

soundscape

NEWSLETTER OF THE OTICON FOUNDATION IN NEW ZEALAND

THE OTICON
FOUNDATION IN
NEW ZEALAND WAS
ESTABLISHED IN
OCTOBER 1976.

INCOME GENERATED
FROM THE FOUNDATION'S
INVESTMENTS IS
DISTRIBUTED TO GROUPS
AND ORGANISATIONS
SEEKING FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FOR
PROJECTS THAT
BENEFIT THE HEARING
IMPAIRED.

SEPTEMBER 2004



This year's Deaf Awareness Week from 19 September to 26 September celebrates deaf achievement, and it provides an opportunity to report on several of the Oticon Foundation's 2004 grants

During the week the National Foundation for the Deaf will be distributing a new edition of the Sound Advice booklet, which has been revised and updated with support from the Oticon Foundation. This publication includes valuable information for the hearing impaired community, their families and friends and is a great education resource.

The Foundation has made a major grant this year to help with the establishment of The University of Auckland's Hearing

Education Centre. This Centre is all about excellence and achievement, and will also ensure an ongoing emphasis on education and achievement in the years to come.

Helping those with hearing impairments succeed through activities like music therapy and one-to-one advice and support at a community level has also been made possible through this year's grants.

Remember, the Foundation provides financial support for activities and initiatives to those committed to finding solutions for hearing loss. If you want to make an application please do so by 31 March 2005.

Karen Pullar, Secretary to the Trustees

New University of Auckland Hearing Education Centre set up thanks to \$705,000 Oticon Foundation commitment

Research into hearing education and work to increase the awareness of hearing loss have been given a major boost with the establishment of the Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre at The University of Auckland.

The Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre has been made possible thanks to a \$705,000 commitment from the Oticon Foundation.

The Centre, which sits within the Section of Audiology in the University's new School of Population Health, is focusing on postgraduate and professional education and research

"The Centre will ensure that New Zealand keeps pace with the rapid international advances in hearing diagnosis and treatment," says Alistair Woodward, Head of the School of Population Health.

"It will allow the School to make a quantum leap in the

way it addresses the serious issue of hearing loss.

"Oticon's support means our students will gain a world-class education, while our professional development programmes will also benefit. On top of this, people visiting the Centre will get a service second-to-none," he says.

The special grant is the largest single award the Oticon Foundation has made, and marks Oticon's 100 year anniversary.

"A significant part of the Oticon Foundation's work in New Zealand has been to encourage and support research

to advance the understanding of hearing loss and to share this information with the health, education and hearing loss sectors. The grant to support the Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre encapsulates this work," says Oticon Foundation Chairman Tim Olphert.

The Centre's key activities are:

- **Education**

The Centre provides quality audiological facilities including sound-proof rooms and quiet hearing-aid fitting rooms which give audiology

graduates hands-on experience in the latest audiological testing techniques.

For existing audiology professionals, the centre will provide professional development and continuing education courses which include both practical and theory components.



Oticon Foundation chairman Tim Olphert with UoA School of Population Health Head Professor Alistair Woodward.

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Coming up in December – the first continuing education course at the Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre

The Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre, together with the Discipline of Speech Sciences, will run the first continuing education course on Saturday December 11, 2004.

The day long course at the School of Population Health at The University of Auckland will focus on recent trends in auditory processing disorder diagnosis and intervention.

“This short course is the start of what will be an ongoing programme of professional development opportunities for the profession,” says Peter Thorne, Associate Professor and Head of Audiology at The University of Auckland.

“Over the past few months the Centre has been working on its professional development activities to ensure it has a long term plan.”

The Centre has been consulting with the professions, particularly audiology and



The official opening of the School of Population Health at Tamaki Campus. The School includes the Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre. From left: Isla and Graeme Hall, Oticon Foundation; Professor Rob Kydd, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences; David Underwood, Oticon Foundation; Peter Tong, Executive Director, School of Medicine Foundation; Rachel Underwood; Associate Professor Peter Thorne, Head of Audiology.

otolaryngology to ensure there is a co-ordinated approach to professional development.

