

Thinking of Immunology and Allergy?

Clinical immunology and allergy physicians care for patients (paediatric and adult) with a diverse range of disorders of the immune system. These fall into three major categories:

- allergic disorders
- immune deficiency disorders
- autoimmune diseases.

Overview of Immunology and Allergy

The case mix for each practitioner varies according to whether the practitioner sees adult patients or children, whether the practitioner works in the community or in tertiary teaching hospitals, and according to the traditional referral patterns within their geographical location.

The diversity of clinical immunology and allergy means that it is a horizontally rather than vertically defined discipline. As such, many patients are referred with ill-defined disorders for which immunological conditions such as immunodeficiency, autoimmunity and allergy form but part of the differential diagnosis.

Specialty training

Physician training is undertaken through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and consists of:

- a minimum of 36 months of Adult Medicine or Paediatric and Child Health Basic Training followed by
- a minimum of 36 months of Advanced Training in Immunology and Allergy
- work-based learning and assessment requirements.

Trainees may apply to enter the Advanced Training program if they:

- have completed Adult Medicine or Paediatric and Child Health Basic Training programme
- have successfully completed the RACP Clinical and Written Examinations
- hold current medical registration and
- have secured an accredited training position.

There are two training pathways:

RACP Training Pathway – Immunology and Allergy (both Basic and Advanced Training are completed through the RACP)

Joint Training Program with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA)

Upon completion of Basic Training, Trainees may choose to join the Joint Training Program between the RACP and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) which consists of a minimum of 48 months training, work-based learning and assessment requirements, and two sets of examinations normally taken in the second and final years of laboratory training. These exams are administered by the RCPA.

Once the training and assessments are satisfactorily completed, clinical-only trainees are awarded Fellowship of the RACP (FRACP), and joint RACP/RCPA trainees are awarded both FRACP and Fellowship of the RCPA (FRCPA).

This training program can be completed in Australia and New Zealand, and trainees may complete more than one Advanced Training program at a time.

It is likely that you need to complete placements in multiple DHBs whilst completing vocational training.

Personal qualities required to be an Immunology and Allergy Specialist

- fostering of a patient-centred approach to health care
- maintenance of a balanced and broad perspective on health care delivery
- preparedness to learn and adopt new and validated approaches to diagnosis and management, despite logistical difficulties, and to change work practices when appropriate
- willingness to reflect on, and learn from, mistakes
- preparedness to change management plans
- tolerance of uncertainty
- ability to cope with unexpected disappointments, equanimity, resiliency and calmness in the face of challenging clinical demands
- desire to contribute to improvements in the health system
- desire to foster clinical practice, research and teaching in general internal medicine
- preparedness to acknowledge doubt and uncertainty in clinical practice.

Specialty Training Programme Information

Medical College

[Royal Australasian College of Physicians \(RACP\)](#)

[Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia \(RCPA\)](#)

Fellowship/Qualification

Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP) (clinical-only and joint trainees)

Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FRCPA) (joint trainees)

Application and Selection process

Application/selection [Basic Training](#)

Application/selection [Immunology and Allergy RACP/RCPA Joint training](#)

Application/selection [Immunology and Allergy RACP Clinical-Only training](#)

Contact details New Zealand: Immunologyallergy@racp.edu.au

To find out more about physicians/paediatricians and other specialty areas [click here](#). This also provides a useful Q&A section.

Further information can be obtained on [Royal Australasian College of Physicians \(RACP\)](#)

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Information

Demand for vocational training posts is currently not available

RMO training registrar positions contracted

Northern	Midland	Central	South Island	Total
1	0	0	0	1

(September 2016 RMO census)

Regions

Northern:

Northland, Waitemata, Auckland, Counties Manukau DHBs

Midland:

Lakes, Tairāwhiti, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Taranaki DHBs

Central:

Hawke's Bay, Wanganui, MidCentral, Wairarapa, Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley DHBs

South Island:

Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury, South Canterbury, Southern, West Coast DHBs

Senior Medical Officer (SMO) Information

Year	Number of NZ New Fellows
2015	*
2014	*

Average Age of SMOs*	Number registered with the Medical Council *	% of international medical graduates in the workforce*
51	1024	42

Number by Region (September 2016 SMO census)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
0	0	0	0	0.9	1	1	1	1.9	2

*The number is not separately available but included in the total registered in Internal Medicine.