

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND **ANNUAL REPORT TO DONORS** | 2019

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### Exceptional generosity

An annual report is, by its nature, retrospective; yet, in the extraordinary circumstances we have been experiencing in 2020, it is appropriate to comment on our current situation.

Firstly, we want to express our sincere best wishes to all of the University community and especially to you, our donors. It has been a challenging time for everyone and we want to thank you for your ongoing support of the University's work. Because of your generosity past and present - the University is in a much stronger position to weather the storm and flourish into the future.

While there has been much focus in recent months on the immediate issues before us and the ensuing business recovery plan, we are at the same time developing a new University of Auckland strategic plan. As we progress this important work, we will be actively seeking the views of philanthropic partners, alumni and other supporters.

It is fair to say that 2019 was the most exceptional year ever for philanthropy at our University. In partnership with our supporters, we have exceeded our goals for the fifth consecutive year. Not only was 2019 an outstanding year for annual results, but on 31 October 2019 the University of Auckland Campaign For All Our Futures was concluded. This extraordinary effort, raising a total of \$380,271,165, has had a profound impact on our ability to deliver life-changing research, particularly in the area of health and medicine, and to enable many thousands of students to have the advantages of an outstanding higher education.

On behalf of the University and the Foundation, thank you for joining with us to create a shared vision and, through your commitment and generosity, making that vision become a reality.

#### GEOFF RICKETTS CNZM

Chair, the University of Auckland Foundation Chair, the University of Auckland Campaign For All Our Futures

#### PROFESSOR DAWN FRESHWATER

Vice-Chancellor, the University of Auckland

### The power of partnerships

In 2019, we received 17 gifts and pledges to the value of \$1 million or more, almost double the number received in 2018. This is a truly extraordinary contribution to the work of the University, across multiple research and innovation programmes as well as the many initiatives that support students and give them the exceptional opportunities that will make them the leaders of tomorrow. Donations at this level also demonstrate the commitment shown by our philanthropic partners during 2019 to ensure the success of the Campaign For All Our Futures in its final year.

Many of these gifts were in support of major programmes to treat disease and improve health. These included \$16.5 million from the Hugh Green Foundation – the largest ever single gift to the University – to endow the Hugh Green Biobank and create a Chair in Translational Neuroscience. Brain research also received outstanding support from the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand, which gave \$1.19 million in 2019.

Cancer research at the University benefitted enormously from philanthropy, including through an anonymous gift of \$5 million for the Marijana Kumerich Chair in Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research and \$1.64 million from Cancer Society Auckland Northland for the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre.

Major gifts to support medical and scientific research at the University included \$3.39 million from the Auckland Medical Research Foundation, \$2 million from the estate of Barbara Dawn and \$1.09 million from the NZ Lottery Grants Board.

The Aotearoa Foundation gave \$2.74 million to support emerging researchers across the Centre for Brain Research, the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and the Liggins Institute.

The Heart Foundation gave \$1.89 million in 2019 to support the Heart Foundation Chair in Heart Health and for heart research grants.

The Friedlander Foundation gave \$2.95 million in support of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and an anonymous donor gave \$1.05 million for the Bioengineering Breast Imaging Project.

Research to benefit the health of young people was supported through \$1.75 million from Cure Kids for the Cure Kids Chair in Child Health Research, the Duke Family Chair in Child and Adolescent Mental Health and numerous individual research grants.

Exceptional education programmes for students were established through donors in 2019. An outstanding example is the Buchanan Programme for UE Success, established through a \$1.87 million gift from the Buchanan Charitable Foundation. Equally notable is the scholarship programme created for Pasifika medical students, established through a \$1 million gift from John and Rose Dunn.

Research in the Faculty of Science was supported through \$2.62 million from Beate Schuler.

The Chartwell Trust gave \$1 million to support the Centre for Applied Research in Creative Thinking.

All of these outstanding gifts are making a significant difference to the ways in which the University can progress important research and support student initiatives. We sincerely thank all our major donors for their partnership, vision and generosity.



### The impact of giving

Looking back over the University of Auckland Campaign For All Our Futures, I am immensely proud of everything that we have achieved together. Many of these achievements were captured in our 100-day countdown to the campaign close on 31 October 2019, which you can view on our website: auckland.ac.nz/100impacts

Among the highlights for me was seeing the difference that we were able to make in the lives of our students. Through the 8,416 gifts for student initiatives received from 3,239 donors, we trebled the number of student scholarships. This means that we have been able to welcome students who would otherwise not have had the means to undertake study - students who are the first in their family to attend university, students from a refugee background and students from lowdecile schools. Together, we have also been able to create exceptional opportunities for highly talented students from all backgrounds who have the capability and the desire to be the leaders of the future.

This spirit of generosity has continued over recent months, as so many of our students have struggled with loss of income and the disruption experienced as a result of Covid-19. Thank you for your support during this difficult time, both financially and through the many encouraging messages sent.

Through our 2019 Annual Report to Donors we are pleased to provide our summary financial statements, investment report, 2019 highlights, Campaign For All Our Futures highlights, and stories about just a few examples of research projects and student initiatives that have been made possible through donor support. The full financial statements can be seen at: www.uoafoundation.org.nz

Thank you for your generous contribution in 2019 and through the Campaign For All Our Futures. Each and every one of our donors has played a part in this success and each has helped to create a better future.

#### MARK BENTLEY

Director, Alumni Relations and Development

### In 2019 ...

We received the largest number of gifts, from the largest number of donors, making up the largest-ever annual figure of \$75,359,503.