“We are also looking at developing a visiting fellowship programme that would bring an international expert to New Zealand at least once a year.”

To register for the December 11 short course contact Ms Sue O’Shea, Psychology Department (Tamaki Campus) Auckland University Ph 09-373 7599 ext. 86886 or email s.oshea@auckland.ac.nz.

Hearing Education Centre *continued*

• Research

State-of-the art clinical research facilities are available for graduate students in the Audiology Programme to carry out research in their dissertations. The focus of the research activity will be:

- tinnitus diagnosis and management
- processing of sound in the brain in hearing impaired adults and children
- hearing aid effectiveness
- needs and impact of hearing loss of hearing impaired adults and children

The Section of Audiology also houses its own clinical facility which supports its teaching and research activities, and is available for teaching and professional education.



Two of the sound treated rooms at the Centre.

Music to our Ears

Daphne Rickson knows the meaning of the words “music to our ears”.

This self-confessed “aging rocker” is also a registered music therapist who has specialised in music therapy for children, young people and adults who are hearing impaired.

She is so passionate about the benefits of music therapy for people with hearing impairments that she has written, performed and produced a compact disc to help hearing impaired children.

“Music is an amazingly motivating force to get people listening, rehearsing speech sounds and developing language,” says Daphne.

Her CD called “Oscar’s Listening” has just benefited from a grant from the Oticon Foundation to help produce a further 100 of the CDs for distribution through the New Zealand Foundation for Deaf Children in its family information kits.

“Each song on the CD has a specific purpose ranging from auditory training to get kids to listen for sounds, to simple tunes including “I love my hearing aid” to get children to feel good about their aids.

“A lot of children’s songs on CDs are just too complex for children with hearing impairments. Oscar’s Listening includes songs where the texture is simple.”

And then there are the songs about Napoleon the goat – an old friend that Daphne adopted when she worked at Van Asch Deaf Education Centre.

“I developed songs about Napoleon’s antics for the kids at Van Asch – and he was just too irresistible not to include on the CD,” says Daphne.

If you look closely, you’ll see Napoleon even features on the CD cover.



Project HIEDI at crucial stage



Project HIEDI – the initiative set up to work with government to see the establishment of a national newborn hearing screening and early intervention programme – is entering a crucial stage.

“Since late 2002 we’ve been working towards this goal, through awareness raising and preparing an evidence based case,” Project Manager Janet Digby says.

“We sought funding from the Oticon Foundation to help us meet our objectives.”

Project HIEDI was one of the successful applicants for the 2004 Oticon Foundation grants.

“The funding we have received from the Oticon Foundation this year came at a critical time for us. It was pivotal to ensuring we kept up the momentum in the project.”

Janet says the Project HIEDI team has prepared its evidence-based case for a national newborn hearing screening and early intervention programme and is about to take it to government.

“We expect to present the evidence-based case to government ministers and officials soon. This is a major step forward for Project HIEDI and we hope it will bring us closer to getting a national programme underway.

“We want to move to a nationally co-ordinated screening programme, beginning with a series of pilots to inform a national rollout,” she says.

New Zealand has a very poor record for picking up and taking action on hearing impairment.

“The average age of detecting moderate or greater bilateral congenital hearing impairment is 46 months. That means these children are getting limited auditory stimulation until they are almost four years old,” says Janet.

The internationally recommended age for identifying hearing loss is three months, with intervention starting before six months of age.

Without a universal screening programme followed by accurate diagnosis and early intervention these children are disadvantaged and often suffer from poor social and educational outcomes. Many countries have used this approach successfully and the current situation is unacceptable.

For more information about Project HIEDI check out the National Foundation for the Deaf website www.nfd.org.nz/nfdnews/projecthiedi.

Keeping in touch in the Wellington community

The Deaf Association of New Zealand knows the difference being out in the community can make to people with hearing impairments.

