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Immunology and Allergy

The Royal Melbourne Hospital Department of Immunology and Allergy aims to deliver excellent, patient centred clinical care through closely linked clinical and laboratory services underpinned by clinical governance, research and teaching. In this we are supported by links with our precinct partners, the University of Melbourne and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.

Clinical Immunology and Allergy is dominantly an ambulatory speciality with small inpatient numbers but substantial day- and ambulatory work, often of chronic patients. Linked closely with the clinical Department is the Immunopathology Laboratory of the Hospital which undertakes the specific testing relevant to immunological conditions and is part of our department.

The patients have 3 main conditions:

1. Allergic Diseases
2. Primary Immunodeficiencies
3. Systemic autoimmune disease.

You will see a range of each of these conditions during your term. You are expected to attend **4 clinical activities a week.**

We aim to ensure your term is enjoyable as well as educational. The clinical registrar or resident is your first contact, with an on-call consultant roster but feel free to contact any other staff at any time.

On your first day: please come to the Department on Ward 4West and introduce yourself to Ms Allen.

Learning Objectives:

By completion of a term in this service, the students should be able to demonstrate skills in the management of conditions relevant to the speciality of Clinical Immunology and Allergy including:

Allergic Disease:

1. Participate in ambulatory clinics and have some experience of assessment, accurate diagnosis and management of patients with:

- Anaphylaxis
- Allergic Rhinitis
- Stinging insect allergy
- Urticaria
- Drug Allergies
- Food Allergies
- Asthma
- Mastocytosis

Have a preliminary understanding of allergen-specific treatments such as:

- Allergen avoidance
 - Immunotherapy
 - Be able to use and demonstrate an adrenaline auto-injector
2. Be able to perform skin prick tests and have some understanding of their indications and interpretation
3. Know where to access reliable information on Allergic diseases and where information suitable for patients might be found.

Immunodeficiency Diseases

1. Observe the regular inpatient, day-patient and ambulatory treatments of patients with Immunodeficiencies and develop some familiarity with:

- Routine assessment and management of patients with ongoing treatment for immunoglobulin deficiencies
- Assessment of adult patients presenting for possible antibody deficiency
- Develop a some knowledge of the rarer Immunodeficiencies such as Severe Combined Immunodeficiency and Chronic Granulomatous Disease.

2. Know where to access reliable information on Immunodeficiency diseases and where information suitable for patients might be found.

Autoimmune Diseases

- Develop some familiarity with systemic autoimmune conditions such as vasculitis, Systemic Lupus

Erythematosis and Wegeners' granulomatosis.

- Develop some familiarity with the immune suppressant treatments used in clinic.

Know where to access reliable information on autoimmune diseases and where information suitable for patients might be found.

Immunopathology

You are expected to visit the Immunopathology laboratory at least ½ a day during your placement – please arrange a time with the Immunopathology registrar or Dr Gary Unglik that is mutually agreeable. (If your major career interest is Immunopathology you would be able to spend the majority of your week in the lab).

Developmental Medicine

Patients with Allergic and Primary Immune Deficiency diseases are often diagnosed in childhood. You should become aware of the implications of growing up with a chronic health condition and the personal and clinical risks and challenges that are frequently a component of the transition from paediatric care to adult-centred care at the time of adolescence. You should become aware of practical methods of managing this, such as a “HEADS” assessment and the cardinal role of communication between healthcare providers.

Anaphylaxis

Make sure you can educate a patient on how to use an EpiPen correctly. To do this, you need to know how to write an anaphylaxis plan. Our specialist nurse or the registrar will teach you. There are practice EpiPen you can use to demonstrate with in the blue trolley. Patients who have an EpiPen also need an action plan (also in the blue trolley).

While you are here:-

You maybe asked to participate in one of our ongoing research projects for example:

- Asthma Studies
- Mastocytosis Study
- MAIT Study
- Urticaria Study
- Immunodeficiency Study
- Interesting Case Studies

You may have a research interests or objectives of your own, please let us know at the beginning of your term and we will consider how to assist.

You may also be asked to participate in a clinical governance activity, such as an audit, this is an important part of your skills and may be used as your assessment and may also comprise a publication.

Assessment

You will be asked to present a clinical case you have seen during your term to a consultant and also to demonstrate teaching EpiPen use and anaphylaxis action plan.

The clinical case will be a 10 minute case presentation after a thorough history and examination of an individual patient. During the case discussion, you will be asked to consider a diagnostic formulation and any investigations you might wish to undertake further.

At the end of your term you will be asked to complete an evaluation form.

Further Information

www.allergy.org.au

www.nationalasthma.org.au

Middletons' Principles and Practice of Allergy (8th Ed) Adkinson et al (eds)

The National Asthma Management Handbook: <http://www.astmahandbook.org.au/>

A selection of suitable journal articles is available on request from Ms T Allen and can be copied.

Patient support Groups:

Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia

Asthma Victoria

The Mastocytosis Society of Australasia

The Primary Immune Deficiency Foundation of Australia

Department of Immunology and Allergy Student Weekly Plan

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
8.00 to 9.00			Laboratory Meeting	Dept 8am Breakfast Meeting	
9.00 to 12:30	<i>Challenge Procedure</i> 7West Day Medical		<i>Challenge Procedure</i> 7West Day Medical	<u>Clinic</u> Immunology & Allergy 1 South outpatient clinic	
1.00 to 2.00			WEHI lunchtime seminar Davis Auditorium	Grand Rounds Ewing Lecture Theatre (Grd Fl)	
1:30 to 5.00		<u>Clinic</u> Allergy Western Hospital Footscray	<u>Clinic</u> Rhinitis 1 West Infill building (opposite radiology)	<u>Clinic</u> Immunodeficiency /Immunology 1 South outpatient clinic	<u>Clinic</u> Allergy & Asthma 1 South outpatient clinic

** Immunodeficiency patients are admitted to 7WDC for IVIG infusions