

IAFN's Spotlight-on-a-Member



NAME: Lori Baker RN, CNCC (c) CCNC (c)

LOCATION: North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Lions Gate Hospital, Emergency Department | Trauma Nurse Clinician /Coastal Health

FAMILY: Lori is married; she has three adult children and two grandsons.

YEARS OF IAFN MEMBERSHIP: 11 Years

Lori has been teaching forensic nursing principles in trauma care for over 10 years as well as teaching a 45 hour 3 credit course Forensic Health Sciences in Violence and Trauma within the Forensic Health Sciences Option at British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby, BC, Canada since 2008. She has presented on forensic nursing topics in a variety of venues in Canada and the USA, teaching all levels of health care professionals including physicians! Lori has had extensive experience as a firefighter and paramedic in Washington State as well as being a registered nurse.

Why did you become a forensic nurse?

Lori says “my curiosity started when I was working in ICU in the late 1990’s early 2000’s after having a patient who was the victim of domestic intentional violence and had been ignored by her family, friends and physician, to the point she saw her only “out” was to drink a bottle of “Roundup” (a powerful herbicide) Her death was slow, horrible and took place over about 5 days, where she literally was killed from the inside out. I couldn’t believe that so many had failed her.

There wasn’t much available for Nurses in those days, until our wonderful Sheila Early started the Forensic Health Sciences Program at BCIT and I started my formal journey.

I took many courses, including Introduction to Forensic Health Sciences, Death Investigation, Forensic Photography, Forensic Sciences and have attended a variety of conferences”

What do you enjoy the most about forensic nursing?

Every day in my job as the Trauma Nurse Clinician, the forensic world steps in. All new staff are given a basic session in the forensic care of victims of crime and violence, what to look for, how and what questions to ask, and the basics of protecting evidence. I also present to all the BCIT Emergency students who do their clinical sessions here.

Personal interests/family life?

Her daughter is a lawyer and one son is a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer (RCMP), her second son is involved in health care. She obviously has great influence with her children and others!

Lori and her husband are frequent visitors to Maui and also sail the British Columbia coast during our long summers.

Sheila Early shares her reasoning behind “Spotlighting” Lori:

I met Lori when she registered for a Forensic Nursing course I was teaching. She added so much to the class!. With her vast experience as a firefighter, paramedic and nurse, she provided “real life” examples demonstrating the need for health care providers, law enforcement and the judicial system to work together in violence and/or traumatic events. Lori has the ability to reach and teach students at all levels from nursing students, law enforcement officers, experienced registered nurses, as well as physicians. She includes forensic nursing care principles at every opportunity that comes her way. Students in her course regularly tell me what a fantastic instructor she is and how she treats each topic with dignity and respect. She is a wealth of resources and often mentors those with a keen interest in forensic nursing within her role as Trauma Clinician.

Why should Lori be Spotlighted? Well, she uses her role to continually enhance and expand the knowledge of such a cross section of health care providers in particular as well as others that she comes in contact with in one way or another. She encouraged the Operating Room at her facility to be one of the first in British Columbia to develop a comprehensive policy for Forensic Evidence Management in the OR. She transcends the barriers of health care to enhance health care responses to violence and trauma as a trauma specialist with forensic nursing knowledge. So her circle of influence constantly reinforces the need for health care providers to be knowledgeable in forensic nursing principles.

I am so honored to say she is a colleague and a friend!