

## **Gastroenterology Department**

### **Haere mai, Welcome**

Thank you for looking at the Christchurch Hospital Gastroenterology career page. We are one of the biggest gastroenterology units in New Zealand serving a population of 650,000 and have a well-established and successful training programme in gastroenterology.

### **Why specialise in Gastroenterology?**

Gastroenterology is an exciting and popular career choice. It combines the physician's approach of careful clinical assessment with a wide range of procedures and therapeutic interventions. Gastroenterology covers a huge field which includes disorder of the oesophagus, stomach, intestine, liver, pancreas and nutrition. There is a wide age range of patients. Care is delivered in a range of settings including the emergency department, hospital ward inpatients, outpatients and the endoscopy theatres. A career in gastroenterology offers good opportunities to sub-specialise in your particular area of interest, to develop research and teaching skills and is also very amenable to part time practice. In addition to full specialty training, a 3-4 month clinical attachment in gastroenterology as a House Officer or junior Registrar is excellent experience for any medical career.

### **Career prospects**

Career prospects have never been better for gastroenterologists. There are many current vacancies in New Zealand both for full and part time gastroenterologists. With the increase in inflammatory bowel disease, liver problems and the planned national roll out of the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme it is anticipated that the number of gastroenterologists required in New Zealand could increase by between 50-100% over the next 10-20 years. As well as a full training programme, we also offer short (3-4 month) attachments for House Officers and Junior Registrars which are invaluable for subsequent careers as general practitioners or general physicians. An initial short attachment is also an excellent way to see if gastroenterology may be the career for you.

### **Medical Staff in our Service**

The service has 16 gastroenterologists (senior medical officers or SMOs). The SMOs have an excellent skill mix and sub-speciality interests. There are four Registrar positions. Three of these Registrars are advanced training appointments (i.e. post FRACP Part 1) and one is a rotating position (four-month attachment). We have two House Officer position with attachments of three months. We also have clinical and research fellow positions available.

### **All about our service**

We are a large busy department servicing a local population of approximately 650,000 people and providing tertiary services to the rest of the South Island.

Our inpatient service is based on Ward B5 in the new Waipapa building. The inpatient load varies, generally between 10-20 patients per team and the main inpatient conditions are severe inflammatory bowel disease, liver disease, cancer or gastrointestinal bleeding.

Registrars cover acute admissions, inpatient consults and general practitioner enquires during the day. After hours cover for the service is on a medical specialties roster that the gastroenterology Registrars participate in. Registrars attend consultant's outpatient clinics (2 or 3 per week) and see a full range of ambulatory gastroenterology conditions under supervision. The service performs 7-8,000 endoscopic procedures a year incorporating the full range of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures (gastroscopy, colonoscopy, enteroscopy, ERCP, endoscopic ultrasound).

Advanced trainees are trained in gastroscopy and colonoscopy and gain experience in more advanced endoscopy according to stage and progress. The rotating Registrar may also gain experience in gastroscopy during their four-month attachment if they wish and are post FRACP Part 1. Gastroenterology also offers manometry, capsule endoscopy, nurse led specialist clinics (hepatitis, inflammatory bowel disease, gastrostomy). Trainees gain experience with all these services in a structured way.

The House Officers primarily provides cover for the inpatients but also attends two outpatient clinics per week and gains wide experience in the management of both inpatient and outpatient gastroenterology conditions.

### **SMO support**

Our Registrars and House Officers are well supported by the SMOs. There is good cover provided by the consultants and there is an acute consultant available 24 hours a day. All clinical and procedural training is closely supervised. We provide regular feedback and review of the training programme according to progress and need. There is a designated training coordinator to offer guidance and mentorship.

### **Research**

The gastroenterology unit at Christchurch Hospital is the most academically and research active unit in New Zealand and is very well respected internationally. There are three SMOs with academic appointments and three other SMOs have PhDs. There is a range of clinical and basic research in the department and good opportunities to engage in projects that result in presentations and publications. This research experience has given our previous trainees an advantage when applying for consultant positions.

### **Training in our service and advantages of training in Christchurch**

The gastroenterology department at Christchurch hospital has a long-standing tradition and commitment to quality training in gastroenterology. We have trained many Registrars who now have consultant posts both in New Zealand and overseas.

**The reasons to choose Christchurch as a training post are:**

- Large unit with a large undifferentiated clinical load
- A comprehensive clinical service with trainee exposure to all aspects
- A well developed and successful training programme
- A commitment to trainees for a quality training experience
- An active research programme that all trainees take part in resulting in presentations at meetings and publications
- Accredited for two years of full time training

**Enquiries**

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*Research Programmes and Opportunities*

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**Current SMO**

- Dr Malcolm Arnold
- Prof Murray Barclay
- Dr Michael Burt
- Dr Teresa Chalmers-Watson
- Dr Steven Ding
- Dr James Falvey
- Dr Heidi Su
- Dr Jan Kubovy
- Prof Richard Gearry
- Dr Mehul Lamba
- Dr Gary Lim
- Dr Jeffrey Ngu
- Dr Rajan Patel
- Dr Alison Ross
- Dr Vivek Tharayil
- Dr Adam Willington