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## M E M O R A N D U M

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**TO** : Faculty Executive  
**FROM** : **Richard Frampton, General Manager**  
**DATE** : 12 September 2005  
**SUBJECT** : **Funding for Chairs in Audiology**

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The following information has been provided from the Head, Department of Otolaryngology in relation to the funding arrangements for the Chairs in Auditory Communication and Signal Processing and Auditory Neuroscience

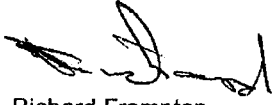
*The Department of Otolaryngology proposes the creation of two new Chairs aligned with key areas of research as articulated in the Department's strategic plan and draft workforce plan. These two areas of research build on our history and existing commercial links, but also provide opportunities for broadening this research and developing new commercial partnerships.*

*The Chair in Auditory Neuroscience would provide a leader in the biological work related to hearing physiology and restoration. This will be funded from the income of the Nerve Deafness Trust (total capital \$2,154,985). Income from this trust has been accumulating and will have a balance of \$793,328 at the end of 2005. Income from the trust is estimated at \$150k per annum. These funds are currently not committed for any other purposes. We believe there are more than adequate funds available to cover this appointment for 5 years and considerably longer. In addition, funds from the Wagstaff bequest to the Eye and Ear Hospital have been incorrectly flowing to the Bionic Ear Institute. The Wagstaff Committee has confirmed that these funds will be available to the Department from 2006. The Wagstaff Fellowship in Otolaryngology of \$175,000 per annum will become an alternative source of funding for the Chair in Auditory Neuroscience. This possibility has been raised by the committee as an appropriate use of the Wagstaff bequest income.*

*The Chair in Auditory Communication and Signal Processing will provide leadership in the perceptual sciences and engineering areas crucial to our continued international relevance in the cochlear implant and hearing aid fields. This will be funded from the Cochlear Royalty stream to the Department. This is estimated at \$750k per annum. Since January 2003, the Department has*

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*received \$1,379,592 and is owed an additional payment of the order of \$300,000 There are some commitments on this income stream but they are a relatively small proportion of the current funds*



Richard Frampton  
General Manager

*email: [r.frampton@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:r.frampton@unimelb.edu.au)*

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

**PROPOSAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR OF AUDITORY NEUROSCIENCE**

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**OUTLINE OF PROPOSAL**

It is proposed to appoint a Chair of Auditory Neuroscience to provide academic leadership in this discipline in the University of Melbourne Department of Otolaryngology at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. The appointment will be full time for an initial period of five, and will be funded by the Nerve Deafness Foundation trust fund.

**1. Introduction**

*Chair of Auditory Neuroscience*

A new position has been created at the Department of Otolaryngology, located at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, for a scientist of international standing to enhance the Department's world renowned reputation in cochlear implants by expanding research in the field of Auditory Communication and Signal Processing. This strategically key position provides a unique opportunity to take a leadership role in the Department's exciting future.

A leading researcher in Auditory Neuroscience is vital to the Department's continued contribution to cochlear implant work and provides the potential for increasing basic understanding of the physiology of auditory processing and communication development. In conjunction with scientists and engineers working in signal processing research, the appointee will seek to provide understanding of the biological systems involved in human communication and guide the development of new generations of cochlear implants and hearing aids. In addition, there is the need for ongoing assessment of the biological safety of cochlear implant systems from a variety of perspectives, including biocompatibility of materials, electrical stimulation parameters, electrode design and surgical techniques. From a clinical standpoint, the interaction of auditory neuroscience with the application of cochlear implant and hearing aid technology in children is vital. Improved understanding of the structure, function, and maturation of the peripheral and central auditory systems will help to improve outcomes for the congenitally hearing-impaired population.

## **2. The University of Melbourne Medical School**

The University of Melbourne was founded by an act of Victorian Legislature in 1853 and commenced teaching its first students in 1855. It now has over 33,000 students.

The University of Melbourne Medical School was founded in 1862, and the Faculty of Medicine in 1876. The Faculty has been reorganised into the Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences, comprising the School of Medicine, School of Dental Science, School of Physiotherapy, School of Behavioural Science, School of Nursing, School of Rural Health, and School of Population Health.

The School of Medicine has the following departments: Anatomy and Cell Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Clinical and Biomedical Sciences (Barwon Health), General Practice, Medical Biology, Medicine (Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre and Northern Hospital), Medicine (Royal Melbourne and Western Hospitals), Medicine (St. Vincent's Hospital), Microbiology and Immunology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Royal Women's Hospital/Mercy Hospital for Women), Otolaryngology, Otolaryngology, Paediatrics, Pathology, Pharmacology, Physiology, Psychiatry, Radiology, Surgery (Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre), Surgery (Royal Melbourne and Western Hospitals) and Surgery (St. Vincent's Hospital).

### **2.1 Department of Otolaryngology**

Established in 1970, the Department of Otolaryngology is a research and teaching department, focusing on postgraduate audiology training with some medical undergraduate training in otolaryngology, and research studies into the area of human hearing loss. The Department has an international reputation for its pioneering research into cochlear implants and also undertakes basic research into hearing science. It is very closely integrated with the Eye and Ear Hospital and its clinics and with The Bionic Ear Institute. The Chair of Auditory Neuroscience will co-exist with two other Chairs, the Chair of Audiology and Speech Sciences and the Chair of Otolaryngology.

## **3. Credentials for the Chair of Auditory Neuroscience**

The successful applicant will be expected to build on the academic strengths of the Department of Otolaryngology and enhance the Department's relationships with its affiliates. An individual with expertise in Auditory Neuroscience research, with extensive experience in the training of higher degree research students, and demonstrated ability as an inspiring teacher, is sought.

