

# 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 2007



## Don't Lose the Music – Noise and Hearing Loss

The spotlight has been thrown on the impact of noise and hearing loss and how this can be prevented.

New research from the National Foundation for the Deaf reveals seven out of ten under 30 year olds are experiencing symptoms of permanent hearing damage after listening to loud music – yet do nothing to prevent it.

This year's Deaf Awareness Week has put the focus on this, and the Oticon Foundation is pleased to be able to back up this work with a series of seminars by American expert

Dr Billy Martin who will speak about the Dangerous Decibels® campaign.

You'll also read in this edition of Soundscape the flip side of music and the hearing impaired, with a lovely story about the benefits a specially composed CD is having for families and children with hearing impairment.

Regards

*Karen Pullar*

*Secretary to the Trustees*

## Dangerous Decibels – Preventing Noise Induced Hearing Loss

### Hear the United States Director of Dangerous Decibels® in October

In the United States a major public health programme is underway to prevent noise induced hearing loss.

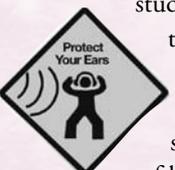
Dr Billy Martin of the Oregon Health and Science University directs this Dangerous Decibels® campaign which aims to reduce the incidence and prevalence of Noise Induced Hearing Loss and Tinnitus by changing attitudes and behaviours in school-aged children.

Dr Martin is in New Zealand in October as a guest of Auckland University, courtesy of the Oticon Foundation. In addition to an all day symposium on Noise and Noise Induced Hearing Loss on Monday 8

October, he will speak at three public seminars on the Dangerous Decibels® campaign. The Oticon Foundation, University of Auckland and University of Canterbury invite people to these seminars in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

In the Dangerous Decibels® activity, the team works with students and teachers to examine the sources of dangerous sounds, effects of listening to dangerous sounds and how to protect against these sounds.

Find out more about the programme at one of the seminars (see box) and at [www.dangerousdecibels.org](http://www.dangerousdecibels.org).



### Dangerous Decibels® NZ Seminars October

*Noise induced hearing loss in children and the Dangerous Decibels® programme*

#### AUCKLAND

Tuesday 9 October, 12.30–1.30pm  
Room 730.220 (the function room)  
The University of Auckland, Tamaki Campus

#### WELLINGTON

Thursday 11 October, 5.30–6.30pm  
Holiday Inn, 75 Featherston Street  
(Wine & refreshments served 5 pm)

#### CHRISTCHURCH

Friday 12 October 4.00–6.00 pm  
Copper Top, Commerce Building,  
University of Canterbury  
(Wine & refreshments served at 6 pm)

the oticon foundation

# From Commitment to Reality – A National Newborn Screening and Early Intervention Programme

Turning a commitment to a high-quality nationwide newborn hearing screening programme into reality is continuing to motivate the team at Project HIEDI.

Project HIEDI was established to develop and push a case for a national programme of hearing screening for deafness in newborn babies and appropriate early intervention across the country.

“We celebrated success last year, when the Government pledged to implement a national programme of screening and early intervention services,” says Professor Peter Thorne, Leader of Project HIEDI.

“We are delighted that New Zealand’s programme officially began on July 1 this year and will expand over the next three years to provide screening and intervention services throughout the country.”

The first three areas to be included in the national newborn hearing screening and early intervention programme are: Tairāwhiti, Waikato and Hawkes Bay.

“As the programme roll-out has started by including the only areas already operating well-baby programmes, two key advisory processes are underway to deliver the programme further,” says Professor Thorne.

Project HIEDI is part of the advisory process and funding from the Oticon Foundation will help ensure Project



*The Project Hiedi Team: Professor Peter Thorne, Margaret Cooper, Oriole Wilson, Janet Digby, Dr Bill Keith, Dr Dianne Webster*

HIEDI can continue with this sort of work.

Project HIEDI is part of the Group Special Education UNHSEI Reference Group and the Implementation Advisory Group in the National Screening Unit of the Ministry of Health.

“We believe HIEDI’s role on these groups is unique as it provides a broad view of programme quality – focusing on creating a seamless service across both health and education and maximising the benefit to children born with hearing loss.

“Until outcomes are improved for all children born with permanent hearing



impairment we have not completed our task. The only way this goal will be achieved is if all stakeholders work collaboratively with the lead agencies (Ministries of Health and Education) to ensure a high quality screening and early intervention programme programme is available throughout New Zealand,” says Professor Thorne.

---

## Migraines, Dizziness, Vertigo, Sense of Balance and t

Links between hearing disorders and migraine, dizziness, vertigo and balance problems have been brought to the fore for local audiologists, thanks to the support of the Oticon Foundation.

Helping local audiologists better understand how to diagnose and treat inner ear, or vestibular disorders, was behind the New Zealand Audiological Society’s desire to bring renowned

international Audio-Vestibular Physician Dr Ros Davies PhD, FRCP, to New Zealand.

