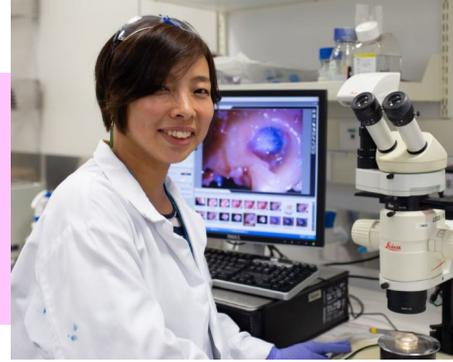


# Meet the Auditory Scientist!

## Dr. Haruna Suzuki-Kerr



### Q: Who are you?

A: I am a researcher at the University of Auckland.

### Q: Where do you work?

A: I work in the Grafton campus of the University of Auckland.



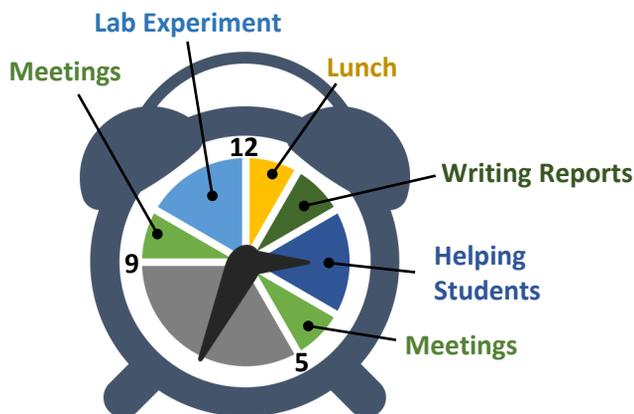
### Q: Why did you become an auditory neuroscience researcher?

A: I was always interested in human biology. Special senses like eyes & ears are really amazing. I became fascinated by how complex it is, but also how beautiful the our inner ear looks.

### Q: How did you become an auditory neuroscience researcher?

A: I graduated from the university of Auckland with bachelor of science. Then I did a postgraduate degree at the University of Auckland. After getting a PhD, getting a research job at the university was the start of my career as an auditory neuroscience researcher.

### Q: How does your "average day" look like from 9-5?



### Q: What do you do in your daily life as a researcher?

A: I spend time in the lab, preparing material for research. I use microscope a lot to study the ear and what cells in the ear are doing. I also help postgraduate students at the University, so I often teach students on how to use microscope, and have meetings to discuss their research projects.

### Q: What do you enjoy about being a researcher?

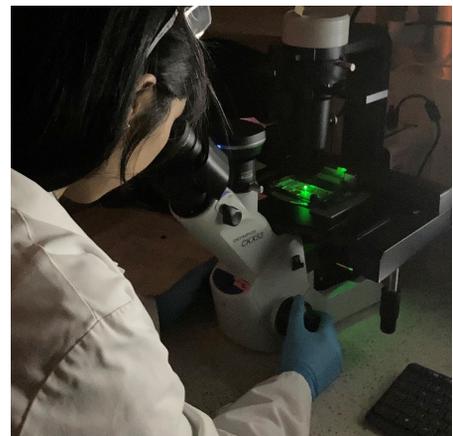
A: Research is all about discovering new facts. Studying a question no one else in the world know the answer to, is really exciting. You also get to use highly specialized, really expensive research equipment like top-of the world class microscopes. As a researcher, you meet and work with other researchers in different countries, which is also exciting.

### Q: What's tough about being a researcher?

A: Sometimes you don't discover anything after putting many hours of work. Work opportunity is limited.

### Q: What is your current research interest / goal?

A: I am interested in how our hearing develop when you are growing baby, and how this could get affected.