This was a year of **extraordinary generosity** from our many donors, who are contributing to research, innovation and student initiatives at the University.



We received

### **LEGACY GIFTS**

### FROM 7 DONORS.

Their generosity will make a lasting impact on student scholarships and on projects in SCIENCE, EDUCATION, ENGINEERING AND MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES.

\$16,590,729

WAS RECEIVED TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC CHAIRS.

A further

**\$1,679,455** 

WAS RECEIVED IN SUPPORT OF FELLOWSHIPS FOR RESEARCHERS.

2,182
DONORS GAVE



TO THE
TOTAL VALUE OF
\$613,641
through the
ANNUAL GIVING
PROGRAMME.

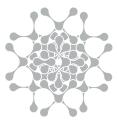
THE MEDIAN GIFT WAS

Our donors gave

38,839,811

to support

**RESEARCH ACROSS** THE UNIVERSITY.



### 992 gifts

were received from staff and former staff, a total contribution of

\$2,183,944.



3,255

donations were made through online giving.















WE WERE

### actively engaged

### WITH MORE OF OUR **ALUMNI THAN EVER** BEFORE ...

measured through communication, participation and giving.

**SINCE 2014** WE HAVE ACTIVELY **ENGAGED WITH** 120,000 alumni,

a cumulative figure of



STUDENTS WERE AWARDED

\$4,977,858

IN DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS.

1,284 GI **SUPPORTED** 

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS** 

and a further 1,826

WERE FOR STUDENT PROJECTS.

Total donor support for our students amounted to

\$4,572,007.

We welcomed

new members to our cumulative giving society, THE CHANCELLOR'S CIRCLE 3 of whom wish to remain anonymous:



new members into the SIR MAURICE O'RORKE SOCIETY

which recognises giving of more than \$5 million.



new members into the SIR GEORGE FOWLDS SOCIETY

which recognises giving between \$1 million and \$5 million.



new members into the SIR DOUGLAS ROBB

which recognises giving between \$100,000 and \$1 million.

### FOR ALL OUR FUTURES

000

The University of Auckland Campaign
For All Our Futures was publicly launched in
September 2016 and concluded on 31 October 2019.
In its final year, our donors showed exceptional support
for the University's work, backing our students and
researchers on a scale never seen before.

Every dollar given to the Campaign is helping to open up opportunities and improve lives across our communities.

Here are some of the highlights of the Campaign For All Our Futures

THE NUMBER OF DONOR-FUNDED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS TREBLED DURING THE CAMPAIGN, supporting programmes for undergraduate students from low-decile schools as well as the next generation of New Zealand's leaders.

**3,239 donors** 

**MADE** 

8,416 gifts



**CREATING FUNDING OF** 

\$36,339,200

Donor support for many initiatives has transformed the way students think, create, solve problems and prepare for the future of work, for example ...

### 5,000 students

HAVE EXPERIENCED THE

Unleash Space innovation hub
SINCE IT OPENED IN 2018.

**EACH YEAR** 

### 50 students

HAVE DESIGNED AND BUILT A CAR AND COMPETED IN THE FORMULA SAE COMPETITION.



### new academic chairs



were funded during the Campaign, supporting a wide range of disciplines from child health to theological and religious studies.

OVER THE COURSE OF THE CAMPAIGN. **DONORS GAVE** 

\$46,823,207

TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC CHAIRS.

Over the course of the Campaign, we received

4,316 GIFTS FROM STAFF AND FORMER STAFF AND 17,128 GIFTS FROM ALUMNI.

In October 2019 the University received its

largest ever single gift,

AN EXTRAORDINARY

**\$16.5** million

FROM THE HUGH GREEN FOUNDATION to endow the HUGH GREEN BIOBANK and create a CHAIR IN TRANSLATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE.

Researc



at the University received

\$205,199,635

in funding to help answer important questions across

health, education and our natural environment.

THIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION **CAME THROUGH** 

**4,394** GIFTS FROM 1,578 DONORS.

Through the Campaign the University received its

largest-ever legacy gift,

AN EXTRAORDINARY

million

FROM THE ESTATE OF WARWICK AND JUDY SMITH FOR research in Science and Engineering.



In total.

7,236 DONORS GAVE

\$380,271,165

**THROUGH** 

23,592 GIFTS

to answer important questions for our communities.

MAKING THIS THE LARGEST-EVER **FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN** IN NEW ZEALAND.





### Drawing closer to the dream

"The brain is responsible for all we are," says Distinguished Professor Sir Richard Faull (Ngāti Rāhiri, Te Ātiawa), director of the University's Centre for Brain Research (CBR), "for our personalities, our vision, our movement, our memories, everything that gives us conscious existence.

"By definition, every one of us is different, and inside our brains are 90 billion cells, working together to reflect those differences in wonderful ways we don't yet understand."

The task of the CBR - with its more than 80 research teams of University scientists, its hospital neurologists and neurosurgeons, and its essential partners in the community - is to extend that understanding through collaborative research, while advancing knowledge of how neurodegenerative diseases develop and laying the base for potential treatments for some of our most devastating brain diseases.

The ultimate dream is to heal brains, and in doing so, to transform lives. And every year that ultimate dream comes a step closer.

