

Thinking of Clinical Pharmacology?

Clinical Pharmacology is the scientific discipline that involves all aspects of the relationship between drugs and humans. Drugs are the main therapeutic tools of physicians and hence clinical pharmacology is a core skill for all physicians. Formal training in clinical pharmacology encompasses all aspects of safe, effective and rational use of medicines applied at individual, group and population levels.

Overview of Clinical Pharmacology

Clinical pharmacologists work toward rational, evidence-based, cost-effective use of drugs in four domains:

1. Clinical medicine: clinical consultation, clinical toxicology, therapeutic drug monitoring, pharmacogenetics and, often, hospital practice in a second specialty
2. Policy and governance: including drug regulation, serving on national and local committees
3. Research: both within the discipline and in supporting and advising other disciplines on research related to medicines
4. Education: undergraduate and post-graduate.

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 Clinical Pharmacology
- work-based learning and assessment requirements.

Trainees may apply to enter the Advanced Training programme 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
- secured an accredited training position.

All advanced training occurs in supervised clinical placements within RACP accredited sites.

Over the course of the training programme, all trainees must carry out a variety of teaching and learning activities, including work-based learning and assessment requirements, and other programme requirements in consultation with their supervisors.

Once the training is satisfactorily completed, Fellowship of the RACP (FRACP) is awarded.

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

Personal qualities required to be a Clinical Pharmacologist

- Ability to co-operate with colleagues in a wide range of clinical and non-clinical disciplines
- An interest in therapeutics
- A desire to carry out drug related research
- Knowledge of statistics and a good grasp of the methods used to evaluate evidence in medicine
- 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 \(RACP\)](#)

Fellowship/Qualification

Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP)

Application and Selection process

Application/selection [Basic training](#)

Application/selection [Advanced Training in Clinical Pharmacology](#)

Contact details ClinicalPharmacology@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*
148.7	42	103.6	80.5	374.8

(September 2016 RMO census)

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

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	NOT AVAILABLE
2014	NOT AVAILABLE

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	0.4	1	0	0	0.4	1

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