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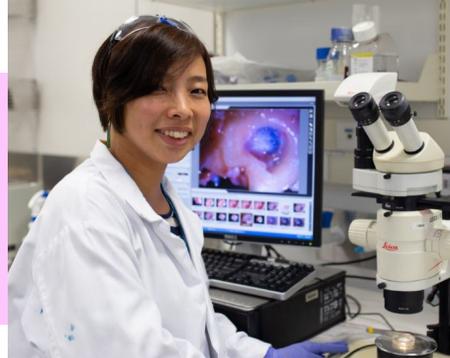
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# Uiui ki tō mātou kaipūtaiao! Kairangahau Tākuta Haruna Suzuki-Kerr



**Q: Kei hea koe e mahi ana?**

A: He kairangahau au ki te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau.

**Q: He aha koe i hiahia whai ai i te ara kairangahau mō te rongo ā-taringa hinengaro pūtaiao?**

A: Nō mai anō ahau i aro ai ki te mātauranga koiora. Ko ngā tairongo motuhake pēnei me ngā karu me ngā taringa he mea whakamiharo. I tino manawarū au i tōna āhua pīroiroi otia, mō te ātaahua hoki o te āhua o te taha roto o te taringa.

**Q: I pēhea nei koe i tū hei kairangahau rongo ā-taringa hinengaro pūtaiao?**

A: I whakapōtaehia au ki te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau. Kātahi au ka whai i te tohu paerunga i Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau. Nō muri o taku rironga i te tākutatanga ko te riro mai anō i tētahi mahi rangahau ki te whare wānanga nei te tīmatanga mai o taku umanga hei kairangahau rongo ā-taringa hinengaro pūtaiao.

**Q: Ka pēhea nei te āhua o tētahi mahi noa māu, arā 9-5?**

**Q: He aha te mea pārekareka atu ki a koe hei kairangahau?**

A: Ko te mahi rangahau tērā ko te kimi ake i ngā meka hōu kāore tētahi atu e mōhiotia ana puta i te ao, ā, he tino whakaihiihi nei tēnei ki a au. E whakamahia ana anō hoki ngā taputapu tino motuhake nei, nui te utu pēnei me ngā karaihe kounga rawa atu o te ao. Hei kairangahau ka tūtaki ai, ka mahi tahi atu anō me ngā kairangahau o whenua kē, ā, he mea whakaihiihi anō tēnei.

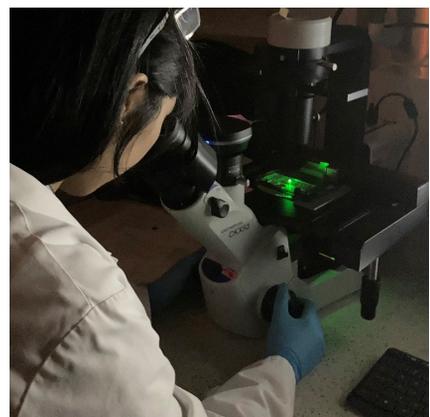
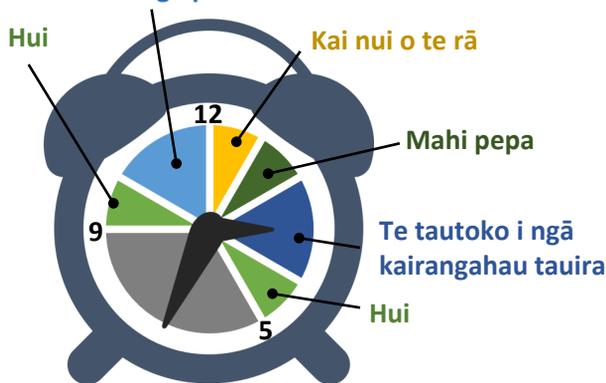
**Q: He aha te mea uaua i te mahi hei kairangahau?**

A: I ētahi wā kāore koe e kimi mātauranga aha nei i āu mahi whakapau hōra maha atu nei. He tapenga ngā angitūtanga mahi.

**Q: He aha tō aro rangahau/whāinga i tēnei wā tonu nei?**

A: E aro ana au e pēhea nei ō tātou rongo ā-taringa e whanake ai ina he pēpi e tipu ana koe, ā, ka pēhea tēnei e whakaaweawetia ai.

**Whakamātau taiwhanga pūtaiao**





# Meet the Auditory Scientist!

## Associate Professor Srdjan Vlajkovic



**Q: Who are you?**

A: I am a neuroscientist and Associate Professor in Physiology at the University of Auckland.

