

Careers in Clinical Practice

IDSA INFECTIOUS DISEASES
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
FOUNDATION

Infectious diseases specialists who work in a clinical environment are on the front lines of the latest ID challenges, whether it's treating COVID-19 patients or managing the complex care required to treat HIV. ID clinicians can combine their clinical work with education and research by working in an academic setting, or they may work in community-based clinics or private 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.

Careers in Clinical Practice



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.

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