The successful applicant will have an established, internationally recognized track record in Auditory Neuroscience research and a strong record of attracting significant research funding. It is expected that the individual will carry out research of international standing.

It is anticipated that the appointee, as well as having relevant qualifications, would have had appropriate clinical, research, and teaching experiences, as well as experience in managing staff in a multi-disciplinary environment.

#### **4. Role Specification for the Chair of Auditory Neuroscience**

The position is based at the Department of Otolaryngology, and the incumbent will be responsible to the Head of Department of Otolaryngology and thence to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, The University of Melbourne. The incumbent reports directly to the Head of Department in relation to academic performance.

##### **4.1 Research**

The Department of Otolaryngology has a strong research base, and is internationally noted for its work related to the development of cochlear implants. It has a successful history of receiving significant funding from peer reviewed granting bodies such as the NH&MRC, ARC, Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation and NIH. It also has substantial trust and royalty funding. The focus of the research undertaken in the Department is hearing science in areas such as signal processing, clinical audiology, neurobiology and physiology. The Department is an integral member of the CRC for Cochlear Implant and Hearing Aid Innovation.

The Department maintains strong ties with the Eye and Ear Hospital, Cochlear Ltd and The Bionic Ear Institute. These relationships are crucial in providing opportunities for driving laboratory findings into clinical developments for cochlear implant and hearing aid recipients.

The Chair of Auditory Neuroscience is expected to expand and lead the Department in the field of Auditory Neuroscience.

##### **4.2 Teaching**

The successful applicant will be involved in the provision of lectures and seminars for the undergraduate and graduate students in aspects of Auditory Neuroscience.

The Chair of Auditory Neuroscience will be responsible for the overall coordination of minor research projects for Master of Audiology students, Bachelor of Science (Honours) students and Bachelor of Medical Science students where they are undertaken in an area related to auditory physiology.

#### **5. Other Conditions**

The appointee will be responsible in his/her academic roles to the Head of the Department of Otolaryngology, and through them to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, The University of Melbourne.

The academic role includes activities in research and teaching, including the supervision of candidates for higher degrees of The University of Melbourne.

The remuneration for this position will comprise a full time University salary at Level E. The appointment will be for 5 years. Following appropriate review, there is the possibility for reappointment.

The academic appointment will be within the University of Melbourne Department of Otolaryngology at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. The appointee will be responsible to, with respect to University matters, the Head of the University Department of Otolaryngology. The appointee will be eligible for election to the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences of the University.

## CHAIR OF AUDITORY NEUROSCIENCE

### SELECTION CRITERIA

- A PhD or MD (or equivalent) in a relevant discipline
- A distinguished career in Auditory Neuroscience
- A strong and current record of success in obtaining external peer reviewed research grants, both national and international
- A strong and current record in Auditory Neuroscience research as evidenced by a superior publication record.
- A strong record in involvement and achievement in postgraduate teaching in auditory physiology
- A demonstrated capability for strong academic leadership
- Commitment to teamwork based on shared directions and values
- Ability to communicate openly at all levels and ensure that information and opportunities are developed to improve research performance of the Department.
- Proven teaching abilities at postgraduate level
- Demonstrable skills and expertise in:
  - Leading a multi-disciplinary team
  - Policy formulation
  - Strategic thinking and planning abilities
  - Conceptual and analytical thinking
  - Negotiation and liaison with internal and external stakeholders
  - Understanding financial / budget management
  - Understanding of resource management
  - Understanding of managing human resources
- Knowledge and experience in quality improvement process and management
- Experience in the implementation of change in a large complex organization
- Ability to work co-operatively and collaboratively across a multi-disciplinary team
- Proven ability to negotiate with internal and external stakeholders

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE  
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**PROPOSAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR OF AUDITORY COMMUNICATION  
AND SIGNAL PROCESSING**

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**OUTLINE OF PROPOSAL**

It is proposed to appoint a Chair of Auditory Communication and Signal Processing to provide academic leadership in this discipline in the University of Melbourne Department of Otolaryngology at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. The appointment will be full time for an initial period of five, and will be funded by royalties from Cochlear Ltd.

**1. Introduction**

*Chair of Auditory Communication and Signal Processing*

A new position has been created at the Department of Otolaryngology, located at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, for a scientist of international standing to enhance the Department's world renowned reputation in cochlear implants by expanding research in the field of Auditory Communication and Signal Processing. This strategically key position provides a unique opportunity to take a leadership role in the Department's exciting future.

The field of Auditory Communication and Signal Processing provides the greatest opportunities for the Department to continue its valuable contribution to the cochlear implant field. Strategically, this is vital to the future of the Department, as the continuation of royalty income to the University is contingent on the development of new patents and know-how of commercial benefit. But the establishment of this position also places the Department firmly in the broader field of communications technology with potential to improve basic understanding of the human auditory system and communication, and provide benefits outside the cochlear implant area, notably for hearing aid and general communication technology. Although huge expenditure occurs around the world in communication technology research, our relatively small Department provides a unique mix of disciplines that brings the physiological and psychological aspects of communication into an area traditionally dominated by engineering and computer science.

## **2. The University of Melbourne Medical School**

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## **3. Credentials for the Chair of Auditory Communication and Signal Processing**

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It is anticipated that the appointee, as well as having relevant qualifications, would have had appropriate clinical, research, and teaching experiences, as well as experience in managing staff in a multi-disciplinary environment.

#### **4. Role Specification for the Chair of Auditory Communication and Signal Processing**

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# CHAIR OF AUDITORY COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL PROCESSING

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