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NEUROLOGICAL  
FOUNDATION  
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40 YEARS  
1972-2012  
PROGRESS THROUGH RESEARCH

# ➔ FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

## AUTISM: HOW IT AFFECTS BRAIN CELLS — THE LATEST RESEARCH

PRESENTED BY



### DR JOHANNA MONTGOMERY

Principal Investigator  
The Synaptic Function Research Group  
Senior Lecturer, Physiology  
School of Medical Sciences  
University of Auckland

#### AUCKLAND

THURSDAY 05 JULY 2012

6.30PM TO 8.00PM

ROOM 260-115, FISHER & PAYKEL AUDITORIUM  
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND BUSINESS SCHOOL  
OWEN G GLENN BUILDING  
12 GRAFTON RD, AUCKLAND

#### ➔ NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED

to attend this lecture. Please arrive early to secure seating.

\$6 underground parking available

**Autism is a cognitive disorder and the core symptoms include deficits in social relationships, delayed and abnormal language and a pattern of repetitive behaviours and restricted interests. A relatively unknown disorder to the general population, the condition is anything but rare, with over 40,000 New Zealanders being affected by an Autism Spectrum Disorder.**

In this lecture, Dr Johanna Montgomery will discuss the latest research identifying how Autism Spectrum Disorders affect brain cell function and communication, and how this could underlie the behavioural changes seen in autistic patients. She will explain research performed by her own lab and that of her peers internationally.

Dr Montgomery will also highlight the progress and prospects for the future.

Based at the University of Auckland, Dr Montgomery heads a team of neuroscientists focused on understanding how the brain is altered in Autism Spectrum Disorders with the ultimate aim of developing future treatments.

Dr Montgomery graduated from the University of Otago with a PhD in Physiology in 1999. She then undertook two postdoctoral positions at Stanford University (USA) where she began her long term research interest in understanding the plasticity of synapses in the brain and how this may underlie learning, memory and disease. During this time she was awarded the Katherine McCormack Award from Stanford University and the International Union of Physiological Sciences Distinguished Young Investigator Award. In 2005 Dr Montgomery returned to New Zealand to establish the Synaptic Function Research Group at the University of Auckland. She was awarded the University of Auckland Early Career Research Award in 2007 and was a finalist in the Eppendorf and Science International Prize in Neurobiology. In 2010, Dr Montgomery returned to Stanford University to begin a research collaboration on the cellular basis of Autism Spectrum Disorders and returned to New Zealand early in 2011 to continue this important work.

For further information please phone **0508 BRAINS (0508 272 467)**  
or email [info@neurological.org.nz](mailto:info@neurological.org.nz)