

## Working as a urologist

"I chose urology because of the people. The surgeons are relaxed and jovial. The patients are grateful, and the atmosphere is very positive. It is important to remember when choosing your future specialty to look beyond the 4-6 years of training as a registrar – as it is demanding in most specialties.

Urology also offers a great variety of endoscopic, open, laparoscopic and robotic surgeries and is at the forefront of technological advancement. If you are a team player, good communicator, reliable and keen, come and do a run with us."

Jason Du, Urology Registrar  
Auckland District Health Board

### New Zealand urologists talk about the reality of working within this field

#### **Why did you choose urology and what do you like most?**

Urology encompasses a wide range of conditions that can be dealt with in a variety of ways, from major open surgery to more minimally invasive procedures using new technologies. Specialists said that specialising in urology makes it possible to maintain a reasonable balance between your job and outside interests - urology can offer an excellent surgical lifestyle.

#### **What strengths and abilities make a good urologist?**

Consultants require a wide range of skills from open to endoscopic surgery (which now includes laparoscopy). You should also possess an analytical mind for diagnosing and managing conditions. Good communication skills and sensitivity are also very important attributes to have as you are often dealing with patients with sexual problems.

#### **As a specialist, can you describe a typical day?**

Most days are occupied with a combination of consulting and operating. A working day might start at 8.00am and finish by 6.00pm. The demands of after-hours call and acute work are usually not too onerous.

#### **What do you think are the future challenges of urology?**

The continuing development of operative technology will lead to minimally invasive surgery and an increase in the number of office-based procedures.

#### **What advice would you give someone thinking about a career in urology?**

You should obtain good overall training in general surgery and subspecialise further once you have completed advanced training in urology.

**What are future opportunities in urology?**

There are 46 urologists currently practising in New Zealand. Given the increasing demand for the work of urology surgeons, job prospects are excellent.

**What is the work/life balance like?**

Travelling and working in another country are essential to further your experience.

**Any comments on the current training?**

You should gain as much experience as possible in urology during BST if you are interested in pursuing a career in this field, because it is very competitive to gain entry to the training programme.