



## SO YOU WANT TO BE A...

# RADIOLOGY SPECIALIST

### What do you love most about your job?

I love everything about my job! Radiology is exciting in so many different ways. We are an integral part of every team both inside the hospital AND out. There are not many medical roles that spread across so many different disciplines. The field is exceptionally broad with ability to subspecialize, stay generic, confine yourself to an office (some people like this!), work entirely procedurally, perform ultrasound, attend meetings with clinical teams, OR a combination of all of the above. More than anything, my favourite part is the amazing team dynamic. For the most part, everyone is happy, and I'm yet to meet someone who doesn't love their job as a radiologist. I'm biased but I challenge you to find another vocation where everyone is as happy!

### Remembering back to your first few weeks working in the hospital, what was it like? Did it meet your expectations?

It was great to finally get stuck in and put all the hard work to the test. I was fortunate to be a TI on the same general medical team I started as a house officer on. It is such a buzz to be able to add more value to the team, and importantly to patient care. I always had good support when needed. The best part of this job is being able to make a patient's journey easier, safer, or more comfortable. Although some days it doesn't feel like it when you seemingly have never-ending things to do - each one of those jobs DOES make a tangible difference to people's lives. Pretty cool!

### Why did you pick the specialty you did & what's it like being part of a training programme?

Radiology is not something you get a large amount of exposure to, despite how crucial it is to every single specialty! I was always curious, pestering the radiologists at my initial DHB (Whangarei) to go through things with me for my learning. When I moved to Christchurch, I took the opportunity to go and spend some just a few days in our exceptional department. Not knowing what to expect, I was blown away by how friendly everyone was, how competent they all were and how varied the scope of work is. The thing that tipped me over the edge was speaking to loads of radiologists. Not a single one of them I spoke to had any regrets about their decision to become a radiologist. I certainly hadn't experienced that in other specialties. Sign me up!

The training program is wonderfully set out. Easy to understand the bar you need to achieve. Challenging exams (but incredibly fascinating and relevant!). Importantly, (there are a few small exceptions) it is essentially all in one centre! That means, no need to move around every year or two...

### **Any other helpful information for someone considering your specialty?**

It seems like a left-field option, to step away from "clinical medicine". I felt this way when I was preparing to start. Looking back now, it is not a step away from clinical medicine at all. We are so integrated into clinical medicine there is never a feeling that we are stuck in a corner of the hospital.

Most importantly, TALK TO PEOPLE! If you have any curiosity, seek out a radiology registrar or a nice consultant and ask them about it. I am more than happy to discuss with anyone if you have any questions! I'm easy to find (ask STONZ or find me on Facebook).

### **Can you recommend good runs to do as a House Officer to help my application to this training programme?**

There's no specific "clinical experience" that you need to do radiology, and many people "get in" to training from being a house officer. Work hard in your role as a house officer, get good references, consider doing some quality improvement type research along the way (this will benefit all career options).

Regardless of if you want to do radiology - enjoy the coming challenges. It is a privilege to be a doctor in New Zealand. Congratulations on making it this far - so many more opportunities are about to open up to you (I suggest you pick radiology though!!!).