"Right now," says Sir Richard, "we are taking part in an international partnership to help trial the first-ever treatment for Huntington's disease. This disease is caused by a defect in a single gene: the treatment being trialled, in the IONIS-Roche Huntingtin Antisense Oligonucleotide (ASO) trial, is to turn that gene down. It's taken over 40 years to come up with a possible treatment. That would indeed be a dream come true."

Neuroscientist Dr Malvindar Singh-Bains, with the generous support of a Leo Nilon Huntington's Disease Post-Doctoral Fellowship, is also advancing the understanding of Huntington's disease.

"Patients with this devastating disorder exhibit a myriad of symptoms," says Dr Singh-Bains. "For some it predominantly affects movement while others have difficulty psychologically and with their behaviour.

"By conducting research on two parts of the brain - the centrally located globus pallidus and the cerebellum in the back of the brain - I was able to discover that the cell death in these areas of the brain widely reflects the symptoms that the patients had when they were alive.

"What I was essentially doing was matching up, shedding light into understanding what's going on in the brain to cause patients to have different symptoms. And that's really important when you're thinking about how to treat patients, and about how to deliver therapies into the brain - which could lead to the discovery of new therapies. So that is the basis of my research now."

Recently Dr Singh-Bains has also turned her attention to cells "that show signs of sickness but have not died". Many of these have a buildup of pathogenic proteins, not only those that characterise Huntington's disease but also those that are implicated in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.

"Instead of just a single protein that builds up and has a detrimental effect on our brain cells, it might in fact be a mechanism that is causing the buildup of these toxic proteins," says Dr Singh-Bains. She adds that these buildups of proteins may also play a part in breaking down the blood-brain barrier that separates the brain's immune system from that of the rest of the body. Thus they could perhaps be implicated in undermining the 'wall' of protection that normally gives the healthy brain a 'privileged' status.

"This research is much wider than studying just one disease," she says. "When you unlock a new secret to Huntington's disease, you're unlocking secrets to other neurodegenerative diseases as well."

All of the teams at the CBR, focusing not only on Huntington's but also on Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, motor neurone disease, epilepsy, brain cancer and multiple sclerosis have the enormous privilege of working with two resources – unique in the world in their particular form – which could not have come about without an extraordinary history of trust between the University and the community.

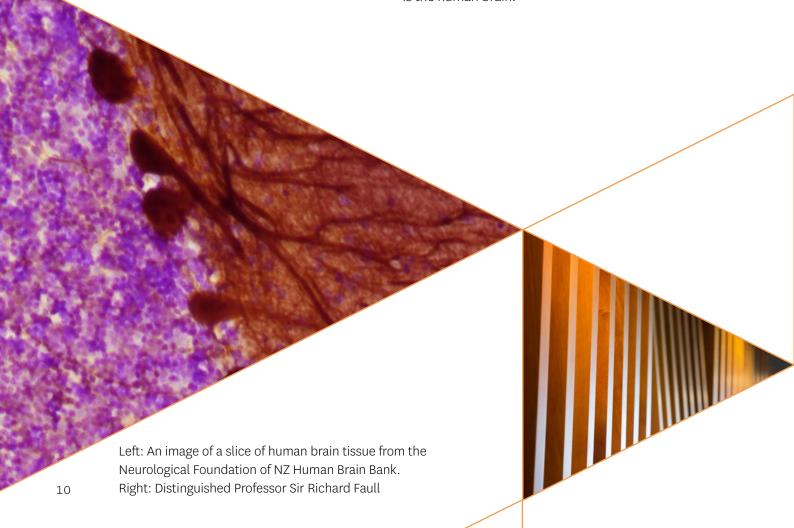
These are the CBR Neurological Foundation of New Zealand Human Brain Bank, which is the custodian for brains that have been generously donated by families, and the CBR Hugh Green Biobank, which grows living human brain cells, to enable research on brain function and on the effects of novel drugs. Seven hundred whole brains have been donated. Brain biopsy specimens from people having brain surgery

have been generously donated from 300 more cases.

A further platform reliant on these resources is the tissue microarray (TMA), supported by the Freemasons of New Zealand, which allows for the use of tiny samples of brain tissue to profile potential drug targets before they go to clinical trial.

Says Sir Richard, "There is no other brain research institute in the world that has the trinity of focus of the CBR, combining the contributions of the brain researchers, the neurologists and neurosurgeons, and the people in the community who have brain disease in their families and have been willing to gift the brains of their loved ones, often along with their own detailed observations of the clinical symptoms. These contributions are beyond value. There is no gift more precious."

Says Dr Singh-Bains: "I get up each morning feeling extremely humbled and privileged to be in a position to directly study the ultimate model for human brain diseases, which really is the human brain.



"I believe that as scientists we have a moral obligation to do the best research we can for the betterment of the families who are looking to our findings to lead to new or better treatments."

Leo Nilon, as a husband, father and grandfather of sufferers of Huntington's disease, hoped that his bequest (which is supporting Dr Singh-Bains' post-doctoral fellowship) would help in the quest to find a cure or treatment.

Other philanthropists who have enabled the current work of the CBR – and in some cases have supported the work over many years – include the Neuro Research Charitable Trust, the CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Research Trust and the (Sir Graeme) Douglas Charitable Trust, as well as others mentioned elsewhere in this article and in the pages of this report.

"People love the notion that we are all working together," says Sir Richard. "The financial donors who make our work possible are aware of every step we take. They take great pride in being members of our team. We invite them in – they see the progress. They're just as excited as we are about it."

Two recent gifts that Sir Richard describes as "overwhelmingly generous" have ensured the future of the CBR.

