed approaches.

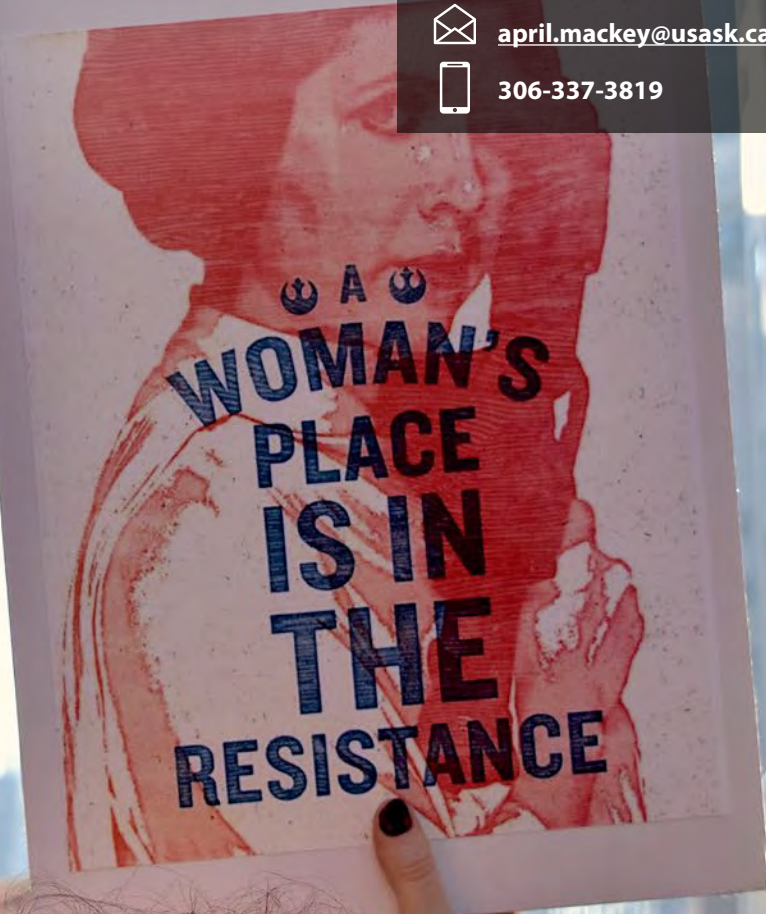
April Mackey RN, BSN, MN, PhD
Assistant Professor, Regina



april.mackey@usask.ca



306-337-3819



In my research, I partner with communities to identify health and social priorities and develop collaborative and community driven interventions to address health disparities.

Geoffrey Maina RN, BScN, MN, PhD
Associate Professor, Prince Albert



 geoffrey.maina@usask.ca

 306-765-3887



I work with community partners, interdisciplinary teams, and people with lived experience to evaluate women's health, mental health, and the HIV/substance use/abuse prevention programs with a larger goal of advancing nursing in a global context and improving the lives of equity-deserving populations like women, youth, and students.

Sithokozi Maposa PhD, RN
Assistant Professor, Prince Albert



 s.maposa@usask.ca


 306-765-3875



I work with community partners to improve health through community food security, quality housing, and environmental sustainability practices.

Wanda Martin RN, BScN, MN, PhD
Associate Professor, Saskatoon



 wanda.martin@usask.ca
 306-966-5429



I work with community partners using a strength-based approach to improve the health outcomes of the pediatric population in the area of substance use disorder and oral health.

Marcella Ogenchuk BSN, MN, PhD
Associate Professor, Saskatoon



marcella.ogenchuk@usask.ca



306-966-1757



My research supports Canadian farmers and ranchers with culturally-responsive mental health care.

Michelle Pavloff RN, BSN, MN, PhD
Associate Professor, Saskatoon



michelle.pavloff@usask.ca





306-966-4912



My research is in the area of older adults living with dementia and their family carers. I partner with community organizations to improve the support and care that persons with dementia and their family carers receive in long-term care and acute care settings.