**Q: Where do you work?**

A: I work in the Department of Physiology at the University of Auckland.

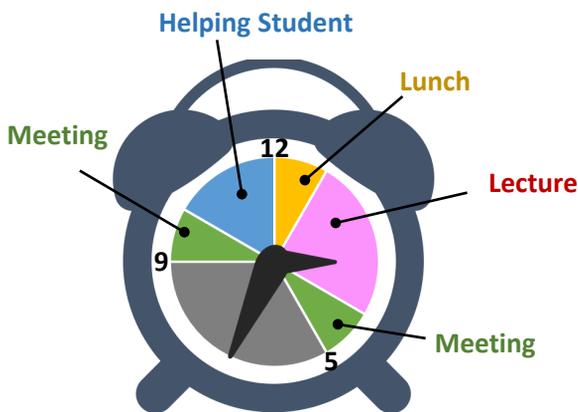
**Q: Why did you become an auditory neuroscience researcher?**

A: My interest in hearing research has a lot to do with my father’s illness called Meniere’s disease. This disease affects hearing and balance and reduces the quality of life.

**Q: How did you become an auditory neuroscience researcher?**

A: I graduated in Medicine at the University of Belgrade (Serbia). After that, I did postgraduate studies to received a Master’s degree and Ph.D. I worked in Belgrade for a few years before moving to New Zealand. I’ve been working at the University of Auckland since 1994.

**Q. How does your “average day” look like from 9-5?**



**Q: What do you do in your daily life as a researcher?**

A: It is a mixture of many activities. Writing research publications, writing research funding applications, providing support to students, doing laboratory experiment, teaching small and large classes at the university, research planning, meetings, and a lot of administration.

**Q: what do you enjoy about being a researcher?**

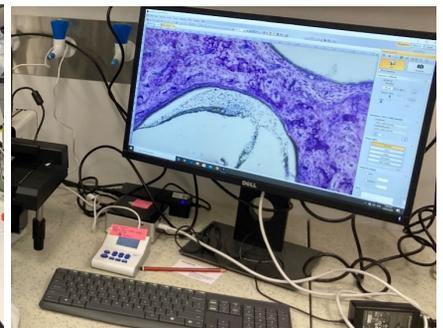
A: I decided very early after graduating from Medicine to become a researcher rather than a practicing clinician. Finding new, original solutions for medical problems excited me, and I like to read and learn new ideas. I also enjoy working with students as their enthusiasm for research keeps me motivated. My goals haven’t changed over time – I am still excited to investigate disease mechanisms and look for new treatments for hearing disorders.

**Q: What’s tough about being a researcher?**

A: It is very competitive to get research funding and publishing research findings. It is very rewarding when you are successful but sad when your projects doesn’t go very well. One has to accept both success and failure as parts of research life.

**Q: What is your current research interest / goal?**

A: My current research interest is in finding new treatments for hearing loss. That includes drugs that can prevent hearing loss or to correct genetic defects associated with hearing loss.



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# Ahorangi Tūhono Srdjan Vlajkovic



**Q: Kei hea koe e mahi ana?**

A: Ki te Tari Mātai Whaiaroaro i Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau.

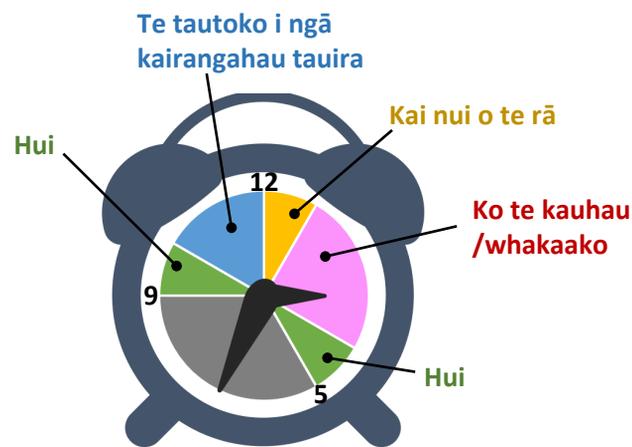
**Q: He aha koe i hiahia whai ai i te ara kairangahau mō te rongo ā-taringa hinengaro pūtaiao?**

A: Tōku aro ki te rangahau i te rongo ā-taringa e whai waahi nui ana nō te mate rongo ā-taringa o tōku pāpā e mea ana ko te mate Meniere's. Ka whakaaweawe tēnei mate i te rongo ā-taringa me te tū pūmau ake, me te aha, ka heke te kounga orange.