One is the gift of \$5 million to fund the David Levene Foundation Chair in Brain Research in perpetuity. This is the generous donation of Sir David Levene and his trustees, all strong supporters of the work of the CBR.

The other is \$16.5 million from the Hugh Green Foundation, to support the Hugh Green Foundation Chair in Translational Neuroscience, also in perpetuity – and to sustain the current and future activities of the Hugh Green Biobank.





Associate Professor Mark Barrow

## Education key to shaping our future

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can choose to change the world. So wrote Nelson Mandela.

It is key to eliminating inequalities and reducing poverty, critical to creating a sustainable society and planet, and a path to economic and social prosperity,

"Combining our world-class research and teacher education with far-sighted donors, we can uncover pathways to the best teacher and student outcomes," says Associate Professor Mark Barrow, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Social Work (EDSW).

"The Summer Learning Journey works with children during the summer holidays. A novel programme in south Auckland helps students in lower-decile schools gain University Entrance. A scholarship for primary and intermediate teachers supports them to learn how they can improve the teaching of science and mathematics. These are prime examples of how well this combined approach works," he says.

### Making children "match fit" after the school holidays

Many New Zealand children return to school after the summer holidays having lost up to a year's worth of literacy skills. Year 4-8 children in 50 schools participating in the University's Summer Learning Journey programme return ready to start the new year.

In late 2019, the Hugo Charitable Trust joined philanthropic funders NEXT Foundation, MSA Charitable Trust and the Wright Family

Foundation who support this programme. Hugo's gift enabled the University to work with two school clusters in the South Island for the 2019/2020 summer - Toki Pounamu in Greymouth and Uru Mānuka in Hornby, Christchurch. Trust donations manager Julia Hunter says the Summer Learning Journey caught their eye, as they could see the impact immediately.

The programme is the brainchild of researchers at the Woolf Fisher Research Centre. Dr Rachel Williamson-Dean and her colleagues designed it to improve students' reading and writing, to ensure they return to school "match fit".

The schools are clusters within the Manaiakalani Community of Learning which has a strong digital focus for both teaching and learning. Students learn, create and share their knowledge digitally, supported by qualified teachers, educators, and teacher trainees from the University. In a trial programme last summer, the children generated an astounding 31,000 blogs under the guidance of teacher Laura Nalder.



Dr Rachel Williamson-Dean



An Aorere College student taking part in a confidence course, through the Buchanan Programme for UE Success.

Next year Manaiakalani intends to run Summer Learning Journey as part of their regular education programme. Taking a Universitybased research project and turning it into an effective and practical school-based programme, run entirely by the schools themselves, is a true sign of success and could only have occurred with the support of our philanthropic funders.

### **Overcoming the University Entrance hurdle**

The chances of gaining University Entrance (UE) when you attend a low-decile school in south Auckland have improved thanks to the Buchanan Charitable Foundation. Dr Trevor Gray and Dr Caroline Gray of the Foundation approached the University, interested in helping students at low-decile schools pursue tertiary study.

"By enabling promising-senior school students to explore a clearer path to university, and giving them the necessary support, we hope to equip them with tools to achieve their dreams of academic and career success," they say.

The Foundation's gift of \$1.867 million will fund a pilot programme at Alfriston College, Aorere College, Onehunga High School, and Tangaroa College over the next four years. The programme "buys" the time of senior teachers to work with students, focusing on supporting achievement in subjects that will give them access to university. Students also work with University student tutors who host tutoring sessions, and each student receives an individual academic plan.

Alfriston College principal Robert Solomone believes the programme can change the lives of his students. "Many of our learners need to see for themselves the potential that others see in them, and a programme like this will help us do this even better," he says.

The former Dean of EDSW and current University of Auckland Director of Educational Initiatives, Emeritus Professor Graeme Aitken, has been central to developing the programme. "We are often disappointed with the numbers attending university from lower-decile schools. Just 17 percent of students in decile-one and -two schools achieved UE in 2016, compared with 69 percent in deciles nine and ten," he says.

"We will not turn around the access statistics unless we work with schools to provide support that raises aspirations and equips students with the skills and tools to successfully complete secondary school and then transition to university," says Professor Aitken.

### Steaming ahead with STEM

By the end of 2020, the University will have graduated 50 primary and intermediate teachers who have honed their mathematics and science teaching knowledge and are committed to boosting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) learning.

Woolf Fisher Trust Postgraduate Scholarships support BEd(Tchng)(Hons) and Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCertEd) students specialising in primary-school science and mathematics teaching.

For Tina McKenzie, now in her third year of teaching at Somerville Intermediate School in Howick, the scholarship has boosted both her enthusiasm and competence. "Student achievement in both subjects really depends on quality instruction and teacher confidence. With a strong mathematics and science education, students are better able to spark imagination, think logically, problem-solve and develop higher-order thinking." This year Tina was made the school's co-lead teacher of mathematics, no small feat for a newly certificated teacher.



Megan Clune



Tina McKenzie

Megan Clune, a Professional Teaching Fellow in the faculty, coordinates the project. She says teachers with sound knowledge in science and mathematics, and high confidence and self-efficacy in these subjects, can make a real difference to student outcomes.

"Internationally, the critical role of STEM subjects for innovation and economic development has been widely recognised. Success in these subjects provides better options for study and employment and equips students to better understand the world they live in."

From the first cohort in 2017, 62 percent went straight into permanent teaching roles, several are now involved in their school's curriculum

teams, and every teacher in the cohort said the programme better prepared them for teaching.