Shelley Peacock RN, BSc, BSN, MN, PhD
Professor, Saskatoon



 shelley.peacock@usask.ca
 306-966-7375



My program of research explores the nature of practice and psychosocial wellbeing of health care professionals who provide care in demanding and under-resourced areas (e.g., palliative and end of life care, rural/remote settings) provincially and nationally.

Kelly Penz PhD, RN
Associate Professor, Regina



✉ kelly.penz@usask.ca

☎ 306-337-3812



Professional Quality of Life

“Who Cares for the Caregiver?”

I conduct research with populations with potential (often seen as vulnerable or marginalized individuals), who are frequently left behind in terms of achievement of health outcomes at local and/or global levels.

Pammla Petrucka RN, BScN, MN, PhD
Professor, Regina



pammla.petrucka@usask.ca




306-337-3811




I work with First Nation and Métis mothers and community partners to promote Indigenous birthing traditions in hospitals, and cultural safety in all clinical care settings in Saskatchewan.

Carrie Pratt RN, BSN, MN
Instructor, Prince Albert



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 306-765-3874

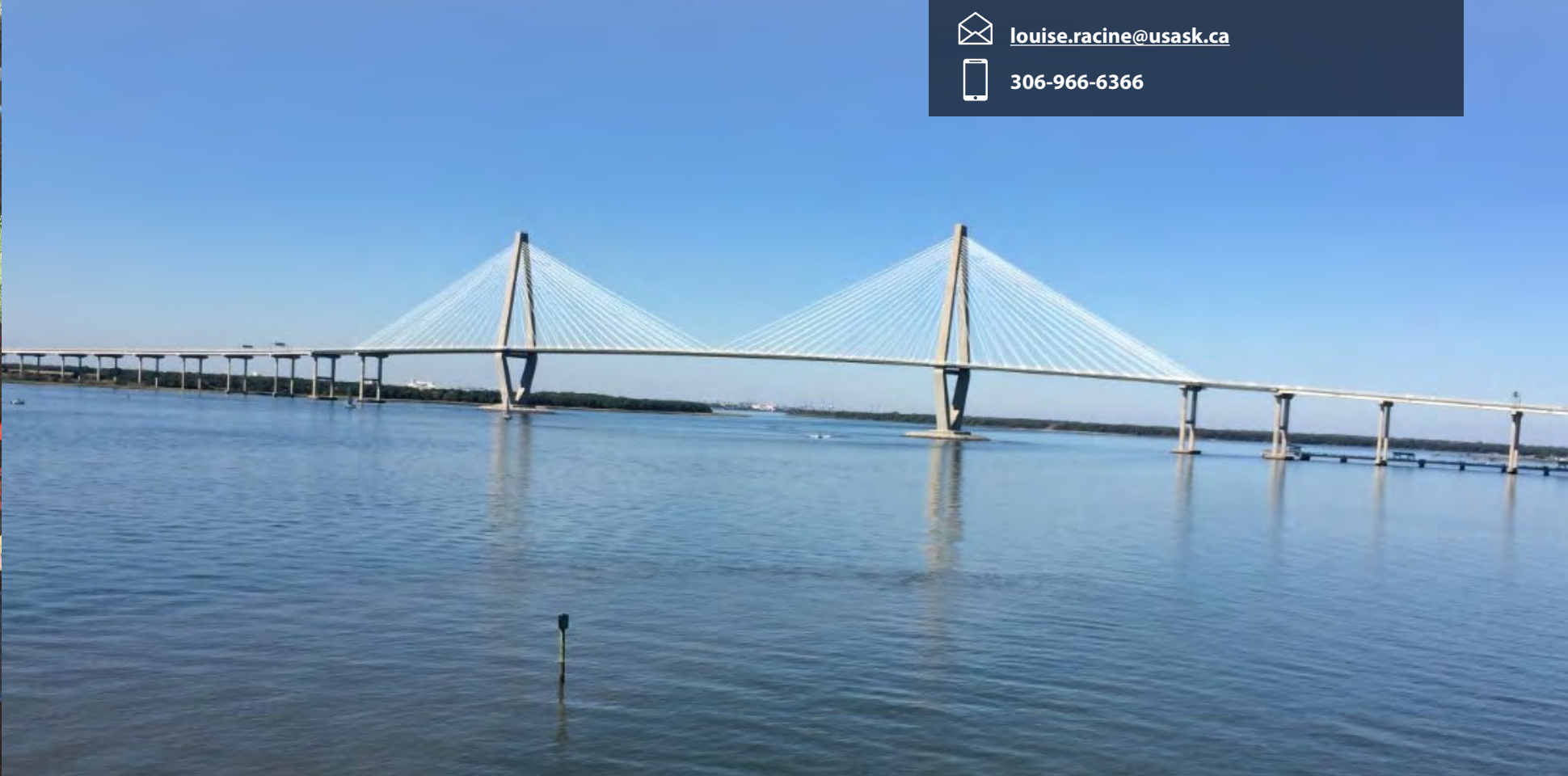


My research focuses on the health and well-being of non-Western immigrants and refugees, including children and youth. I am interested in how nursing and health issues intersect with race, gender, and social class to affect equitable access and utilization of health care services.