**Q: I pēhea nei koe i tū hei kairangahau rongo ā-taringa hinengaro pūtaiao?**

A: I whakapōtae au ki te Whare Wānanga Tākuta o Belgrade (Serbia). Whai i muri mai i tēnā i whai ai au i te tohu paerunga ka whakawhiwhia ai ki te Tohu Paerua me te Tākutatanga. Kua mahi ai au ki Belgrade mō ētahi tau ruarua nei i mua i taku nukutanga mai ki Aotearoa. Kua mahi ai au ki Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaaki Makaurau nō te tau 1994.

**Q. Ka pēhea nei te āhua o tētahi mahi noa māu, arā 9-5?**



**Q: He aha te mea pārekareka atu ki a koe hei kairangahau?**

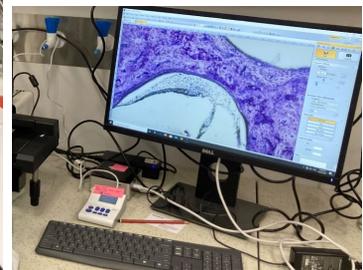
A: Ko te kimi mai i ngā rongoā mō ngā māniana hauora e whakaihiihi nei i a au, ā, he pai ki a au te pānui me te ako whakaaro hōu. Waihoki, he pai ki a au te mahi tahi me ngā tauira me tā rātau matangareka e whakapakepake ana i a au.

**Q: He aha te mea uaua i te mahi hei kairangahau?**

A: He tino whakataetae nei te riro hauptū moni mai mō te rangahau me te tāia i ngā putanga rangahau. He tino whai hua ina angitu ai koe otiā, pōuri ana ki te kore e tino pai te haere o āu hinonga.

**Q: He aha tō aro rangahau/whāinga i tēnei wā tonu nei?**

A: Ko tāku aro rangahau i tēnei wā ko te kimi i ngā maimoatanga hōu mō te mate rongo ā-taringa. Tae atu anō ki ngā pūroi e taea ai te ārai atu i te mate rongo ā-taringa, ko te whakatika rānei i ngā kinonga heketanga ā-whānau e whai pānga ana ki te mate rongo ā-taringa.



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## Meet the Auditory Scientist!

# Dr. Rachael Taylor



**Q: Who are you?**

A: I am a clinician (Audiologist) and scientist with an interest in people's hearing and balance.

**Q: Where do you work?**

A: At both a university and at a clinic that treats people with dizziness and balance problems.

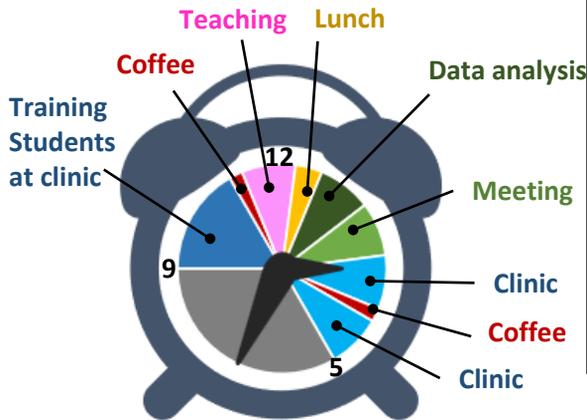
**Q: Why did you become an auditory neuroscience researcher?**

A: I left my high school in Whangarei without knowing what I wanted to do. I initially studied mathematics at the University of Waikato & bumped into neuroscience by chance. I enjoyed it so much that I decided to start a neuroscience degree at the University of Otago. There, I developed an appreciation for how important our vision and hearing are for us to communicate and make sense of the world around us.

