

Thinking of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology?

Infectious Diseases & Microbiology is the investigation, pathogenesis, diagnosis, prevention control and treatment of infectious diseases. Laboratory procedures, management and administration of a Microbiology laboratory.

Overview of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

Infectious diseases physicians provide a predominantly hospital-based service, specialising in the various clinical, laboratory and public health aspects of infectious disease medicine and microbiology. They have extensive expertise in the differential diagnosis and management of diseases caused by microbial agents and the management of patients presenting with infections in a number of settings, including perioperative, intensive care, and the immunocompromised host. An infectious diseases physician also has expertise in the assessment of non-infective causes of febrile illnesses and other apparent infections.

Microbiology involves the use of laboratory techniques to diagnose infectious diseases, recommend antibiotic therapy and to advise, correlate, coordinate and educate clinicians regarding aspects of the pathogenesis, epidemiology, prevention and management of infection. Clinical microbiologists work in diagnostic medical /pathology laboratories. The work focuses on the collection, analysis, reporting and interpretation of results to aid in the diagnosis, treatment and surveillance of infectious diseases.

Specialty training

This is a joint training programme between the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FRCPA).

Trainees may enter the Advanced Training program if they:

- have completed Adult Medicine of 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.

Trainees may then choose to join the Joint Training Program between the RACP and RCPA which consists of:

- a minimum of 60 months training (five years) of full time equivalent training, and
- two sets of examinations normally taken in the second and final years of laboratory training.

Advanced Training in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology is completed in supervised placements within accredited training sites.

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

Once the training and assessments are satisfactorily completed, Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP) and Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FRCPA) is awarded.

This training program can be completed in Australia and New Zealand and trainees may complete more than one advance 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 Infectious Diseases and Microbiology 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

Medical College

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

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

Fellowship/Qualification

Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP) and a Fellowship of the Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FRCPA)

Application and Selection process

Application/selection [Basic training](#)

Application/selection [Advanced Training in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology](#)

Contact details IDMicro@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	*
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*
159.1	188	50.5	52	47.2	57	83.3	116	340	413

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