

Thinking of Sexual Health?

Sexual health medicine is the specialised area of medical practice concerned with healthy sexual relations, including freedom from sexually transmissible infections (STIs), unplanned pregnancy, coercion, and physical or psychological discomfort associated with sexuality. Its practice encompasses the individual, population, social, cultural, interpersonal, microbial and immunological factors that contribute to STIs, sexual assault, sexual dysfunction and fertility regulation.

Overview of Sexual Health

Sexual health medicine is concerned with the promotion of the sexual health of the community by identifying and minimising the impact of the above problems through education, behaviour change, advocacy, targeted medical and laboratory screening, diagnostic testing, clinical service provision, surveillance, and research.

The practice of sexual health medicine embraces two perspectives: a clinical perspective and a public health approach to sexual health problems. The treatment of individuals and the contact tracing and treatment of their sexual partner(s) is an essential part of the role of the specialist in sexual health medicine.

Specialty training

All training is undertaken in supervised placements within accredited training sites.

Over the course of the training programme, all trainees must carry out a variety of teaching and learning activities, including work-based learning and assessment requirements, and other programme requirements in consultation with their supervisors.

Pathway One

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

- have completed the RACP Basic Training programme
- have successfully completed the RACP Clinical and Written Examinations.

Pathway Two

Trainees may apply to enter the Advanced Training programme through having Fellowship of one of the following Colleges, Divisions or Faculties:

- Australasian College of Dermatologists (FACD)
- Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP)
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS – urology)
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRANZCOG)
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (FRANZCP)

- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP)
- Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FRCPA)
- Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (FRNZCGP)
- Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners Division of Rural Hospital Medicine (RNZCGP)
- Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine (FAFPHM)
- Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM)

All trainees must hold current medical registration and secure an accredited training position.

The Advanced Training Programme consists of a minimum of 36 months training.

Once the training is satisfactorily completed, Fellowship of the Australian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine (FACHSHM) is awarded.

This training programme can be completed in Australia and New Zealand and trainees may complete more than one Advanced Training Programme at the time.

Personal qualities required to be a Sexual Health 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 Chapter of Sexual Health (FACHSHM)

Application and Selection process

Application/selection [Basic training](#)

Application/selection [Advanced Training in Sexual Health Medicine](#)

Contact details: shmedtraining@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
0.4	1	0	0	1.4

(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
55	19	33

Number by Region (September 2016 SMO census)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
4.9	6	1	2	0.9	1	1.7	4	8.5	13