



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATED RESEARCH IMMUNOLOGIST PURSUING A RELATED CAREER IN BC

OVERVIEW

In Canada immunologists are categorized as Clinical Immunologists (medical doctors, regulated) and Research Immunologists (not regulated).

Research immunologists are research scientists who study, analyze and/or treat disease processes involving the immune system. Research is an important aspect of immunology and these individuals typically work in a lab environment. They study and test interactions of genes, cells and chemicals in the body to better understand how the immune system functions normally or abnormally. They may research humans or animals. Research immunologists have a PhD and alternately may teach at the post secondary level.

Environmental immunologists study how natural and chemical substances found in the environment may cause adverse health effects (E.g. cancer) or affect the immune system (E.g. asthma, allergies). Veterinary immunologist study effects on animals.

Clinical immunologists have a medical degree and work directly with patients with immune system disorders, studying the relationship between pathogens and the immune system. They may develop new test methods, specialize in preventing rejections of organ transplants, or work in the development of vaccines.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

A strong knowledge of biology, chemistry and mathematics is required as well as computers, electronics, deductive reasoning and communication, and management skills.

Research immunologists must have a PhD. Clinical immunologists are MDs with a minimum of two years additional practical training.

There is no requirement for certification to work as a research immunologist. Clinical Immunologists must be registered with the BC College of Physicians and Surgeons.



EMPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENTS

Immunologists may teach and conduct research at universities; work for government health agencies (laboratory research); work for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies developing new medical products and treatments.

Clinical immunologists work in medical offices dealing with patients with autoimmune diseases, with medical schools, pharmaceutical or private laboratories.

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY (CSI)

The Canadian Society for Immunology (CSI) fosters and supports Immunology research throughout Canada. CSI also acts as a liaison for communication between its membership and national funding agencies such as the CIHR Institute for Infection and Immunity; it collaborates with the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) and is a founding member of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)

The Society has more than 250 members representing universities, hospitals, and research institutes across Canada.

CSI has five different [membership categories](#) including:

- **Elected (Full) Member**

Persons who have conducted research, who have published papers in scientific journals, and who are actively engaged in investigation, teaching or other forms of scholarship in the field of immunology or related sciences are eligible to be an **Elected (Full) Member**. Eligibility criteria include having a Ph.D. or equivalent graduate degree in immunology or a related discipline and being an author on one publication on an immunological topic. Membership can be purchased for one or five years.

- **Associate Member**

The **Associate Member** category is open to those persons who, although not qualified for elected membership, are postdoctoral fellows, research assistants or teachers in Immunology and related sciences. Membership can be purchased for one or two years.



RESOURCES

Allergy Asthma Information Association (Asthma Canada) - <https://asthma.ca/allergy-asthma-information-association/>

American Association of Immunologists (AAI) - <https://www.aai.org/>

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute - <http://www.bcchildrens.ca/our-research/research-focus/bc-childrens-hospital-research-institute>

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) - <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/13534.html>

Canadian Society of Allergies and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) - <https://csaci.ca/about-us/>

Canadian Society for Immunology (CSI) - https://www.csi-sci.ca/About_Us.html

Division of Allergy and Immunology, UBC department of Medicine - <https://allergy.med.ubc.ca/about-us/>

International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) - <https://iuis.org/>

JOB BOARDS

Eluta - <https://www.eluta.ca/Immunology-jobs-in-Vancouver-BC>

Glassdoor – Immunology Research - https://www.glassdoor.ca/Job/vancouver-immunology-research-jobs-SRCH_IL.0,9_IC2278756_KO10,29.htm

Glassdoor – immunologist positions- https://www.glassdoor.ca/Job/vancouver-immunology-jobs-SRCH_IL.0,9_IC2278756_KO10,20.htm

Indeed – Immunology <https://ca.indeed.com/Immunology-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>

Indeed – Scientist Immunology positions - <https://ca.indeed.com/Scientist-Immunology-jobs>

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