

Thinking of Geriatric Medicine?

A geriatrician has expertise in the diagnosis and management of complex and/or multifactorial internal medicine disorders impacting on the cognition and functional status of the older person. A geriatrician adopts a diagnostic approach to the practice of acute internal medicine in order to identify reversible pathologies impacting on a patient's function, psychological and social wellbeing.

Overview of Geriatric Medicine

Geriatric medicine is the branch of internal medicine dealing with the medical management and care of older people. Geriatric medicine has become a major branch of medicine, because of the demographic shifts leading to increasing numbers of older people, associated with an increased prevalence of chronic illness. The world population of older people has been growing at the rate of 2.8% per year.

Geriatric medicine is very satisfying and rewarding. It combines intellectual challenge, good medicine and team work. It brings together acute and chronic care as well as hospital and ambulatory medicine. Rehabilitation is also a major focus.

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 Basic Training followed by
- a minimum of 36 months of Advanced Training in Geriatric Medicine.

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

- have completed Adult Medicine 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 program, all trainees must carry out a variety of teaching and learning activities, assessments and other program requirements in consultation with their supervisors.

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

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

Personal qualities required to be a 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 Geriatric Medicine](#)

Contact details New Zealand: Geriatrics@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
9	2	0	0	11

(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
18.3	21	23.3	27	14.7	17	13.3	18	69.6	83

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