

## Thinking of Cardiology?

Cardiology is a branch of internal medicine concerned with prevention, investigation and therapy of, and research into diseases involving the cardiovascular system.

Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death within our society. The economic burden to society resulting from lost productivity, and health care costs of care for people disabled by cardiovascular disease consumes up to 25 percent of the health budget.

## Overview of Cardiology

The spectrum of cardiovascular disease is such that cardiologists have close working relationships with a broad range of other internal medicine physicians, and with vascular and cardiothoracic surgeons. Cardiology is well recognised as a research intensive field, from which many leading biomedical researchers have arisen.

The emerging fields of molecular cardiology and tissue regrowth/engineering will open exciting new avenues for treatment of most cardiovascular diseases. These will require cardiologists with new skills and a broader knowledge base than previously.

## 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 and Child Health Basic Training, followed by
- a minimum of 36 months of Advanced Training in Cardiology.

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

- have completed the Adult Medicine or the Paediatric and Child Health Basic Training Program,
- 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, assessments 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 Cardiologist**

- 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 Cardiology](#)

**Contact details New Zealand:** [cardiology@racp.org.nz](mailto:cardiology@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
8	8	0	2	18

(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	*
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
24.3	25	18.7	20	17.4	23	21.9	25	82.2	93

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