Louise Racine RN, PhD, FTNSS
Professor, Saskatoon



 louise.racine@usask.ca
 306-966-6366



My research focuses on the social determinants of health and front-line practices that protect and promote the health of low socioeconomic populations. My current work focuses on the perceptions and lived experiences of how witchcraft impacts Ghanaian belief systems and African newcomers to Canada, as well as improving access and utilization to sexual and reproductive health services for kayayei (head porters) in Ghanaian markets.

Solina Richter MCur, DCur, RN
Professor, Saskatoon



solina.richter@usask.ca



306-966-6222



I am interested in how to mentor and support nursing instructors who teach nursing students in acute healthcare settings.

Kathy Rodger RN, MN, BSN, CMSN (C)
Associate Professor – Academic Programming
Regina



kathy.rodger@usask.ca



306-337-3818



My research focuses on enhancing health service delivery and access to care in an effort to positively impact patient, family, and provider experiences and outcomes within the healthcare system. I have a particular interest in inflammatory bowel disease research.

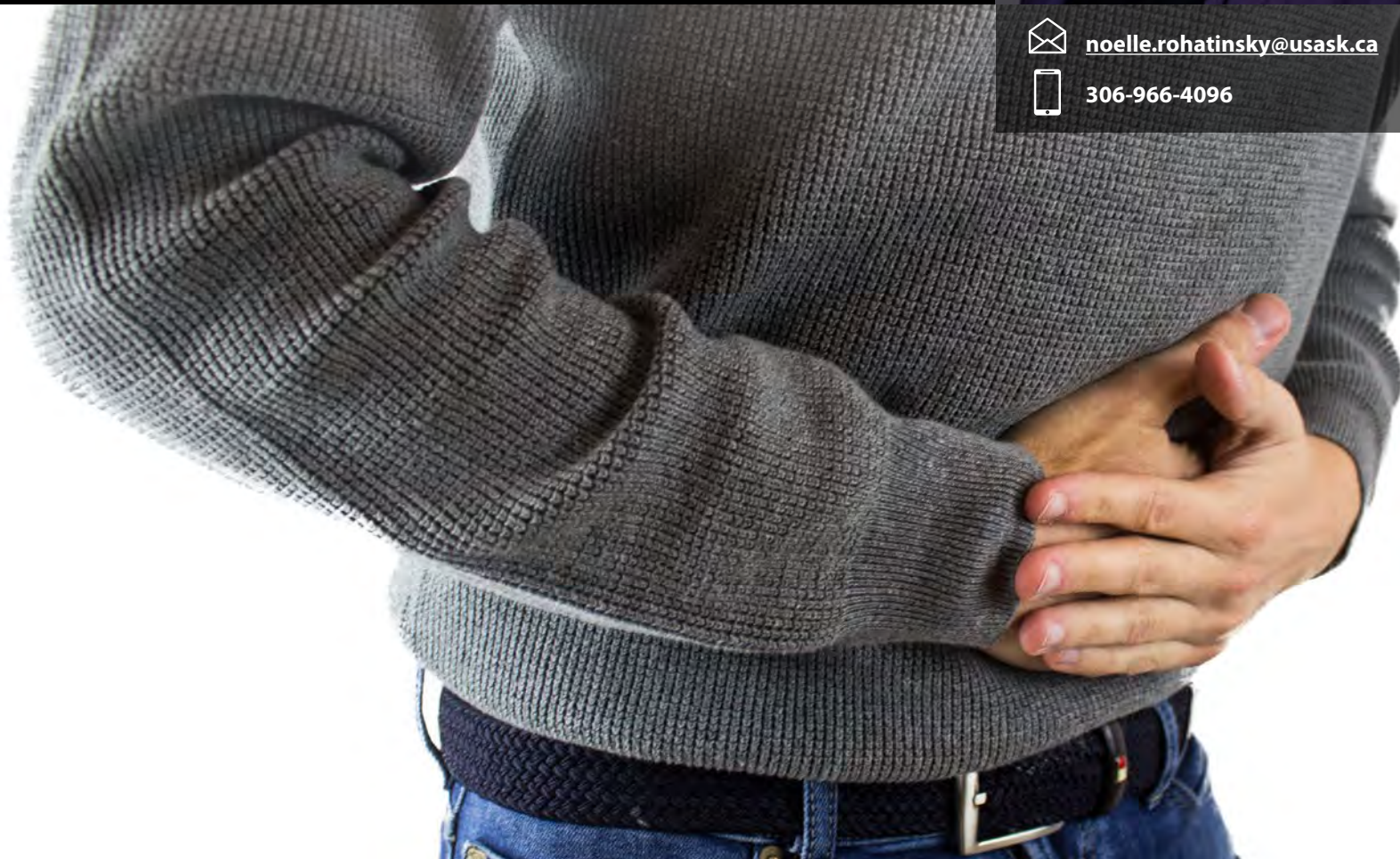
Noelle Rohatinsky RN, MN, PhD, CMSN (C)
Associate Professor, Saskatoon