**Q: How did you become an auditory neuroscience researcher?**

A: After Otago, I did Master of Audiology program at the University of Auckland because I knew that I was most interested in the sense of balance. I then worked as a clinical audiologist in hospitals in NZ, England and Australia. I became involved in research through jobs, and this is now a major focus for me.

**Q: How does your "average day" look like from 9-5?**



**Q: What do you do in your daily life as a researcher?**

A: Some days, I perform hearing and balance tests on patients for the clinic and for research. Most days involve attending at least one meeting. I also support students, and preparing lecture material for students and presenting lectures, and marking student assignments are also parts of the job.

**Q: What do you enjoy about being a researcher?**

A: I enjoy working with other researchers who are passionate about what they do. I love analysing data. It is always with eager anticipation that I await the results of my statistical analysis to see if they support my idea. I also like the fact that there is still so much to learn. Unexpected findings that may not be in line with what I had thought/planned, force me to rethink my methods and ideas.

**Q: What's tough about being a researcher?**

A: It can be a challenge learning to juggle multiple things at once. Sometimes there are several deadlines to meet, and it feels like there are not enough hours in the day.

**Q: What is your current research interest / goal?**

A: Currently, I am interested in how our senses of hearing and balance work together to help us maintain a stable, upright posture and navigate our environment.



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## Kairangahau Tākuta Dr. Rachael Taylor



**Q: Kei hea koe e mahi ana?**

A: Kei te whare haumanu au e mahi ana (hei Tākuta Taringa), ā, he kaipūtaiao anō me taku aro ki ō te tangata rongō ā-taringa me tū-pūmau ake.

**Q: He aha koe i hiahia whai ai i te ara kairangahau mō te rongō ā-taringa hinengaro pūtaiao?**

A: Ka wehe atu au i te Kura Tuarua o Tikipunga i Whangārei me taku kore tino mōhio he aha hei mahi māku. I te tīmatatanga ka wānangahia e au te pāngarau ki te Whare Wānanga o Waikato, i konei ka tūpono atu ahau ki te pūtaiao hinengaro-io. Nō te mea i tino pārekareka nei ki a au ka whakatauhia ai kia haere ki Whare Wānanga kē. Ka tīmata i a au te whai i te tohu pūtaiao hinengaro-io ki Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou. I konei, ka whanake mai taku whakamaiohatanga mō te nui whakahirahira o te kite ā-karu, me te rongō ā-taringa mō tāua te tangata kia whakawhitiwhiti whakaaro me te whai mātauranga ki tō tātou nei ao.

**Q: I pēhea nei koe i tū hei kairangahau rongō ā-taringa hinengaro pūtaiao?**

A: Nō muri mai i taku whakapōtaetanga i Ōtākou, ka whai haere au i te tohu paerua i te akoranga Rongō ā-Taringa ki Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaaki Makaurau. I tēnei wā kua mōhio mai ahau ko te rongō o te tū-pūmau tōku tino aro. Nō muri i taku whakapōtaetanga i te Rongō Ā-Taringa ka mahi ahau hei kairongō-ā-taringa i roto i ngā hohipera i Aotearoa, Ingarangi me Ahitireiria. Ka whai waahi ai au ki ngā mahi rangahau mā ngā mahi, ā, koia tēnei taku tino aro i tēnei wā.



**Q: He aha te mea pārekareka atu ki a koe hei kairangahau?**

A: E rata ana au ki te mahi tahi me ētahi atu kairangahau e kaingākaunui ana anō hoki ki tā rātau e mahi nei. Ngākaunui ana au ki te mahi tātari raraunga. Ka whanga hīkaka mai ahau ki ngā putanga i o āku tātari raraunga kia kite mēnā rānei e tautoko ana i ōku whakaaro whakataunga. Ka pai anō ki a au te meka kāore ō te mātauranga mutunga. Ko ngā putanga whakaohorere kāore pea e noho tahi ana i tāku i whakaaro ai, whakamahere ai rānei, he mea whaiwhakaarotanga māku ki āku anō tikanga mahi, ōku anō whakaaro anō hoki.

