Newsletter July 2022

World Brain Day

World Brain Day was July 22nd and this year's theme is Brain Health for All. To achieve that, we need research, and to research we need funding.

Come join us at our biggest fundraiser of the year with a fabulous night of popular opera and musical theatre.

Tickets are \$79 for a great night out - the price includes wine, nibbles, entertainment and a chance to own a beautiful piece of art. You can even meet our researchers!

Purchase tickets for Music Meets Art here



Did you miss our research showcase, Brain Health Matters?

It was a great night, with seven of our researchers discussing their projects, and you can now watch it from the comfort of your own home. Each talk is about 10 minutes long.

- Dr Campbell Le Heron discussed the challenges of young onset dementia
- PhD candidate Ethan Marshall discussed using artificial intelligence in the assessment of Parkinson's disease
- Dr Toni Pitcher introduced our research aimed at establishing the causes of Parkinson's in New Zealand
- Dr Sarah Perry talked about how swallowing changes with ageing as well as following brain disease, and why coughing is not always a bad thing
- Dr Reza Shoorangiz discussed using functional brain imaging to investigate Parkinson's
- Dr Deborah Mason spoke about epidemiological studies done recently in NZ and how they allow us to measure health outcomes for people with multiple sclerosis
- Professor Tim Anderson's talk "Can we prevent Alzheimer's dementia?" outlined a new world-wide drug trial available to people in Canterbury aged 60 to 80 years of age with normal memory.

Learn more about brain research happening in Canterbury



A Tech Boost from Verizon Connect

Verizon Connect have donated four computer servers to us, which will greatly assist us in our work.

The Christchurch startup Telogis, which created a successful telematics business in vehicle, GPS, route, traffic and other data, combined with others in 2016 to form Verizon Connect. Verizon has a strong



focus on virtual data, meaning their physical servers became less important to their operations. Rather than wasting what could still be used, they gifted the technology to local groups including Orana Park, the YMCA, Christchurch Men's Shed and ourselves.

Special thanks to family donors

Our sincere thanks are extended to Dr Roy Wade for his significant bequest to our brain research and to the JT Turner Trust for their recent donation. We are also grateful to Bill and Noela Scurr. Bill was a volunteer in our Parkinson's research for 18 years; their gift was given on his passing. Thank you both for your long-standing support and our thoughts are with your family.

For more information about our work or how to support us, contact us at:

Website: www.nzbri.org Or email: info@nzbri.org

Join us on Facebook for up-to-date NZBRI research as well as staff profiles and NZBRI events.

Stay safe Ngā mihi

The New Zealand Brain Research Institute Team