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306-966-4096




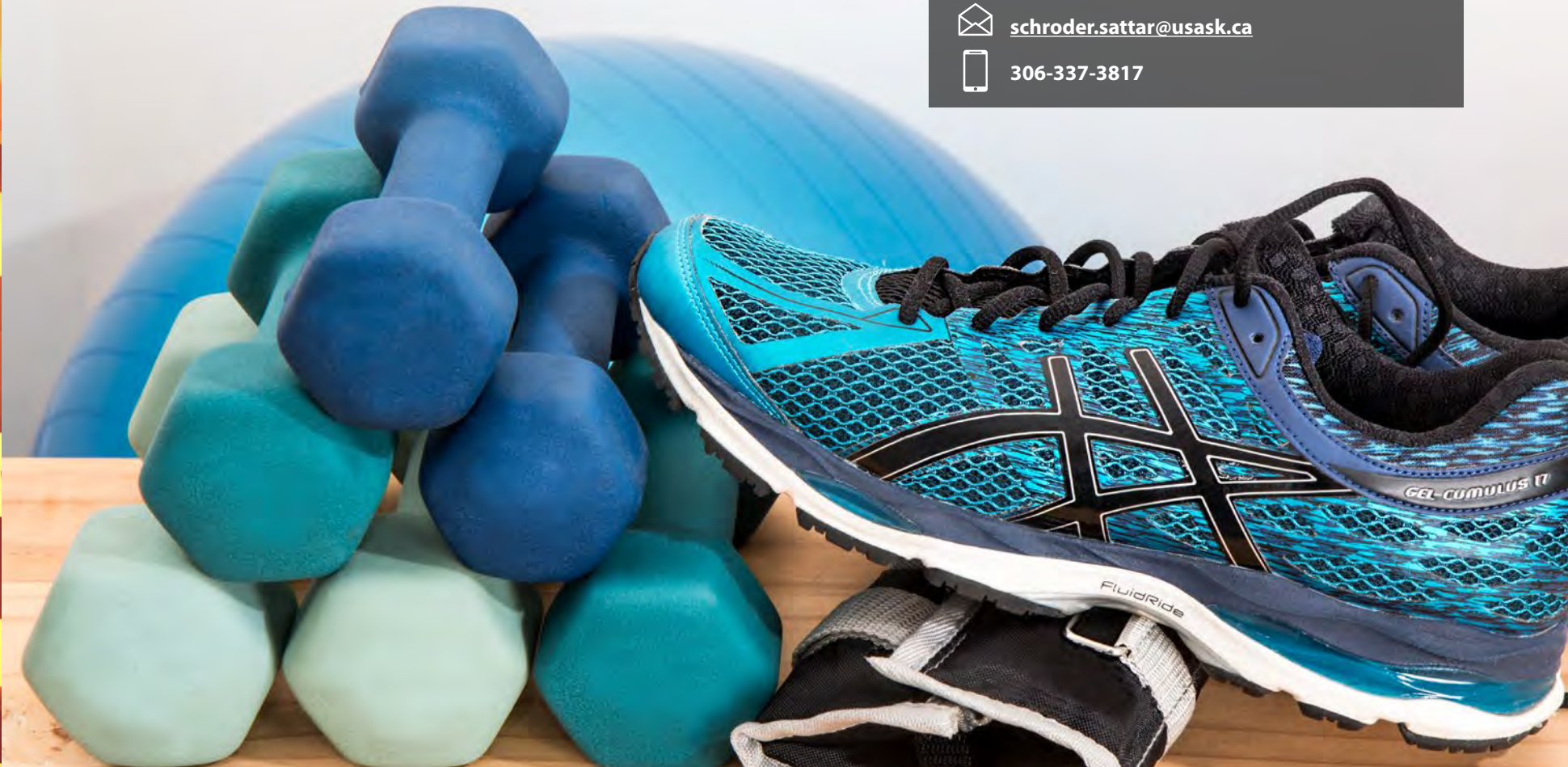
My research focuses on physical performance measures, falls, and exercise intervention in older adults with cancer, with the goal to promote functional outcomes and quality of life of this population.

