

# Interventional Cardiology Fellowship

Victoria Heart Institute Foundation and Royal Jubilee Hospital



Royal Jubilee Hospital (VIHA), Victoria BC

## Interventional Fellowship Program

The Royal Jubilee Hospital has 500 beds located in a new state-of-the-art Patient Care Centre which opened in 2011. The new building has over 80% single patient bedrooms including the cardiology ward. There is a full range of cardiac services including cardiac surgery, electrophysiology, device implants, imaging including cardiac CT/MRI advanced Heart Failure and cardiac rehabilitation.

Elective and urgent cases are managed in Cardiac Short Stay, an 18-bed, 6-chair recovery unit. The emphasis is on same-day discharge with the Royal Jubilee Hospital being the first centre in Canada to implement a new chair recovery model following coronary procedures. There is also a full 24 hour, 365 day primary PCI service for the island.

Our interventional fellowship program has been established for over 10 years, with fellows from Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Europe, and Asia. The fellowship is generally for 12 months, although this can be extended depending on previous experience or requirements. There are usually between 2-3 interventional fellows at any one time.


The program typically consists of four full lab days and one research day each week. The fellow can expect to complete at least 500 procedures, with a large proportion being performed as solo operator (depending on individual experience and progress).



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Multiple interventional research projects are underway including single and multi-centre projects. The interventional fellow will be expected to develop a research project leading to presentation and publication. The fellows will also have a responsibility to participate in the multi-centre trials being run at the Victoria Heart Institute Foundation.

### **View from a previous fellow**

The Vancouver Island Interventional Fellowship is a well established program providing you with a unique opportunity to undertake high-volume transradial interventional training in one of the most beautiful parts of Canada. You are based at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, which is the cardiac centre for Vancouver Island. There are 2 full-time cardiac labs providing a 24/7 PCI service for the island and also parts of mainland British Columbia.

The case mix is varied and includes coronary bifurcations, multi-vessel PCI, vein graft disease, chronic total occlusions and unprotected left mains. You can expect to be sole operator for the majority of cases. You will also gain exposure to intravascular ultrasound, pressure wire, optical coherence tomography, rotational atherectomy and laser atherectomy. There is a full range of interventional tools including scoring balloons, drug coated balloons, guideliner catheters and sheathless guide catheters. A TAVI program has started as of June 2012.

There are five interventionalists who are all excellent and supportive trainers. The focus is purely on training and you are protected from service commitments outside the catheter laboratory. There is a weekly MDT meeting and also a weekly educational interventional meeting. You will be encouraged to attend national and international meetings which include excellent educational programs for interventional trainees. Fellows are encouraged to participate in clinical research, and the post is affiliated with the Victoria Heart Institute Foundation Clinical Trials Unit. You will be able to participate in existing research and also develop new projects.

Victoria is a fantastic and really friendly place to live, with endless opportunities for things to do outside the hospital. I would whole heartedly recommend the Vancouver Island fellowship to anyone looking to undertake a year of high-volume PCI training.

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### **Application process:**

For foreign candidates, once accepted, the application process typically takes a minimum of 4 months. Canadian candidates can expect the process to take approximately 2 months. All candidates must meet English language requirements acceptable to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia. In order to be considered an acceptable proficiency, the candidate must have had English as the language of instruction at medical school, have primary language of patient care be in English, and first and native language of the country where the physician was trained is in English. If a candidate does not meet these criteria, then they will be required to take the TOELF or Academic IELTS test, with a minimum test score being obtained. Please visit the College website for further information on their requirements ([www.cpsbc.ca](http://www.cpsbc.ca)).

Applicants are to provide the following to the fellowship coordinator: curriculum vitae with cover letter, references, funding information, proof of the required language proficiency requirements, and preferred approximate start date.

### **For further information or to submit your application, please contact:**

Victoria Heart Institute Foundation

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