At the start of the University's Campaign For All Our Futures, Sir Noel Robinson of the Woolf Fisher Trust said: "If we develop young people and research projects, from that will come great things which will develop the whole of New Zealand."

Associate Professor Mark Barrow says: "The faculty is proud to have a long-standing association with the Trust and to have celebrated 21 years of the Woolf Fisher Research Centre in June 2019. We hope to see many fruitful partnerships like these continue with our philanthropic supporters."



### A foundation for emerging researchers

Twenty years ago, the mother of Gordon Liu and his twin brother received a steroid treatment first trialled by Professor Sir Graham (Mont) Liggins to help preterm babies thrive and survive. Now Gordon is at the institute named after Professor Liggins, getting a taste of clinical research.

Gordon is a third-year student studying for a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) and is being funded by the Aotearoa Foundation to do an internship under the supervision of internationally esteemed neonatologist Distinguished Professor Dame Jane Harding.

"Neonatal and maternal science has always been of interest to me, given the role that early life determinants can play in shaping adult health outcomes and my own experience with having benefitted from perinatal research," Gordon says. "This internship is an amazing opportunity for me to learn more about this field and get some clinical research experience under my belt as well."

Through his internship Gordon's main focus has been on analysing the views of New Zealand health practitioners on neonatal hypoglycaemia and its management with oral dextrose gel, a groundbreaking treatment that was developed by Professor Harding and has been adopted around the world. He is now analysing a survey assessing quality of life in extremely preterm babies.

His ultimate career goal is to work as a clinician-scientist, contributing to both fields, by providing direct medical care for patients in the present and working towards enhancing that care in the future.

Gordon holds one of six new undergraduate clinical research internships at the Liggins Institute - the first of their kind - which are funded by the Aotearoa Foundation to attract young medical students into research.

These are among a total of 27 positions at the University which are, or have been, funded by the Foundation over the past 10 years. The Foundation's focus to date has been to support emerging researchers, mostly at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) and the Centre for Brain Research (CBR).

At the ABI one of the most recent recipients is Dr Soroush Safaei, who is working on the Virtual Brain Project under the supervision of Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter. Dr Alys Clark's research was on understanding why some babies don't grow properly - putting them at risk of stillbirth - and on developing the world's first 'virtual pregnancy'. Another recipient, Dr Justin Fernandez, leads research on orthopaedics, sports science and forensics in the Musculoskeletal Modelling Group.

At the CBR, funding supports Aotearoa Fellows such as Dr Emma Scotter, who is head of the Motor Neuron Disease Lab, Dr Andrea Kwakowsky, whose focus is in the area of Alzheimer's disease, and Dr John Cirillo, who is investigating the role of physical activity on human brain function and motor skill acquisition.

The Aotearoa Foundation fellowships and internships are funded by philanthropist Julian Robertson.

### Modelling epidemic outbreaks

Quantifying and predicting the behaviour of epidemics has taken centre stage for Dr Oliver Maclaren, the James & Hazel D. Lord Emerging Faculty Fellow. "It's very difficult to predict an epidemic, as I think many people around the world are learning at the moment," says the Faculty of Engineering lecturer whose main interest lies in bringing together mathematical models with real-world data.

As an early career academic, Dr Maclaren says the Lord fellowship enabled him to boost research capability and become the primary supervisor for PhD student David Wu who worked on new methods to model epidemic outbreaks.

In collaboration with Dr Vinod Suresh of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and vaccinologist Dr Helen Petousis-Harris at the University's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, David provided accurate preliminary forecasts of the 2019 Samoan measles outbreak which helped draw public attention to a crisis that eventually infected 5,700 people and took 83 lives.

The research was driven by Dr Maclaren's observation that while many overseas countries have large institutes dedicated to mathematical epidemiology, there were gaps in connecting models of infectious diseases to real-world data in New Zealand. "It was a great way to connect the mathematics and the tools that we were using to real problems of interest."



With the focus now firmly on the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr Maclaren is spending what he describes as "a significant fraction of my time" collaborating with the Te Pūnaha Matatini Centre of Research Excellence on an ambitious network model of the potential spread of Covid-19 through our entire population of five million.

"We should have this capability. This is an ever-present threat and we should have this sort of expertise; we shouldn't wait for the next outbreak to start it all up again."

During 2019, Dr Maclaren was also able to spend time with Dr Matthew Simpson from the Queensland University of Technology on a project to develop new methods for understanding mathematical models of how wounds heal. As well as providing the capacity to undertake collaborations such as these, he says the fellowship "has also allowed me to benefit from Mat's mentorship, expertise and guidance".

Now in the second year of the fellowship, Dr Maclaren plans to continue working at the intersection of many application areas and uncertainty quantification, including work on geothermal power generation. Thanks to Covid-19 however, he'll have to wait until 2021 to attend an international conference on the topic in Iceland.





## Shaping the future of climate science

As an atmospheric scientist and avid windsurfer, Professor David Noone brings a dual perspective to his role as the new Buckley-Glavish Chair in Climate Physics at the University of Auckland.

"I kind of like the way the wind swirls; I like the waves," says Professor Noone, whose lifelong fascination with "the puzzle of fluid flow" has led to a much deeper interest in environmental climate change.

After two decades in the United States, the Australian-born and -educated scientist was attracted to Auckland because of the academic environment and the opportunity to "shape the future of climate science" within the new Auckland Climate Science Centre.

