

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 24, 2012
To: SET, Regional Mental Health and Addictions Program Executive Council, Directors
From: Drs. Ron Carere, Jeff Coleman, Patrick O'Connor
Cc:
Re: Announcement – Regional Medical Director, Mental Health and Addictions Program and Regional Department Head, Department of Psychiatry, VCH/PHC

We're delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Lakshmi Yatham to the combined role of VCH/PHC Regional Head, Department of Psychiatry and Medical Director, Mental Health and Addictions Program. The role of Regional Department Head is a joint appointment from both VCH and PHC Boards, and the position is accountable to both Boards. In this role, Dr. Yatham will be working closely with site/CoC department leaders in addressing clinical practice standards, credentialing, peer review and academic linkages, in addition to linking closely on all operational issues before the Regional Mental Health and Addictions Program (RMHAP).

As RMHAP Medical Director, Dr. Yatham joins Yasmin Jetha, RMHAP Administrative Director in providing operational co-leadership of the RMHA Program.

Dr. Yatham is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and was the Associate Head of the Department for Research and International Affairs from 2007 to 2011 at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Yatham has held various leadership positions for national and international professional organizations over the years and he recently completed an executive MBA in health care from the Sauder School of Business.

Dr. Yatham is internationally recognized for his expertise in bipolar disorders and for translation of research into clinical practice. The CANMAT guidelines for bipolar disorder developed and updated under his leadership are widely used around the world by clinicians to manage patients with bipolar disorder. Dr. Yatham heads the CANMAT bipolar group and is the past president of the International Society for Bipolar Disorders. He has been actively involved in promoting evidence based care at national and international level through continuing medical education and public education.

Dr. Yatham received a number of awards for his contributions to promotion of evidence based clinical care, patient advocacy and research, including the Michael Smith Foundation Senior Scholar Award, the Mogen Schou Award for international education and advocacy on bipolar disorder and the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology Medal for his contributions to psychopharmacology.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Yatham to this important new regional role.