

ADVANCING

Research

Education

Patient Care

ALLERGY and IMMUNOLOGY
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future**

Allergist/immunologists often find a common bond in what first drew them to the specialty. For many, it is a family history of allergies or asthma, for others, a strong interest in the subject matter or the influence of a mentor. For still others, it is the opportunity to maintain a flexible lifestyle within a fascinating field. Regardless of how that first introduction occurred, allergist/immunologists today find themselves in a dynamic, important and much-in-demand field.

www.aaaai.org/professionals/careers



CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information about allergy and immunology, contact the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology at:

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WHAT IS AN ALLERGIST/ IMMUNOLOGIST?

An allergist/immunologist is a physician certified in either Internal Medicine or Pediatrics who has completed an additional two years of training in allergy and immunology at an accredited training program. A board-certified allergist/immunologist has also passed the examination given by the American Board of Allergy and Immunology (ABAI).



WHAT DOES AN ALLERGIST/ IMMUNOLOGIST DO?

Specialists in allergy and immunology may manage patients with the following types of problems or conduct research on:

- Diseases of the respiratory tract including allergic rhinitis, sinusitis, asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis and occupational lung diseases
- Allergic diseases of the eye including allergic conjunctivitis
- Diseases associated with autoimmune responses to self-antigens
- Symptoms or disorders caused by immunodeficiency
- Stem cell, bone marrow and organ transplantation
- Immunogenetics
- Allergic conditions of the skin including allergic, idiopathic and physical urticaria, atopic dermatitis and contact dermatitis

- Gastrointestinal disorders caused by immune responses to foods including eosinophilic esophagitis or gastroenteritis and food protein-induced enteropathies
- Adverse reactions to drugs, vaccines, biologics and other pharmacologic agents and diagnostic testing materials
- Systemic diseases including systemic anaphylaxis and systemic mast cell disorders (mastocytosis)

WHAT TYPES OF CAREERS DO ALLERGIST/IMMUNOLOGISTS PURSUE?

The specialty of allergy/immunology is a challenging, interesting and evolving discipline. Many allergist/immunologists choose clinical careers in either private offices or teaching hospital clinics, while others are involved primarily in research at medical schools, or in government or industry. Academic allergist/immunologists frequently combine patient care with medical school teaching and research.



Expected Base Salary during First Year of Practice of Fellows Completing Training with Confirmed Plans to go on to Patient Care, 2002

Less than \$100,000	27%
\$100,000-\$124,999	39%
\$125,000-\$149,999	22%
\$150,000 +	12%

WAYS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Chrysalis Project

The *Chrysalis Project*, initiated in 1999, introduces medical students to training and careers in allergy/immunology. Forty students are selected each year to attend the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology's internationally prominent Annual Meeting, with airfare and lodging provided. These selected students attend workshops, scientific sessions and social events. They also gain perspective about the field from new and continuing allergist/immunologists.

Summer Fellowship Research Grant program

Medical students can also learn about allergy/immunology through the *Summer Fellowship Research Grant* program. These grants provide support to medical students to conduct supervised research in allergy or immunology for up to eight weeks over the summer and familiarize themselves with careers in allergy/immunology.

Primary Care Rotations

This program facilitates rotations with a board certified allergist/immunologist for Internal Medicine, Family Practice and Pediatric residents. The primary goal of the program is to offer rotation experiences with qualified and well-trained clinical allergists who have an interest in educating residents. Elective rotations through a local allergist/immunologist's office provide invaluable opportunities to enhance residents' knowledge and skills.

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VISIT OUR WEB SITE

The AAAAI's Web site, www.aaaai.org, offers information to medical students and others interested in the field of allergy/immunology. Check out www.aaaai.org/professionals/careers for the following information and many more resources:

- Allergy/immunology workforce information
- Frequently asked questions about the allergy/immunology field
- Link to the *Chrysalis Project*
- Link to the Summer Fellowship Research Grant program
- Basic information on allergies and asthma