

## Thinking of Neurology?

The practice of neurology encompasses the diagnosis and management of diseases affecting the central, peripheral and autonomic nervous systems as well as muscle. A neurologist is a skilled diagnostician who reaches an accurate diagnosis by taking a detailed history, performing a thorough neurological examination, and then investigating patients rationally by using tools, such as imaging, lumbar puncture (LP), neurophysiology and/or neuropsychology.

## Overview of Neurology

A neurologist is expected to be skilled in the performance and interpretation of nerve conduction studies (NCS), electromyography (EMG) and electroencephalography (EEG).

A neurologist must be aware of the evidence that supports his/her management decisions. In addition, a neurologist may need to treat psychological complications, liaise with other medical and allied health professionals, and/or be involved in rehabilitation. Some neurological conditions are untreatable so the neurologist must be able to provide a prognosis and support to these patients and their carers as well as being able to manage end-of-life issues.

## Specialty training

Physician training is undertaken through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and consists of:

- a minimum of 36 months of RACP Basic Physician Training in Adult Medicine or Paediatrics and Child Health followed by
- a minimum of 36 months of Advanced Training in Neurology (a minimum of 4 years if dual training with another specialty)
- work-based learning and assessment requirements.

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

- have completed RACP Basic Physician 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 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.

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

## **Personal qualities required to be a Neurologist**

- 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 in Neurology](#)

**Contact details New Zealand:** [neurology@racp.edu.au](mailto:neurology@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 \(RACP\)](#)

## 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
2	0	0	1	3

(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
3.5	5	5.6	6	11	15	9.2	10	29.2	36

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