Honoured to have met both donors. Hilton Glavish and Bill Buckley, Professor Noone is inspired by their world-changing accomplishments and ethos whereby everyone pushes in the same direction. "That's something I'd love to bring forward in what we can do here at the University."

Pointing to the shift in thinking on climate change, from a purely academic pursuit to a global societal issue, he says the scientific community is "on the cusp" of better empowering communities with core disciplinary science and evidence-based approaches that support societal decisionmaking. "That's where the big advances in meeting the climate change challenge are going to be made."

To that end, Professor Noone looks forward to building a community with shared goals about core educational activities, research and international collaboration that attracts the best and brightest students - and increases New Zealand's visibility.

"That serves both the University and the nation well, while also having New Zealand scientists go the other way and have our impact felt on a global problem."

Long-term research programmes into water and carbon cycles will continue, with a renewed focus on the need for scienceinformed planning for water use and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture. And Professor Noone remains intrigued by the influence of pollutants like smoke on clouds and rainfall. "Exactly how that works, we don't really know," he says, "but once we know, we can teach a computer; that will lead to improvements in our climate forecasts."

The reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions in response to Covid-19 lockdowns has also sparked "societal enlightenment" which Professor Noone says opens a Pandora's box of scientific opportunities about how we interact with the environment. "I think that's going to have a long-lasting impact in the climate sciences and the way climate change is viewed."

## Prestigious international scholarships

Being surrounded by students who "are so motivated, and clever and have really diverse backgrounds" is just one of many highlights for Emily Bolton, the inaugural recipient of the Andrew Bagnall International MBA Scholarship.

Now in her third semester at the London Business School, Emily has missed the lack of face-to-face contact brought about by online tuition during the UK lockdown but she loves the access to cutting-edge research and the opportunity to take non-credit courses like the Economics of Pandemics.

The cancellation of a planned internship has also forced Emily to rethink her future. With scholarship money saved during the lockdown, she now hopes to take an unpaid internship with a small start-up. "It could be a great way of getting really different experience to what I will have in consulting."

Valued at \$100,000 per annum, Emily's scholarship is derived from a \$1.2m donation to the For All Our Futures Campaign by Andrew Bagnall, the former owner of the Gulliver's Travel Group whose current investment interests include Green Cross Health.

Mr Bagnall's successful business career was kick-started with an MBA from Michigan State University and his generous gift has also funded two Doctoral Student International Mobility Scholarships.



PhD candidate in Health Psychology, Kate MacKrill, visited Stanford University's Mind and Body Lab in February to further her research into the nocebo effect, whereby negative expectations to treatment can lead patients to report more exaggerated side effects.

The opportunity to collaborate with the highest-ranking psychology department in the United States has "put Auckland on the map", says Kate, who was also invited to co-present at a Social Psychology Congress in New Orleans.

Excited about Stanford using her scale of nocebo symptoms to explore people's perceptions of Covid-19, she says "if I hadn't have had this funding opportunity then those things probably wouldn't have happened."

However plans for Emily Lam Po Tang to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to advance her research into heart disease have been put on hold after flights were cancelled in late March.

"Improving people's quality of health has always been a passion", says Emily, whose studies into heart-muscle function at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute will, hopefully, lead to the development of a device which can aid in the discovery of new medicines for the treatment of heart disease.

While Emily's research continues in Auckland, her supervisor, Professor Andrew Taberner, is exploring ways to use the scholarship funding to enable Emily to undertake a postdoctoral visit to MIT.



## Providing opportunities for first-in-family students

Forging a career where he has worked on movies like Wonder Woman, The Dark Knight trilogy and Inception was once beyond his childhood dreams.

But now, that's reality for University of Auckland alumnus Shane Thompson, who is the vice president of Integrated Marketing at Warner Bros Pictures in Los Angeles.

Shane grew up in Auckland and was the first in his family to attend university. Knowing the impact a great education can have, he decided to support the Shane Thompson First-in-Family Scholarship.

"My time spent at University was instrumental in me becoming the person I am today. It ultimately led me to opportunities in life that have allowed me to be in a place to give back – I'm so happy to pay it forward and hopefully inspire others to do so too."

This year's recipient, Joeli Filipo, is studying a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Law conjoint degree. As part of his Arts degree he is studying a double major in criminology and sociology and he will choose a Law specialisation further into his course. In the future Joeli hopes to have a career where he can give back to the community – particularly to Pacific Island and Māori communities.



He says receiving the scholarship was "a huge relief".

"The scholarship has allowed me to focus on my studies without stressing about how my parents and I would pay for everything.

"It really is amazing to know that there are people out there who are willing to provide financial assistance to students who are chasing their dreams. University is something that many people aim towards but the harsh reality is that not everyone has the means to get there."

Shane says it was also important to him to be able to offer advice and support for Joeli, since first-in-family students often don't have someone who knows what tertiary study is like.

"I just hope he values every opportunity he gets from this experience. Whether it is opportunities to grow and learn, opportunities around campus and, ultimately, the opportunities that this scholarship will allow him in life beyond University and the doors it will open for him. This is just the beginning!"



### Fostering entrepreneurship

Developing solutions-focused and innovative students has a by-product: they become successful entrepreneurs who establish companies around the world.

The recent Alumni Innovation and Entrepreneurship Survey highlighted that University of Auckland alumni have founded an estimated 43,500 companies worldwide. Another finding was that businesses started by Auckland graduates are more than twice as likely to survive after five years than businesses started by those who are not alumni.