Schroder Sattar RN, PhD
Associate Professor, Regina



 schroder.sattar@usask.ca

 306-337-3817



My research reflects my commitment to addressing complex social determinants of health and fostering positive change within healthcare systems. I focus on violence in the healthcare sector, mental health, and gender equity. Compared to other healthcare providers, nurses are more vulnerable to all kinds of workplace violence due to their gender and because they work in frontline positions.

Rozina Somani RN, BScN, MScN, PhD
Assistant Professor, Saskatoon



rozina.somani@usask.ca



306-966-6318



My research is focused on promoting healthy lifestyles in children, adolescents, and their families. My goal is to co-design community-based interventions that will minimize risk of prediabetes and type 2 diabetes, and other co-morbidities (overweight, hypertension) in adolescents.

Shelley Spurr BSN, MBA, PhD
Professor, Saskatoon



✉ shelley.spurr@usask.ca
📱 306-966-8663



I work with community partners to improve maternal-child health programs and create better overall health. I am especially interested in improving programs that serve Indigenous families.

Charlene Thompson BSN, MPH, PhD
Assistant Professor, Saskatoon



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306-966-2906

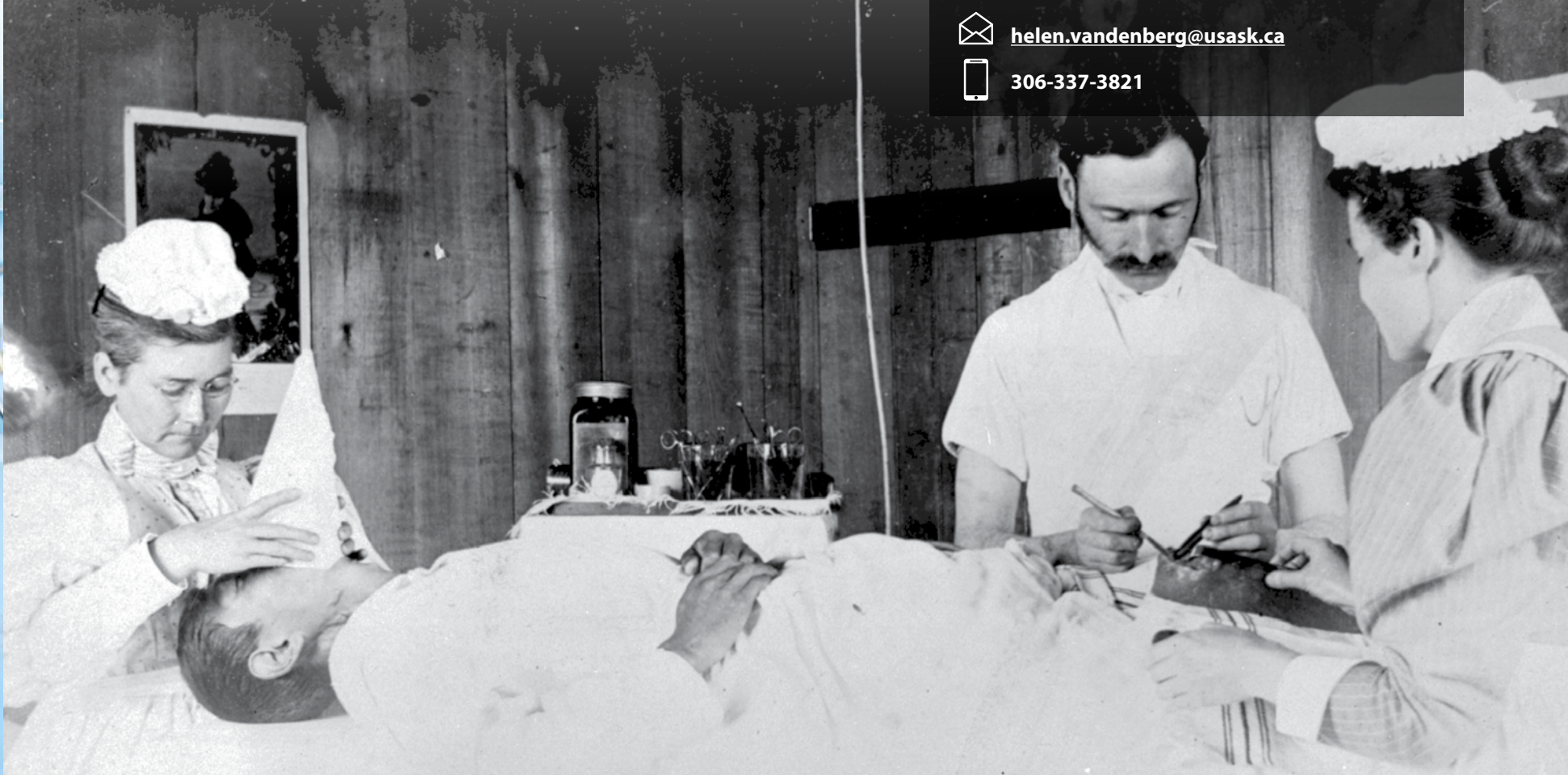


My program of research examines the history of hospitals, health systems, and nursing in Western Canada during the early twentieth century. By tracing the development of Canadian health systems, I aim to inform contemporary thinking about health systems and contribute to discussions on their future evolution.

Helen Vandenberg RN, PhD
Associate Professor, Regina



✉ helen.vandenberg@usask.ca
☎ 306-337-3821



My research interests are in violence predication, risk assessment, and management for persons who experience mental health challenges.

Phil Woods PhD, RPN, RMN
Professor, Saskatoon



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📱 306-966-6244





**EMERITAE FACULTY
RESEARCH PROFILES**

Emeritae Faculty Research Profiles

The following Emeritae Faculty have retired from the College of Nursing, but continue to remain active in their areas of research. For more information on the research interests of each emerita, please visit their contact pages on the College of Nursing website.



June Anonson
RN, PhD
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Sandra Bassendowski
BEd, MEd, EdD, RN
s.bassendowski@usask.ca



Lois Berry
RN, BN, MCEd, PhD
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Angela Bowen
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Linda Ferguson
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Susan Fowler-Kerry
BA (Psych), BSN, MN, PhD
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Lorraine Holtslander
RN, BSN, MN, PhD, CHPCN
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Cindy Peternelj-Taylor
RN, BScN, MSc, DF-IAFN
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Donna Rennie
BSN, MN, PhD, CAE
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Karen Semchuk
RN, PhD
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