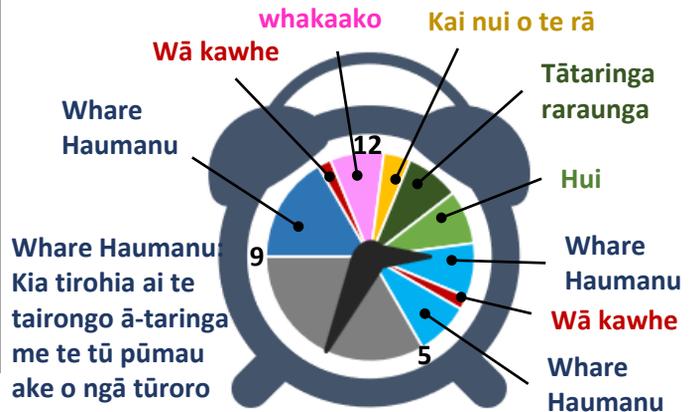
**Q: He aha te mea uaua i te mahi hei kairangahau?**

A: He wero hoki kia mahi i ngā mahi rerekē i te wā kotahi. I ētahi wā he rā kati ruarua i te wā kotahi hei whakatutuki atu, ā, ko te āhua nei ka kore e rahi nei ngā hāora i te rā ki te whakatutuki atu.

**Q: He aha tō aro rangahau/whāinga i tēnei wā tonu nei?**

A: I nāiane, e aro ana e pēheatia ai ō tātou tairongo ā-taringa me te tū-pūmau ake e mahi tahi ana kia tautokona mai tātou kia tū tika ake ai me te haerere haere ai i tō tātou taiao.

**Q: Ka pēhea nei te āhua o tētahi mahi noa māu, arā 9-5?**



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## Meet the Auditory Scientist!

# Professor Peter Thorne



### **Q: Who are you?**

A: I am an auditory neuroscientist and Professor at the University of Auckland

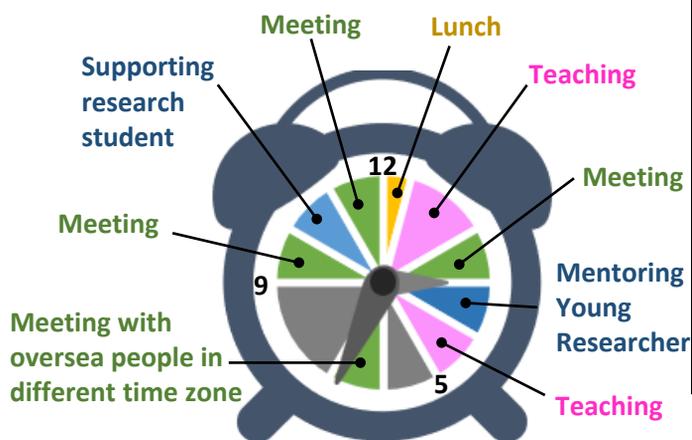
### **Q: Why did you become an auditory neuroscience researcher?**

A: Honestly, I sort of fell into it, and pleased I did! I developed an interest in sensory biology and disorders at university and had always been keen on a career in medical research. I was later influenced by an Otolaryngologist to look at hearing and developing treatments for ear disease. And I haven't looked back!

### **Q: How did you become an auditory neuroscience researcher?**

A: I did undergraduate and post-grad degrees in Physiology and a PhD in Pathology (=how disease develop). I then worked as a scientist at a major Hearing Research Institute at the University of Michigan in the USA. After this, I returned to NZ and continue to work as a scientist for years and set up my own research group. I was then offered a job as a permanent lecturer to set up a new Audiology degree programme and a research activity in audiology.

### **Q: How does your "average day" look like from 9-5?**



### **Q: What do you do in your daily life as a researcher?**

A: My time now is very much in leading programmes of research. So my day is made of many meetings with colleagues and students reviewing collaborative work, planning new studies and preparing manuscripts, and grant applications.

