

# A visionary new initiative for the future brain health of New Zealanders

## The inaugural Chair of Neurosurgery at The University of Auckland

Every week at Starship and Auckland City Hospital around 30 critical brain surgeries are conducted, on babies as young as one week old through to patients in their nineties, using the very latest, leading-edge technology.

Every day neuroscientists in over 55 research groups across the road at The University of Auckland's Centre for Brain Research advance knowledge on brain disorders, and progress treatments, conducting imaginative, internationally recognised research.



Mr Edward Mee, Head of Neurosurgery, ADHB

Harnessing the linkages between research excellence and neurosurgical expertise provides the opportunity to develop very exciting new treatments for those affected by brain disorders and trauma. The establishment of an inaugural Chair of Neurosurgery at The University of Auckland will become the critical focus for the development of effective interactive collaboration.

As Professor Richard Faull, Director of the Centre for Brain Research says:

*"There are huge opportunities for our Centre's scientists to undertake collaborative research with the Auckland City Hospital neurosurgeons to further enhance their surgical treatments and to study human brain function."*

### Centre for Brain Research

The Centre for Brain Research at the University of Auckland was established in 2009 with the vision to promote collaborative research between world-leading neuroscience research groups across the University (spanning the faculties of Medical and Health Sciences, Science and Engineering) and the top class neurologists and neurosurgeons in the Auckland hospitals.

Research is critical for patient health and improving outcomes, and the aim of the Centre for Brain Research is to develop new treatments to benefit patients and families with brain disorders in the wider community.

There are currently 55 dedicated research groups across the Centre, conducting ground-breaking work, greatly advancing our knowledge of brain science. These groups are primed to begin the translation from laboratory bench to hospital bedside. Understanding the brain is the last frontier of medical research and one of the most challenging areas in medicine.

*"By unlocking the secrets of the brain we learn more about ourselves, who we are and our future. Our discoveries have the potential to change the lives of people living with neurological disease."*

Professor Richard Faull



### The Auckland District Health Board Neurosurgical Unit

The Neurosurgical Unit is one of the largest single neurosurgical units in Australasia with six leading neurosurgeons providing state of the art neurosurgery for over 1.5 million people in the top half of the North Island.

The surgeons provide world class clinical care which complements the superb care provided by the neurologists. They have well-established clinical training links with leading neurosurgical centres in North America (e.g. University of Virginia), who send neurosurgical trainees to Auckland for advanced training and experience.

Each year the neurosurgeons perform life-saving brain surgery on over 1500 patients of all ages. They use the very latest technology with 3D modelling of patient's brains coupled with computer 'stealth' guidance imaging systems to precisely define tumours, blood vessel malformations and epileptic foci to ensure the best possible outcome for patients. They are involved with the development and application of new treatment strategies such as image-guided deep brain stimulation for diseases such as Parkinson's, movement disorders and chronic pain.



*"I have seen neurosurgery evolve from a reliance on the diagnostic ability of the reflex hammer to the input of sophisticated 3D guided computer workstations for planning surgical procedures. The progress that is being made is phenomenal."*

Mr Edward Mee, Head of Neurosurgery, ADHB

### The inaugural Chair of Neurosurgery at The University of Auckland

The challenges facing neurosurgery are rapidly increasing in the Auckland region with its expanding and diverse populations, and the subsequent increase of disorders such as stroke and traumatic brain injury. It is absolutely vital that further developments are research-based if we are going to advance neurosurgical treatments and progress the options for those living with brain disorders.

To address this compelling challenge and opportunity, The University of Auckland, in partnership with the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand, is launching an \$8million fundraising campaign to endow the inaugural Chair of Neurosurgery at The University of Auckland.

The critical function of this new Professor will be to harness, integrate and provide exciting new research opportunities, further developing world-class neurosurgical treatments. The individual appointed will be a true 'surgeon-scientist' with high-level brain surgery skills and a passion for research. The fund will also support a Senior Research Fellow and provide administrative support.

**We invite you to support this important new initiative. Please contact:**

**Professor Richard Faull**  
Director, Centre for Brain Research  
The University of Auckland  
**Phone:** +64 9 923 6708  
**Email:** rlm.faull@auckland.ac.nz

**Emma Dent**  
Development Manager, Campaign for  
Chair of Neurosurgery  
The University of Auckland  
**Phone:** +64 27 706 5927  
**Email:** emma.dent@auckland.ac.nz

