Heather Patterson Bio

Heather Patterson is an emergency physician and photographer. Her images capture the raw emotions and realities of daily life in hospitals during COVID-19. She documents frontline medical workers and their patients, as well as the lives of the support staff who clean the floors and cook the meals while they too risk their health to support the hospital teams.

Heather is based in Calgary, Alberta, but her photos tell the universal story of the COVID pandemic. While recognizing that individuals have different experiences during the pandemic, her images allow insight into our shared humanity and generate empathy.

Heather worked the frontlines through the first phases of the pandemic and then took a short sabbatical to focus on a COVID photography project. Currently, she continues to work clinically and photograph in the hospitals. Heather is employed with Alberta Health Services (AHS) and was granted full hospital access during this time.

Her interest in photography predates her 10 years as an emergency room physician. Heather fell in love with the hobby while in medical school, and that passion grew over the last 20 years. To hone the hobby into a craft, Heather has taken a number of courses and learned from talented photographers.

Heather works at the Calgary Foothills Hospital and the Alberta Children's Hospital. She's also a Clinical Lecturer at the University of Calgary. She and her husband, Kip, have two children. When she's not working in the emergency department, she'll still be found outside with her camera documenting and celebrating the lives of her family and friends.

Education
BScH Queen's University 2001
MD Queen's University 2005
Emergency Medicine FRCPC, University of Calgary 2011