Nuclear Medicine

Thinking of Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear medicine is a unique medical specialty that uses radiopharmaceuticals (radioisotopes) in the diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of medical conditions.

Overview of the Specialty

Nuclear medicine is the medical specialty that utilises the nuclear properties of radioactive nuclides to make diagnostic evaluations of the anatomical and/or physiological conditions of the body and to provide therapy with unsealed radioactive sources. Nuclear medicine deals with systemic problems in the body and therefore draws on a wide general medical knowledge. The nuclear medicine specialist also requires specialist knowledge of pathophysiology.

Specialty Training - Basic Training

Trainees complete basic training over three years (36 months full time equivalent) guided by the Basic Training Handbook in either Adult Internal Medicine or Paediatrics & Child Health.

Physicians and other health professionals supervise and mentor trainees throughout their training.

The Basic Training programme includes:

- Rotations across a range of medical specialties and health care settings
- Work-based assessments to monitor a trainee's progress and provide feedback on their training
- The RACP Divisional Written Examination and Divisional Clinical Examination towards the end of training to test a trainee's knowledge and skills and determine if they are eligible to progress to Advanced Training.

See the full programme requirements for Basic Training

Specialty Training – Advanced Training

The Nuclear Medicine Advanced Training Programme provides specialist training in Nuclear Medicine. Trainees complete their Advanced Training under the supervision of a practising Nuclear Medicine physician at an accredited training site.

The Nuclear Medicine Advanced Training Programme for RACP trainees includes:

- 36 months (three years) of core and non-core training in a training position at an accredited training site
- work-based learning and assessment requirements
- teaching and learning requirements.

Other requirements:

- The Nuclear Medicine Advanced Training Programme is also available for trainees of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR). This includes:
- 24 months (two years) of core training in a training position at an accredited training site

- work-based assessments
- teaching and learning requirements

See the full programme requirements for Advanced Training in Nuclear Medicine.

You may need to complete placements in multiple DHBs whilst completing vocational training

Personal qualities required to be a Nuclear Medicine 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)

Fellowship/Qualification
Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP)

Application and Selection process
Application/selection Basic training
Application/selection Advanced Training - Nuclear Medicine

Contact details NuclearMedicine@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)

Workforce Information

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, Tairawhiti, 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	0	0.9	1	**0.9**	**1**

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