

## Researcher wins Rutherford Medal for brain injury drug

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### Prof Margaret Brimble wins New Zealand's Rutherford Medal for brain injury drug



**Singapore:** New Zealand's highest science and technology honor, the Rutherford Medal, was awarded to chemist Professor Margaret Brimble of the School of Chemical Sciences, The University of Auckland, for her world-leading contributions to the synthesis of bioactive natural products, including a new drug for traumatic brain injury funded by the US army. Together with the medal awarded by the Royal Society of New Zealand, she also received \$100,000 from the government.

Professor Brimble also received the MacDiarmid Medal for outstanding scientific research that could have large human benefit and the Hector Medal for excellence in chemical sciences.

The top award for achievement in technology, the Pickering Medal was awarded to Professor David Williams FRSNZ, School of Chemical Sciences, The University of Auckland for his contribution to the development of biomedical and gas sensors,

which have been commercialized.

The Thomson Medal was awarded to Dr Richard Furneaux FRSNZ, Distinguished Scientist and group manager of carbohydrate chemistry at Industrial Research Limited, for his outstanding and inspiring leadership of carbohydrate chemistry research and commercial application to biotechnology in New Zealand. He leads what is regarded as the largest carbohydrate chemistry team in the world.

Also, the Sir Charles Hercus Medal for health sciences was awarded to Dr John Fraser, dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at The University of Auckland, for his studies on bacterial superantigens which have major implications for understanding and treating human infectious diseases.

Winners of other awards were also felicitated at the annual awards night of the Royal Society of New Zealand.