“Having Dr Davies as a keynote speaker at our annual conference has gone down very well with the hearing care profession,” says NZAS President, Michelle Pokorny.

“Dr Davies’ expertise in vestibular disorders and enthusiasm for taking

a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and treatment of people with balance disorders has helped shine the light on little understood disorders of the Auditory Vestibular system.”

UK based Dr Ros Davies spoke on the topics of Migraine and Vertigo and the Migraine/Menière Overlap Syndrome and Clinical and Psychosocial Issues associated with balance disorders.

# Bringing Music to Life for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children

Kids don't need normal hearing to enjoy music and participate in musical activities.

Music Therapy Lecturer Daphne Rickson is passionate about the benefits of music for children with hearing impairment, composing a CD of songs recorded for children who are hearing impaired.

She has teamed up with the Oticon Foundation and the New Zealand Federation of Deaf Children to ensure families have access to the CD.

"The Oscar's Listening CD is being reproduced to include in the Federation

for Deaf Children's Family Information kit," says Daphne.

"Listening to music and singing can help develop listening skills. Music and song can be easier to hear than speech sounds. Rehearsing words to music can help children learn and remember language."

The music is composed, carefully recorded and paced, to motivate children to listen, invite them to move, play instruments and interact with others.

The CD can be used as a resource to encourage live music making and interaction.



## Introducing Dr Billy Martin

Dr Billy Martin is Professor of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery and Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at the Oregon Health and Science University in Portland.



He directs four programmes within the Oregon Hearing Research Center

- OHSU Tinnitus Clinic
- Tinnitus Research Programme
- Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring Services
- Dangerous Decibels® Noise Induced Hearing Loss and Tinnitus Prevention Program.

Dr. Martin also serves as the Research Scientist in Residence at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Dr Martin is in New Zealand as a guest of Auckland University, courtesy of the Oticon Foundation

## the Inner Ear

"Hearing disorders such as Menière's disease, Acoustic Neuroma and Ushers syndrome are also accompanied with dizziness and balance problems," says Michelle Pokorny.

"Having speakers on these topics helps educate Kiwi professionals and contribute to better service to people with inner ear problems."

oticon foundation hearing education centre

### Auckland University Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre

#### What's Up

The Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre has been opening its doors to the hearing care profession with hearing research seminars from experts in the University of Auckland's Department of Psychology.

In June, Ian Kirk Associate Professor focused on functional imaging of the human brain and the auditory system,

In August, Suzanne Purdy discussed hearing versus perceiving – raising the question of what auditory processing is and whether it could be enhanced.

Check out the Oticon Foundation Hearing Education Centre website for the latest events <http://www.health.auckland.ac.nz/audiology/OFHEC/>

#### Coming Up

**Monday 8 October – Spring Symposium on Noise Induced Hearing Loss**

The symposium discusses whether noise induced hearing loss is preventable drawing on international and local experience.

International speakers Professor Billy Martin and Dr Warwick Williams will take centre stage focusing on the international problem and interventions at home and work.

To find out more and register email [audiology@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:audiology@auckland.ac.nz)

**Tuesday 9 October – 12.30pm – Dangerous Decibels Programme: Dr Billy Martin (see story in this edition of Soundscapes)**

**10 October – 5pm – Hearing Research Seminar: Dr Billy Martin "A Tinnitus Radical or Radical Research in Tinnitus."**

To find out more contact [h.seal@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:h.seal@auckland.ac.nz) or ph 09 37 37 536.

# Oticon Foundation grant recipients 2007

HEARING ASSOCIATION, KAPITI BRANCH, for a banner promoting their services

HEARING ASSOCIATION, NELSON BRANCH, for hospital bedside notices for patients with hearing loss

KELSTON DEAF EDUCATION CENTRE, for auditory verbal therapy and assessment materials

KELSTON DEAF EDUCATION CENTRE, travel grant for Clint Green to attend the 2007 Conference for Educators of the Deaf, Hobart, Australia

KIM ROBINSON, to attend as a co-keynote speaker the 15th World Federation of Deaf Congress, Madrid, Spain

NEW ZEALAND AUDIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, for Dr Ros Davies, keynote speaker at 2007 NZAS Conference

NEW ZEALAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC, to produce Oscar Auditory Training CDs to be issued to families with hearing impaired children

PROJECT HIEDI, ongoing funding for the implementation of newborn hearing screening

and early intervention programme in New Zealand

THE WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR DEAF CHILDREN, for deaf and hearing impaired children to attend the Circus Proms and offer the children the opportunity to participate in a Circus Skills Workshop

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND, ongoing funding for Oticon Foundation Hearing Research Centre

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY, for research into the Prevalence of Hearing loss in school aged children, and evaluate the usefulness of Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emissions (DPOAEs) as a screening tool

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY, equipment to establish a Vestibular Disorders Clinic

VICTORIA MANNING, to attend as a speaker the 15th World Federation of Deaf Congress, Madrid, Spain

## 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](mailto:info@oticon.org.nz)

[www.oticon.org.nz](http://www.oticon.org.nz)