### **Q: What do you enjoy about being a researcher?**

A: Many, many things. The people you work with and meet, discovering new things and the challenges of research, engaging with students and communities. Most of all, I get paid to do what I love!

### **Q: What's tough about being a researcher?**

A: Tough question. Getting the funding for research is hard and very competitive. So even your best ideas may not be funded. But persistence pays off, and getting your work published and making advances in the field is rewarding. Juggling the demands of teaching, research, and administration as an academic can be difficult at times.

### **Q: What is your current research interest / goal?**

A: I am working in a number of areas in collaboration with others in our group around developing therapies of ear disease and systems, delivering drugs to the ear, and preventing ear diseases using public health approaches. I also want to design ear and hearing care services in Pacific Island Countries.



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Uiui ki tō mātou kaipūtaiao!

# Ahorangi Peter Thorne



**Q: Kei hea koe e mahi ana?**

A: He kaipūtaiao pūtau io, he Ahorangi hoki ahau i Waipapa Taumata Rau.

**Q: He aha koe i hiahia whai ai i te ara kairangahau mō te rongo ā-taringa hinengaro pūtaiao?**

A: Kia pono te kōrero, i tūpono noa ahau ki tēnei mahi, ā, e harikoa ana i pērā ai! I tipu taku aronga ki te mātai koiara tairongo me ngā momo mate i te whare wānanga, ā, i rikarika ahau ki te whai i te ara o te rangahau hauora. Nō muri mai ka whakaawehia ahau e tētehi rata Taringa kia mātaihia ngā rongonga taringa me te whanake i ngā rongoā hei maimoa i ngā mate taringa. Mai i taua wā, ka anga whakamua te haere!

**Q: I pēhea nei koe i tū hei kairangahau rongo ā-taringa hinengaro pūtaiao?**

A: I oti i a au te tohu paetahi me te tohu paerua i te Mātai Whaiaroaro, te tohu Kairangi hoki i te Mātai Mate. Kātahi au ka mahi hei kaipūtaiao i tētehi Wānanga Rangahau Rongonga matua i Te Wānanga o Michigan, i Amerika. Nō muri mai, ka hoki mai au ki Aotearoa, ā, ka mahi tonu hei kaipūtaiao me te whakatū i tāku ake rōpū rangahau. Kātahi ka tonoa mai he tūranga mahi hei kaikauhau pūmau kia whakatūhia tētehi hōtaka tohu paetahi me tētehi ngohe rangahau hou i te kaupapa Rongonga Taringa.

**Q: He aha te mea pārekareka atu ki a koe hei kairangahau?**

A: Kāore e ārikarika. Ko ngā tāngata kua mahi tahi i tōku taha, kua tūtakina hoki, ko te tūhura i ngā mea hou me ngā whakamātau o te rangahau, ko te whai wāhi ki ngā ākongā me ngā hapori. Ko te mea nui, ka utua ahau ki te mahi i tāku e aroha nui nei.

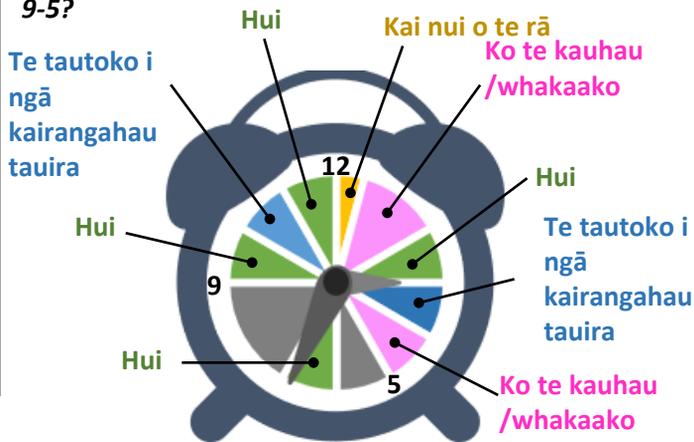
**Q: He aha te mea uaua i te mahi hei kairangahau?**

A: Kātahi te pātai ko tēnā. He uaua, he whakataetae nui hoki te whai i te pūtea hei tautoko i te rangahau. Me te aha, e kore pea ō whakaaro tino pai e whai huruhuru. Heoi, mā te waewae tūtuki e whai hua ai, ā, ka rongo i te momoho ina tāngia ai āu na mahi, ina hua mai ai hoki he whanaketanga. He uaua i ētehi wā mā te pūkenga mātauranga ki te whakataurite i ngā mahi whakaako, rangahau, whakahaere hoki.

