



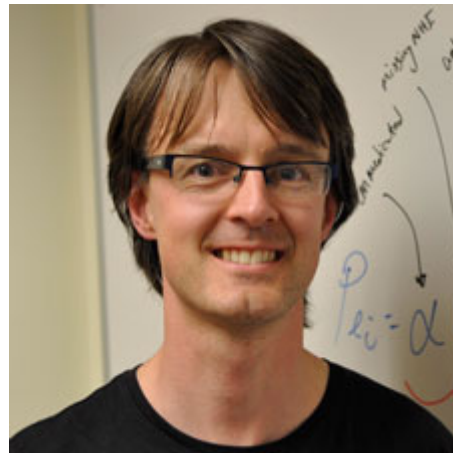
Kia ora

Welcome to our April newsletter. This month we are highlighting our epidemiology researchers as they uncover the latest distribution of Parkinson's disease across New Zealand. We want to thank everyone for their support during March's Brain Awareness Month. We held three free public talks and ran a public awareness campaign with billboards, radio and newspaper advertising across Canterbury. We had a great response and are keen to do this again next year. Coming up is our next fundraising event, Music Meets Art. We would love to see you there, helping raise funds for brain research in Canterbury!

Researcher Profiles

Dr. Daniel Myall

Daniel initially trained as a mathematician and then did a PhD in Medicine. He is now a biostatistician with a primary research focus on the epidemiology of Parkinson's disease. Working closely with Dr Toni Pitcher, he provided the first ever national estimates for the prevalence and incidence of Parkinson's disease in New Zealand. When not data modelling, he enjoys slowly converting his 10-acre block in North Canterbury to a forest.



Dr Toni Pitcher

Toni leads the epidemiology project, providing much needed information about the number of people in New Zealand living with Parkinson's. We continue to use the national health datasets to further our understanding of the number of people with Parkinson's dementia, mortality within this patient group, and regional variation in the numbers with the disorder. She is also



involved in NZBRI's longitudinal Parkinson's study in which she co-ordinates the collection, storage, and use of biological samples to help further our understanding of biological pathways involved in the disease processes.

Parkinson's Awareness Month

Parkinson's in New Zealand today

April is Parkinson's Awareness Month and Parkinson's Awareness Day (April 11th) marks the birth date of Dr. James Parkinson, the London-based neurologist that first described Parkinson's disease. More than 200 years later clinicians and researchers are still working tirelessly to improve the care of people with Parkinson's and to unravel the causes of this neurological disorder.

On April 11th NZBRI will be releasing current numbers of how many people have Parkinson's disease in New Zealand, and how this has been changing over the past 15 years. We will also describe how people with Parkinson's are distributed by age, gender, and geography, and what this can potentially tell us about the disease process and the implications for future research.

If you're in Christchurch, come along to hear the results at our talk on April 13th at 5.30pm. [Register here](#)



Want to know the latest research on Parkinson's disease?

Tuesday 13th April, 5.30pm
Registrations essential

How many people have Parkinson's in NZ?
How has this been changing over the past 15 years?
How are these people distributed by age, gender, and region?
And what does this tell us about the disease process and the implications for future research.

Presented by  **New Zealand Brain Research Institute**

In association with  **Multiple Sclerosis & Parkinson's**
CANTERBURY
strong connections

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

Our next fundraising event - Music Meets Art 2021

Presented by the Friends of the New Zealand Brain Research Institute, this popular fundraising event is back in a new location with a night of fabulous entertainment. The Piano on Armagh Street is a purpose-built concert hall with state-of-the-art acoustics that will make for an exceptional musical experience.

You will be treated to a special evening of:

- Popular opera performed by members of “The Opera Club” with guest artist James Harrison from NZ Opera
- Contemporary and Jazz music performed by “Sole Music Academy”
- an Art Auction featuring some of Canterbury’s most talented artists.

This is a must-see event for lovers of fine wine, art and music!

Ticket price includes Pegasus Bay wine, sumptuous canapés prepared by Lizzie’s Cuisine, entertainment and a chance to own a beautiful piece of art.

Best of all you will be helping to support the work of our researchers who work hard to help patients and families suffering the devastating effects of neurological conditions such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease, dementia and MS, amongst many others.

[Tickets available through Eventbrite here.](#)



Raising funds for neurological research in Canterbury

MUSIC MEETS ART

Friends of the
New Zealand
Brain Research
Institute

Saturday 8th May 7pm, “THE PIANO”, 156 Armagh St Christchurch

This is a must-see event for lovers of fine wine, art and music!

Tickets are \$79 and include wine, nibbles, entertainment and a chance to own a beautiful piece of art.

March was Brain Awareness Month

If you missed our free public education talks in March, you can now watch them online.

Brain Health Matters, a showcase of seven brain research projects based in Christchurch, ranging from brain imaging, stroke treatment, and earthquake brain to communication disorders, Huntington’s, Parkinson’s and dementia. [Watch here](#)

Dementia: variations, risk and prevention, presented by Professor John Dalrymple-Alford. John is the coordinator of the Christchurch arm of the "Dementia Prevention Research Clinics", conducted at the New Zealand Brain Research Institute. [Watch here](#)

Parkinson's disease: more than just tremors, presented by Professor Tim Anderson. Tim is an internationally renowned neurologist who specialises in movement disorders. [Watch here](#)

The New Zealand Brain Research Institute was initially founded by a generous donation from local businessman, Cas Van der Veer. The Institute receives no direct government funding and relies on the continued generous support from the community through donations and fundraising events.

Donate Now

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



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