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 Spare paper copies of the brochure are always available if you are unable to print one for yourself.

Series organised by:  
 Jennifer Sinclair 217 7455

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**Entry Requirement: Vaccine Certificate**

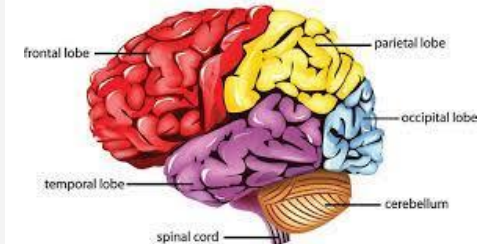
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*2022 Series 1*  
*11 Feb to 11 Mar*

## Brain Health

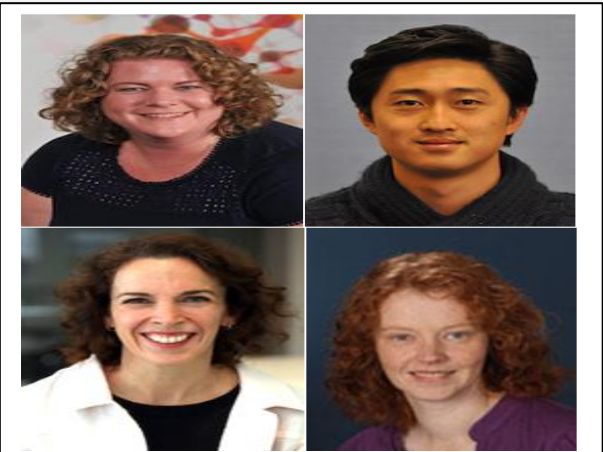
Parts of the Human Brain



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15	Leila	Stokes
16	John	Wallace



**Venue: Windsor Community  
Church Hall Windsor St.**  
**Time: 10 a.m.**  
**Cost: \$30 per person**

**Entry Requirement: Vaccine Certificate**

## **Brain Health**

### **Session 1 Friday Feb 11**

**Presenter:**

**Dr Louise Bicknell Senior Lecturer  
Being a DNA detective**

My research focuses on identifying the cause of genetic disorders that affect how children grow and develop. Our overarching goal is to be able to provide answers and information for families affected by these one-in-a-million disorders, and learn some fascinating insights into biology along the way! We think of the human genome, which provides complete instructions on how we develop as humans, as a full bookshelf of books – we are hunting for the small spelling mistakes in this bookshelf that cause human development to go awry. My talk will cover the disorders we are particularly interested in, the methods and tricks we use to find these spelling mistakes, and the interesting insights we are learning.

### **Session 2 Friday Feb 18**

**Presenter: Dr Joon Kim**

**Postdoctoral Fellow Department of Physiology  
The Neuroscience of Stress**

Stress affects our bodies and minds. The way we think, make decisions, and therefore behave can be dramatically influenced by stress. Too much or chronic stress is a significant contributor to mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression. Despite the numerous theories on how the brain deals with stress, they have never been directly tested or proven. The neurons in the brain that are responsible for controlling stress are located within a deep ancestral structure called the hypothalamus. Recently, our research team were one of the first in the world to tap into these stress neurons within a conscious brain, for the first time....

...This gives an unprecedented view of stress levels in the brain and allows us to begin the path of understanding how stress affects the mind. In this talk, I will share the story of how we achieved this and present exciting research on how the stress neurons in the brain control stress and anxiety states.

### **Session 3 Friday Feb 25**

**Presenter: Dr Ailsa McGregor**

**Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacology  
Neuropharmacology, Neurodegeneration  
and Repair**

My area of interest is neurodegenerative diseases, neuroprotection and repair, in particular the development of disease models with clinically relevant endpoints as a basis for investigating potential therapies. My research focuses on pharmacological enhancement of motor recovery after stroke and cholinergic dysfunction in Huntington's Disease and vascular dementia."

### **Session 4 Friday Mar 4**

**Presenter: Assoc. Prof**

**Stephanie Hughes**

**Director of Brain Health Research Centre  
Neural Development and Disease**

Research in Associate Professor Hughes' lab is aimed at identifying molecular pathways that regulate neuronal development, maintenance and disease. Her current research focuses on transcription factors of the forebrain embryonic zinc finger family and their role in neuronal development and maintenance. She is also investigating the molecular consequences of mutations in Batten disease, a childhood neurodegenerative disorder. Her lab is developing tools and gene therapy vectors for Batten, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

**"Our thanks to UoO for making speakers available  
by video link for this series. Also to the  
Neurological Foundation.**

## **Session 5 Friday Mar 11**

**Presenter: Phuong Vu**

**Vietnamese-Chinese Tensions in the  
South China Sea**

Phuong is studying for her Ph.D. in the Politics Department of Otago University.

Previous work includes positions as an economics journalist in Vietnam, a diplomatic adviser to the US Embassy in Hanoi, and a University teaching post in Myanmar. Her thesis topic is Foreign Policy Messaging in Territorial Disputes. She will share some insights on this topic with us.

### **Registration Form Series 1 2022**

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