Careers in Clinical Practice

Developing an Infectious Diseases Career in a Clinical Environment

Define your career goals

A career as an infectious diseases clinician provides a range of opportunities across a variety of environments, including:

- Academic tenure tracks as a clinical educator or researcher
- Academic non-tenure tracks as a full-time clinician
- Private practice (independent), group practice or community-based clinics
- Inpatient and/or outpatient settings
- Travel medicine
- Clinical positions in administration, safety, lab work and more
- Clinical care focused on HIV, Hepatitis C, STIs and more

Consider these career factors

- Consider whether your primary interest is in general ID or whether you are willing to pursue other subspecialties.
- Evaluate the length of patient appointments and how much time will be spent on administrative tasks.
- Evaluate compensation models, restrictions on outside income and time/ funding allowance for future continuing education opportunities.
- Determine whether you’d like to work at one location or multiple.
- Look into teaching and research opportunities.
Participate in membership organizations

**General ID**
- Infectious Diseases Society of America (www.idsociety.org)

**HIV**
- HIV Medicine Association (www.hivma.org)
- American Academy of HIV Medicine (www.aahivm.org)
- International AIDS Society (www.iasociety.org)

**Travel Medicine**
- American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (www.astmh.org)
- International Society of Travel Medicine (www.istm.org)

Explore opportunities beyond clinical work

**Research**
- Conduct single-center studies
- Join an observational database network
- Run an industry or network-funded clinical trial

**Education**
- Explore on-site or regional careers in clinical education
- Help to develop or evaluate Continuing Medical Education (CME) courses

**Administration**
- Work in program development
- Pursue a leadership role

**Consulting/advising**
- Serve on a scientific or clinical advisory board
- Participate in volunteer work

Prepare for academic promotion

**Education**
If interested in a career in clinical education:
- Maximize teaching opportunities
- Collect evaluations
- Prepare a teaching résumé or educator’s portfolio

**Research**
If seeking a promotion in clinical research:
- Publish original papers or consider writing review articles, book chapters or case reports
- Pursue online education activities
- Collaborate with other infectious diseases specialists to get involved and network

Most importantly, establish your reputation as a great ID specialist. Say yes to seeing patients and help your physician colleagues. This will open doors and allow you to direct your career as you learn what you enjoy and where you excel.