**Q: He aha tō aro rangahau/whāinga i tēnei wā tonu nei?**

A: He huhua ngā kaupapa e mahi ana au i te taha o ētehi o tō mātou rōpū kia whanakehia ngā haumanu mō ngā pūnaha me ngā mate taringa, kia whakaratohia ngā rongoā taringa me te ārai i ngā mate taringa mā te whai i ngā ara hauora tūmatanui. Ka hiahia hoki au ki te hoahoa i ngā ratonga maimoa taringa, rongonga taringa hoki i ngā whenua o Te Moananui-a-Kiwa.

**Q: Ka pēhea nei te āhua o tētahi mahi noa māu, arā 9-5?**



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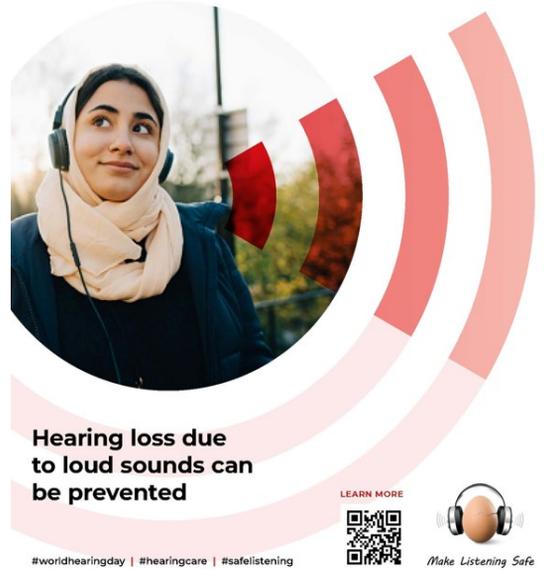
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#worldhearingday | #hearingcare | #safelisting *Make Listening Safe*

## *Who are we?*

We are a group of scientist who study our senses of hearing and balance. We hope that our research will contribute to developing new treatments for hearing loss and balance disorders.



Prof. P Thorne



A/Prof. S. Vlajkovic



Dr. R. Taylor



Dr. R. Telang



Dr. H Suzuki-Kerr

*For More information, feel free to contact us:*

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AVTNC1/>

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We support World Hearing Day  
Hearing & Balance Research  
@AVTNC1



Twitter: @AVTNC1

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**To hear for life,  
listen with care!**



World Hearing Day 2022 (3 March)

# Auditory and Vestibular Translational Neuroscience Cluster

Ko te rangahau Rongo Ā-Taringa, Tū-Pūmau Ake: He rangahau tēnei e tautoko ai i ngā haumanu mō ngā taringa.

*E tautoko ana mātou i te rā rongo ā-taringa o te ao.*

To hear for life,  
listen with care!



Hearing loss due to loud sounds can be prevented

LEARN MORE



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Make Listening Safe

## Ko wai mātou??

He rōpū kaipūtaiao mātou e wānanga ana i ō mātou tairongo o te rongo ā-taringa me te tū-pūmau ake. E tūmanako ana mātou ka whai koha ai ā mātou rangahau ki te whakawhanaketanga ake i ētahi haumanutanga hōu mō te mate rongo ā-taringa me ngā tūmomo mate tū-pūmau ake.



Prof. P Thorne



A/Prof. S. Vlajkovic



Dr. R. Taylor



Dr. R. Telang



Dr. H Suzuki-Kerr

*Mō ētahi pārongo atu anō, whakapā mai ki a mātou:*

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