The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) has a full time opportunity for a Geriatric Psychiatrist in beautiful Victoria.

This position, based at Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, is the hub of a unique, fully-integrated health-authority wide seniors’ mental health program. Geriatric psychiatry and geriatric medicine are combined in one program to ensure seamless access for seniors. The program also integrates inpatient, outpatient, outreach, consultation/liaison, nursing home consultation and tertiary programs, providing an enjoyable and stimulating diversity of clinical work. This model makes call and holiday coverage more efficient, and ensures that each of us can manage our work week with fewer crisis interruptions, as each Geriatric Psychiatrist takes a turn covering emergencies one day per week. Weekend call is shared among all 8 members of the Division.

The Division is strongly committed to undergraduate and postgraduate education. There are 4-5 Island Medical Program medical students rotating through psychiatry at any given time, each spending an afternoon with one of the geriatric psychiatrists. Victoria also has a complete psychiatry residency program, and 1-2 PGY3 residents are anchored on geriatric psychiatry. Clinical faculty appointments are available for all geriatric psychiatrists through a joint application to the University of Victoria Island Medical Program and University of BC Faculty of Medicine. There are expanding research opportunities through the VIHA Academic and Research Program. Currently clinical trials in Alzheimer treatment are underway. We are a member of the C5R Consortium for dementia research.

March 2011, our inpatient program will be moving to the Patient Care Centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital, a brand new, state-of-the-art, elder-friendly acute care unit. One wing will be divided into a 9 bed secure unit for severe dementia with behavioral problems, and an 18 bed general geriatric psychiatry unit. There are ample consultation offices, teaching spaces, video conferencing links and the latest technological advances.

The Division enjoys very collegial relations among ourselves and with our counterparts in adult psychiatry. VIHA promotes a co-management model for medical leadership. There are excellent relations between the medical and health authority leadership teams. This has helped us move forward with a number of exciting initiatives such as program criteria that are based on patient function and cognition rather than arbitrary age cut off, aligning our outreach teams geographically with home and community care programs to ensure stronger linkages in the community, collaborative care programs with primary care, and others. VIHA provides the entire spectrum of healthcare services to the 752,000 residents of Vancouver Island.

Renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty and enviable quality of life, Victoria offers an opportunity to combine a rewarding career with a satisfying lifestyle.

Contact Brenda Warren, Manager Physician Recruitment, 250-755-7687 or physicians@viha.ca to

Discover Vancouver Island – with unlimited possibilities for your career, family and future!