

## Thinking of Medical Oncology?

Medical Oncology is the management of patients with cancer and tumours.

The medical oncologist is a consultant physician specialising in the investigation, study, diagnosis, management, and treatment of benign and malignant growths, tumours, cancers, and diseases, including preventative and palliative medicine, using medications such as chemotherapy, hormones, molecular targeted agents, and analgesics.

## Overview of Medical Oncology

Most medical oncologists undertake a mix of clinical and research activities. Clinical work covers the diagnosis and systemic management of cancer. Research opportunities include basic oncology research, clinical trials and other clinical research, cancer epidemiology, pharmacology, and hereditary cancer.

Medical oncologists work as an integral part of multidisciplinary teams to provide holistic, multimodality care to patients with cancer. The specialty requires a breadth of clinical experience and skills in caring for acute medical problems and chronic illness, patients' and families' emotional needs, symptom control, and end-of-life care.

## 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 or Child Health Basic Training followed by
- a minimum of 36 months of Advanced Training in medical oncology.

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

- have completed Adult Medicine or Paediatric or Child Health Basic Training
- have successfully completed the College's 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, assessments and other programme requirements in consultation with their supervisors.

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

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

## **Personal qualities required to be a Medical Oncology 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 \(RACP\)](#)

### **Fellowship/Qualification**

Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP)

### **Application and Selection process**

Application/selection [Basic training](#)

Application/selection [Advanced Specialty Training in Medical Oncology](#)

**Contact details New Zealand:** [MedicalOncology@racp.org.nz](mailto:MedicalOncology@racp.org.nz)

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
3	8	3	0	14

(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*
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	19.9	22	11.9	13	13.4	18	45.1	53

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