



Genetic scientists from Harvard present latest discoveries Free public lecture 6 pm Tuesday 22 March 2016

Two genetic scientists from Harvard will reveal the latest research into genetics in nervous system disorders next month.

Renowned genetic scientists and Harvard University collaborators, Professor James Gusella and Professor Marcy MacDonald, will be visiting the Centre for Brain Research at the University of Auckland - as Freemasons Travelling Scholars.

They will host a public lecture on nervous system disorders at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences on Tuesday the 22nd of March.

The public lecture will outline the role that an individual's genetic makeup plays in the development of nervous system disorders and how certain gene mutations can allow us to predict developmental degenerative disorders.

Dr James Gusella is a Bullard Professor of Neurogenetics in the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Harvard Medical School Center for Neurofibromatosis and Allied Disorders.

His research – which spans three decades - is centred in the identification of the genes involved in a variety of nervous system disorders and understanding the manner in which these diseases develop.

Dr Marcy MacDonald is a Professor of Neurology at the Harvard Medical School and Geneticist (Neurology Service) at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Professor MacDonald's lab focuses on gene mutations, to understand the inherited component of neurodegenerative diseases. Her two main research interests are Huntington's disease and Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (NCLs).

The University of Auckland's Neurogenetics Group's research into Huntington's disease and neurodevelopmental disorders such as Autism sparked the interest of Professors MacDonald and Gusella, leading to an ongoing collaboration.

**Public Lecture, Tuesday 22 March 2016 from 6-7pm at the Auckland Medical Research Auditorium
Room: 505-011, University of Auckland, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, 85 Park Road,
Grafton, Auckland.**

RSVP is essential at

www.eventbrite.co.nz/auckland-events/genetic-scientists-from-harvard-present-latest-discoveries