That’s one of the reasons why the Association approached the Oticon Foundation for help.

“It is sometimes impossible for people in Porirua and Lower Hutt to make it into Wellington if they need support, advice or assistance,” DANZ Liaison Office Jill Broom says.

“We needed to make it easy for people to access our services, so we set up community clinics in Porirua and Lower Hutt.”

The Oticon Foundation is supporting the clinics by providing funding to cover the costs of the room hire.

The Association operates the clinics once a week, and they are open to anyone with a hearing impairment.

“We usually help people who are having problems doing things in a hearing orientated world. That may be as simple as making a phone call for them,” Jill says.

“The funding from the Oticon Foundation means we can provide this service which helps people do the everyday things that non-hearing impaired people take for granted.”

Oticon Foundation grant recipients 2004

DR ANNE GREVILLE – for research on the incidence of hearing impairment in New Zealand

CAROL SMITH Teacher Aid for Deaf Students – study grant, Deaf Studies at Victoria University

DEAF ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND Wellington Branch – funding room hire for community meetings

GEORGINA MAJOR – study grant to attend sign language research conference in Spain

KELSTON DEAF EDUCATION CENTRE – equipment grant for sound-field systems for Kelston Girls' High School

KELSTON DEAF EDUCATION CENTRE Judith Lemberg, Speech Language Therapist – study grant to attend newborn hearing screening conference in Italy

MAUREEN GIBBS audiologist – study grant to attend Tinnitus Retraining Therapy Workshop in Wellington

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE DEAF – for the reprint of Sound Advice

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE DEAF – Project Hiedi for the establishment of universal newborn hearing screening

NEW ZEALAND AUDIOLOGICAL SOCIETY – for Dr Paul Davis, Associate Professor of Health Sciences, Curtin University of Technology, speaker at 2004 NZAS Conference

NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE TUTORS ASSOCIATION – funding for National Conference

WENDY POLUDORE audiologist – study grant to complete Doctorate in Audiology

VAN ASCH DEAF EDUCATION CENTRE Daphne Rickson – to reproduce CD for hearing impaired children

VAN ASCH DEAF EDUCATION CENTRE Evette Griffiths, Speech Language Therapist – study grant to attend Logopedics and Phoniatrics conference in Brisbane

how to apply for grants

Applications must include:

1. The name and address of applicant
2. If relevant, the organisation represented and position of applicant within the organisation, plus copies of latest balance sheet and annual report
3. Details of expenditure involved
4. Information about funding you are seeking from any other organisation for this or supplementary projects
5. Overseas travel details where applicable. Please state whether an applicant/s will be returning to New Zealand permanently after the visit is completed
6. How the hearing impaired in New Zealand will benefit from your project/research
7. Information about how you will publicise your project and its results. (We would like you to seek as wide an audience as possible)
8. Details about how you will promote the Oticon Foundation if your application is successful

Applicants applying for project funding should also include:

1. Title of project
2. Summary of project (not exceeding 150 words)
3. Qualifications of applicant relevant to project
4. Aims and design of project, and expected completion date

Applications for grants other than project funding should also include:

1. Details of grant requested
2. Reasons for request

Successful applicants will be required to:

1. Submit a report (five copies) within three months of completion of the project
2. Disseminate results or information from the project to as wide an audience as possible, such as to the bulletins and newsletters of professional groups, hearing impaired and Deaf groups
3. Acknowledge the Oticon Foundation in any reports or publications about your project/research

deadline

Grants are allocated annually.

Applications (together with five extra copies) should be made no later than 31 March in any year. Applicants will be notified whether their grant application has been accepted by 30 June of the same year.

Please address applications to:

**The Secretary
Oticon Foundation in New Zealand
C/- PO Box 9128, Te Aro
WELLINGTON
Phone: 0800 OTICON
E-mail: info@oticon.org.nz**

www.oticon.org.nz