Our goals

Unlock the secrets of the brain
• Build on our world-class research and national and international collaborations through multi-disciplinary studies on the brain, from the gene to the cell to the mind
• Utilise advanced scientific technologies including the invaluable resources of the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand Human Brain Bank, and capitalise on our discovery that the human brain can make new brain cells.

Develop new therapies
• Translate our research from the laboratory to the clinic to improve the lives of people with brain diseases
• Expand and develop our ongoing clinical trials for Alzheimer’s disease, Stroke, Epilepsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease, Huntington’s disease, Motor Neurone Disease and others currently in development.

Improve clinical care
• Advance standards of patient care through improved diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and health services.

Train scientists and clinicians
• Create a culture change in training where there is a clinical focus in the laboratory and a research focus in the clinic and community.

Engage with our communities
• Work in partnership with community NGOs to ensure we address the needs of people and their families affected by brain disease
• Empower the community to share their knowledge and expertise to advance our research and clinical care for the common good.

Educate and inform
• Influence health policy through active local and national engagement
• Disseminate our findings to the international scientific and clinical communities by publishing in top-ranked journals and addressing international forums
• Inform the community through the media and active educational programmes.

Community partners
Alzheimers Auckland Inc
Alzheimers Counties Manukau Inc
Alzheimers New Zealand Inc
Epilepsy New Zealand Inc
Huntington’s Disease Associations of New Zealand
Motor Neurone Disease Association of New Zealand Inc
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Auckland and North Shore Inc
Multiple Sclerosis Society of New Zealand Inc
Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand Inc
Parkinsonism Society Auckland Inc
Parkinsonism Society of New Zealand Inc
Stroke Foundation of New Zealand Inc
Stroke Foundation Northern Region Inc

Our supporters
We appreciate the invaluable support of:
Auckland Medical Research Foundation
Douglas Charitable Trust
Foundation for Research, Science & Technology
Freemasons of New Zealand
Health Research Council
Gus Fisher Charitable Trust
Marsden Fund
Matthew Oswin Memorial Trust
Neurological Foundation of New Zealand
School of Medicine Foundation
The Coker Charitable Trust
The Lynette Sullivan Family Trust

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Centre for Brain Research
Our vision: working together to improve lives
Working together to improve lives

The Centre for Brain Research at The University of Auckland is a unique partnership between scientists, doctors and the community.

The way forward

The Centre for Brain Research exists to find and develop new treatments for brain disease. We comprise over two hundred researchers at the University of Auckland, the leading neurologists, neurosurgeons and physicians from the Auckland regional District Health Boards and community non-governmental organisations.

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.

The combined strengths of our scientific, clinical and community pillars will provide a platform for success. The University of Auckland is one of the top-ranked universities in the world, and is internationally recognised for its neuroscience research. The Neurology and Neurosurgical Departments in Auckland are amongst the largest in Australasia. Doctors from Auckland District Health Board, working in partnership with other expert clinicians from Auckland and Northland DHBs, provide care for over a third of New Zealand’s population. Local and national non-governmental organisations (NGOs) offer a rich network of support groups, rendering invaluable assistance to people and their whānau living with neurological disease.

Our scientists, doctors and community specialists work at every level; from the laboratory to the clinic to the whānau and community. By working together we will provide a brighter future for people and families with brain disease.

Rangahau te Roro me te Hinengaro

This Te Reo Māori name incorporates our vision for the Centre. Although it literally means “Researching the Brain and the Mind”, it can be better interpreted as “Weaving together our collective wisdom and knowledge of the brain.”

The Centre builds on three pillars of strength: world-class neuroscientists, skilled doctors and dedicated communities. Our expert team is committed to finding and developing new treatments for brain diseases. Our combined, complementary expertise and knowledge will be a powerful force to address the challenges of neurological disease.

It’s estimated that one in five New Zealanders will suffer from brain disease in their lifetime. Disorders such as Stroke, Epilepsy, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Huntington’s, Motor Neurone Disease, Multiple Sclerosis and deafness, affect hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders every year. Neurological diseases are among the top five most common causes of death and long-term disability. The cost to families and society, both financially and socially, is enormous.

The Centre for Brain Research is vital for the future health of our nation.

Professor Richard Faull
Director

Professor Alan Barber
Deputy Director

Community groups help people living with neurological conditions like Parkinson’s disease to stay active