International success has also come in the form of prestigious awards. Notably, the University of Auckland was named 2020 Entrepreneurial University of the Year at the Asia-Pacific Triple E Entrepreneurship and Engagement Excellence Awards in Higher Education.

Professor Thorsten Kliewe, Chair of the Triple E Awards, says the University is a great example of how entrepreneurship can be at the heart of an institution devoted to higher education.

"With the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Unleash Space, the University hosts impressive support services that students, staff and the wider community access and this ultimately fosters entrepreneurial activity and creates the societal impact that we like to see in entrepreneurial universities."

The Vanguard programme is a new initiative established through the Business School, with funding from philanthropist and entrepreneur Tony Falkenstein and his wife, Heather, for the next five years. Each year selected students will travel to Silicon Valley to visit contemporary business hubs in order to hone the skills required for successful businesses.





Tony says: "I would love to see a day where every student would spend a semester overseas, whether it be experiencing another university, working in a large company or start-up, or seeing the collaboration of ideas in Silicon Valley."

One of the students selected for the Vanguard programme is Nick Goldstein. He is studying Law and Commerce and is the 2020 Chair of Velocity, the University's flagship entrepreneurship programme, which is supported through philanthropy. So far, through Velocity, around 120 ventures have attracted more than \$258 million in investment and have created more than 700 jobs globally.

While Covid-19 has delayed the 2020 trip until next year, Nick says he is looking forward to broadening his horizons.

"At University we are surrounded by ideas and solutions but it is only by taking those solutions and applying them to the real world that we can make a real difference. To me, this is what Tony Falkenstein's philanthropic support does, it equips a cohort of students with what they need to make an impact in the real world."

Another of the inaugural Vanguard programme recipients is Science student Fia Jones. Fia is CEO of Luxor Astronautics, which was the winner of \$5,000 in seed capital from the Velocity \$100k Challenge, and a place in VentureLab, which is the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship's idea-incubator programme.

She says the Vanguard trip will be an invaluable opportunity to learn how overseas technology companies operate, as well as connecting with other aerospace companies and potential investors.



### An important place in society

Receiving a Scholarship for Students from Refugee Backgrounds has opened up a world of possibilities for Tai-iba Hassanian, who has aspired to work in medicine since she was a little girl.

The first-year Health Sciences student says the alumni-funded scholarship not only relieved her family of financial pressures but has proved to her that she has an important place in society.

"It's demonstrated that the education of people like me matters... This scholarship has taught me that my refugee status is not necessarily a weakness in my education. Instead, it should be a motivation for me to want to take advantage of the opportunities available.

"The scholarship also reminds me of how fortunate I am to call New Zealand home, a country that celebrates differences. This is clearly reflected in the University's student culture."

Tai-iba and her family are originally from Jaghori, Afghanistan. She was three months old when her family fled to Quetta, Pakistan. She, along with her parents and younger brother, was granted refugee status in 2004 and moved to New Zealand.

"Back then, we didn't even know that New Zealand existed and had no idea what to expect from the tiny island nation and its people. We couldn't have been luckier."

She says it is "heart-warming" that donors are willing to support students like her.

"Their generosity is inspirational. I'm motivated to work even harder, so I can give back to the society that has so selflessly offered me many lines of support and kindness."

Tai-iba is looking forward to her future and she is appreciative of kind-hearted strangers believing in her.

"I want a career that is centred around people and making meaningful connections and impacts on their lives. If my hard work pays off, I would like to be working in either paediatrics, surgery or as a general practitioner. Thanks to these donors, I feel closer to my goal."

Gifts from alumni through the Annual Giving Programme and Telephone Appeal help talented students to achieve success.

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### Legacy of a lifetime in the law



"I'm about to go on what I'd like to think of as a rather extended study leave," said Professor Brian Coote on his retirement in 1994.

And that's just what he did. After 33 years of teaching generations of students in the Faculty of Law at the University of Auckland he continued his connection with the Law School, with the luxury of focusing most of his attention on advancing legal knowledge through his scholarly research. "The Law of Contract," he said, "is an inexhaustible subject."

Emeritus Professor Coote died on 15 July, 2019, and is greatly missed by his many friends, his former students and learned colleagues; but his contribution to legal scholarship will continue through the extraordinary \$5 million legacy he has left to support others in their research.

Professor Coote was quite specific about what he wanted his legacy to support. At the top of the list was assisting graduates of the University's Faculty of Law to do PhD studies overseas, and also supporting graduates from overseas to study for PhDs at Auckland. In addition, he gave priority to improving research collections and facilities in the Law School, funding postdoctoral fellowships and assisting academic staff to undertake advanced research overseas.

"The income from Brian Coote's magnificently generous capital gift to the University's Law Faculty will greatly promote advanced research by members and graduates of the faculty, and also has the potential to enhance the faculty's professorial profile in private law," says Law Professor Peter Watts.

Professor Coote was a graduate of the Auckland College of the University of New Zealand, having completed both his LLB and LLM there by 1954. He went to Queens' College, Cambridge, on a New Zealand Travelling Scholarship, graduating PhD in 1959 and winning the Yorke Prize for the best Law PhD in his year.

His contract law scholarship brought him the highest international reputation and influenced a number of decisions of the House of Lords and other senior courts in the Commonwealth. He continued to write long into his retirement, and in that period collections of his articles were edited and republished in three separate books.

