

Pain Medicine Fellow Royal Children's Hospital

Overview

The Pain Medicine Fellowship at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne offers comprehensive training in the assessment and management of pain in children and adolescents. The program encompasses acute and chronic pain all within an interdisciplinary paediatric healthcare setting.

This training is accredited by the **Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM)** of the **Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA)** and contributes towards practice development stage (PDS) requirements for Fellowship of the FPM.

Fellowship in Pain Medicine is a post-specialist qualification recognised in Australia and New Zealand. Prospective candidates should contact the Faculty of Pain Medicine for registration and detailed information regarding the Fellowship pathway.

We invite applications from:

- **Advanced trainees** who are nearing completion of training in their primary medical specialty
- **Fellows** in specialties such as paediatric anaesthesia, rehabilitation medicine, paediatric surgery, psychiatry, general paediatrics, or other relevant disciplines

Paediatric Pain Medicine

The approach to paediatric pain medicine recognises the complexity of pain experiences in children and young people, which often require coordinated and multidisciplinary care. This includes collaboration among medical, nursing, psychological, and allied health professionals.

Children may experience pain in a range of contexts, including:

- **Acute pain:** postoperative care, trauma, burns, and acute episodes associated with medical or surgical conditions
- **Chronic pain:** including conditions like functional abdominal pain, headaches, musculoskeletal pain, complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS), and post-surgical pain syndromes

Pain medicine physicians in the paediatric setting lead care planning, coordinate multidisciplinary input, and address the biopsychosocial dimensions of pain. Their role involves medical and functional assessment, family-centred care and counselling, procedural pain management, interventional procedures where appropriate, and contribution to education, quality improvement, and clinical research.

Educational Objectives

The successful candidate will develop advanced skills in the following areas:

- **Assessment and management of acute pain** in children, including ward rounds, procedural pain, trauma, and postoperative recovery, gaining expertise in complex analgesic techniques (patient controlled analgesic devices, and infusions of opioid, ketamine and local anaesthetic)

- **Chronic and complex pain:** working as part of a multidisciplinary team to understand and manage the physical, emotional, developmental, and social factors that contribute to a child's pain experience
- **Interventional pain procedures,** including assessment of suitability, risk management, and technical proficiency (as applicable)
- **Foundational research and quality improvement:** participating in audit, quality initiatives, and research into paediatric pain assessment and treatment

Structure

The training program is a 6 or 12-month **full-time appointment** working at the Royal Children's Hospital Parkville Campus, working across:

- Inpatient wards
- Specialist outpatient clinics

After hours commitment

One in approximately 4 weekends doing the acute pain round on a consecutive Saturday and Sunday (with a day off in lieu during the subsequent week)

Remuneration

Remuneration will be in accordance with the **AMA Victoria – Victorian Public Health Sector – Doctors in Training Enterprise Agreement 2022–2026**, as applicable to the candidate's level of experience and training.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be registered (or eligible for registration) as a medical practitioner with the **Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)**
- Hold Fellowship in a recognised medical specialty or be an advanced trainee in a specialty accredited by the **Australian Medical Council (AMC)**

Desirable requirements

- Be registered as a trainee with the **Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM)** of the **Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA)**
- Be intending to complete Fellowship of the Faculty of Pain Medicine via the approved **training, examination, and qualification pathway**
- Have successfully completed the **FPM Foundation Exam** (if still a Faculty requirement) prior to commencement of the position to ensure training time is eligible for accreditation

For more information contact: A/Prof George Chalkiadis, Head of the Children's Pain Management Service, Department of Anaesthesia and Pain Management, Royal Children's Hospital, 50 Flemington Road, Parkville, Victoria, Australia, 3052. Email: cpmc@rch.org.au

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