

Thinking of Clinical Genetics?

Clinical genetics deals with medical conditions that have a genetic basis in humans. Clinical genetics is a subspecialty which is taking on greater importance in the management of patients throughout life. We are continuing to identify genetic mutations which lead to disease processes. As a result of this, our ability to provide timely and useful advice to patients and families is steadily improving.

Overview of Clinical Genetics

The field of clinical genetics requires trainees to become well-schooled in both the science of genetics and the art of genetic counselling. In addition to developing skills in syndrome identification, it is also necessary to understand the complexities and limitations of different tests that are currently available. With the rapid progress in technology, it is necessary for clinical geneticists to be in touch with the latest advances in the field so that they are able to provide the best available advice during consultations. Trainees must become skilled in critical assessment of relevant literature.

Specialty training

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

- a minimum of 36 months of Basic Training in Adult Medicine or Paediatrics and Child Health, followed by
- a minimum of 36 months of Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics
- work-based learning and assessment requirements.

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

- have completed the Adult Medicine or the 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.

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 Clinical Geneticist

- broad clinical skills are required, as patients are referred from all specialties
- ability to distinguish minor signs of a variable dominant disorder from normal variation
- ability to work as part of a team of medical, nursing and scientific staff
- ability to liaise with other specialties and laboratories
- ability to understand the science of genetics and uses for the benefit of families
- an interest in teaching
- excellent communication skills
- confidence with computers, especially for searching international databases.

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 Genetics](#)

Contact details clinicalgenetics@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
0	0	1	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	NOT AVAILABLE
2014	NOT AVAILABLE

Average Age of SMOs	Number registered with the Medical Council	% of international medical graduates in the workforce
48	15	33

Number by Region (September 2016 SMO census)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
3.8	4	0	0	3.7	5	0	0	7.5	9