At the Auckland Faculty of Law he was Acting Dean, then Dean, between 1983 and 1987. He received the CBE in 1995, was made a Fellow of the Academy of the Humanities in 2007, a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand (Te Apārangi) in 2009, and earned the LLD degree from Auckland in 2017.

## New scholarship encourages diversity

A scholarship established in 2019 to encourage Māori and Pacific high school students to study architecture at the University of Auckland has been awarded to its first recipient.

Jessika Varney (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whatua, Ngāti Wai) began the year "stunned" to have received the award and was "absolutely loving" the early weeks of her studies.

"I love the creativity that is constantly being practised and the support to help us extend and grow our ideas," she says.

"He manu hou ahau, he pī ka rere – I am a fledgling ready to take flight."

The scholarship is funded by Jasmax, one of New Zealand's largest architecture and design firms. It is for up to five years of study for Māori and Pacific students enrolling in their first year of a Bachelor of Architectural Studies.

Jessika says the scholarship has lifted a huge weight off her financially and will help with transport and living costs, course materials and stationery, as well as new devices and accessories.

"I feel so grateful and privileged to have been chosen to benefit from the generosity of Jasmax."

When the scholarship was announced, Professor Deidre Brown (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kāhu), the world's first Māori Professor of Architecture and Head of the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of Auckland commented: "Auckland is the largest Polynesian city in the world. Māori are the tangata whenua and have an important role to play in the maintenance of the cultural landscape, including its architecture."



Professor Brown says the School needs more Māori and Pacific students, to inform both the practice of architecture as well as research questions.

A number of research projects completed or underway through the School include Māori construction technologies, Māori architectural history, the spatialisation of racism, spatial planning for Pacific Health, Māori and local governance.

"It is vital that practitioners in professions such as architecture are representative of the society in which they work and whose environments - personal and public - they shape," says Professor Brown.

# The Chancellor's CIRCLE

The Chancellor's Circle recognises generous philanthropists who, over the years, have made important contributions to the University of Auckland. Partnerships with these generous supporters have provided opportunities for this country's most talented young people to gain a world-class education, whatever their financial circumstances, and for our researchers to create knowledge that will transform our futures.

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## University of Auckland Foundation Endowment Investment Pool ('EIP') Report

2019 was a very strong year for global equity markets and the EIP maintained a very satisfactory 10 year return.

#### The EIP ...

had a closing balance of

\$223 million

the one-year return was

17.5% p.a.

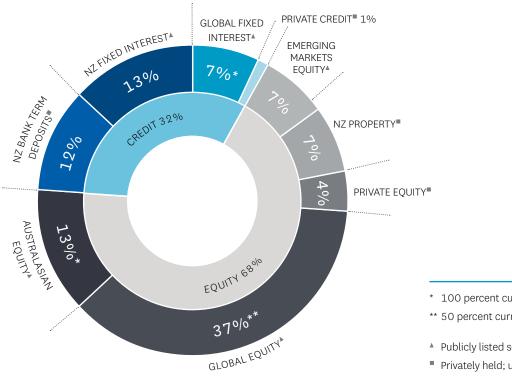
the five-year return was

9.2% p.a.

the ten-year return was

9.0% p.a.

The EIP was invested as follows:



- \* 100 percent currency hedged
- \*\* 50 percent currency hedged
- Publicly listed securities
- Privately held; unlisted securities

These returns are calculated at the pool level (by Cambridge Associates) using the industry-standard, modified Dietz method. This method calculates total pool returns on a monthly basis. Each underlying investment is valued individually and a monthly weighted average return is calculated. Monthly pool returns are then calculated into annual returns on a time-weighted basis.

The EIP is managed economically by the Foundation. It charges no fees for the internal management of the bank term deposits. The total fees charged by external managers amount to no more than 0.6 percent per annum of the EIP's average monthly balance.

The EIP represents the bulk of the Group's equity; the balance is made up of its current use and specified investment pools and operating accounts.

# The University of Auckland Foundations

In 2019, the University of Auckland Foundation and School of Medicine Foundation (together, the "Group") received \$31.1 million in gifts, earned \$34.9 million on their investments and made distributions of \$31.5 million.

Consolidated Summary Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense For Year Ended 31 December 2019

	GROUP*	
	2019 \$,000	2018 \$,000
Gifts and Legacies	31,104	40,131
nvestment Gain	34,907	2,118
Reversal of impairment loss on Entrepreneurial Challenge investment	-	150
Operating Expenses	(613)	(399)
Distributions and Grants	(31,489)	(24,790)
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the Year	33,909	17,210
Consolidated Summary Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 31 December 2019		
	2019 \$,000	2018 \$,000
Equity at the Beginning of the Year	223,587	206,377
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense	33,909	17,210
Equity at the End of the Year	257,496	223,587
Consolidated Summary Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2019		
	2019 \$,000	2018 \$,000
Current Assets	57,473	41,245
Non Current Assets	236,268	207,007
Current Liabilities	(36,245)	(24,665)
Net Assets	257,496	223,587
Represented by:		
Equity at End of Year	257,496	223,587

<sup>\*</sup>University of Auckland Foundation and School of Medicine Foundation combined

These summary financial statements have been extracted from the Group's 2019 audited financial statements but are themselves unaudited. They are provided to give interested persons a succinct overview of the Group's financial performance. The full and audited financial statements (which give a more complete understanding of the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of the Group) are available online at "www.uoafoundation.org.nz" or may be requested in writing from Dr Richard Sorrenson, General Manager, Alumni Relations & Development, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142.



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