

# Endocrinology and Chemical Pathology

## Thinking of Endocrinology and Chemical Pathology?

Endocrinology & Chemical Pathology is the diagnosis, investigation and management of disorders of chemistry, metabolism and the endocrine system, together with the techniques, management and administration of a chemical pathology laboratory.

## Overview of the Specialty

Endocrinology is the study of hormones and hormone producing tissues, both their normal physiology and their pathophysiology. The specialty of clinical endocrinology encompasses the diagnosis and management of disorders of the endocrine system. Hormones from the body's major gland systems (thyroid, pancreas, gonads, adrenal and pituitary) regulate growth, metabolism, blood pressure and reproduction, as well as other diverse functions.

Endocrinologists assess and diagnose endocrine disorders, provide treatment, perform diagnostic and laboratory analyses, and conduct basic and applied research in a wide range of humoral and metabolic conditions. The spectrum of endocrine disorders includes diabetes and its complications; thyroid, pituitary and adrenal disease; gonadal disorders and infertility; neuroendocrine conditions; benign and malignant glandular tumours; disorders of growth; genetic and congenital glandular dysfunction; lipid and nutritional abnormalities; menopausal disorders; osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease.

Chemical pathology is the branch of pathology which deals with the diagnosis and management of disease by use of chemicals present in the body fluids and tissues. Typically, chemical pathology laboratories are the largest subunits in pathology departments and commonly perform measurements of many different chemicals on hundreds of patient samples each day. Because many of these analyses are time-critical, the chemical pathology laboratory is usually highly automated and uses complex analysers which are capable of performing many analyses in a short time frame.

Chemical pathologists are responsible for running these laboratories, ensuring the quality of the results, and providing a diagnostic service and advice to clinicians.

## Specialty Training

This is a joint training programme with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA). 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 College's Clinical and Written Examinations
- hold current medical registration and
- secured an accredited training position.

The Advanced Training Programme consists of 48 months training and two sets of exams normally taken in the second and final year for training (these exams are the responsibility of the RCPA). All advanced training occurs in supervised clinical placements within RACP/RCPA 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 and assessments are completed satisfactorily, the trainee is awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP) and a Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FRCPA)

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

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

### **Personal qualities required to be a Physician**

- 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**

*Please note, it is RCPA policy that trainees with FRACP are not eligible to undertake joint RACP/RCPA Advanced Training programmes. Similarly, trainees who choose to receive FRACP before completion of a joint RACP/RCPA Advanced Training programme will not be eligible to continue training in any joint RACP/RCPA programme. Trainees are eligible to be admitted to Fellowship of the RACP and RCPA on the completion of all requirements of training.*

### **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)

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

### **Application and Selection process**

Application/selection [Basic training](#)

Application/selection [Advanced Training in Endocrinology and Chemical Pathway](#)

*Please note that it is the responsibility of the trainee to ensure that they are registered with both the RACP and the RCPA throughout Advanced Training.*

**Contact details** [endochempath@racp.edu.au](mailto:endochempath@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 of Endocrinologist by Region** (September 2016 SMO census)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
13.2	15	4.5	5	4.6	9	10.4	24	32.8	53

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