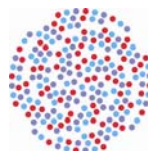


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MAURICE WILKINS CENTRE
FOR MOLECULAR BIODISCOVERY

Wilkins Centre scientist honoured by peers

Professor Ted Baker, Director of the Maurice Wilkins Centre, has been awarded the Rutherford Medal, the highest accolade presented by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Professor Baker's career has focused on the development of protein crystallography in New Zealand. This allows researchers to analyse the structure and function of proteins in both healthy and disease-affected cells. With this knowledge, Wilkins Centre scientists can identify mechanisms of action of biologically active proteins and develop therapeutics for disease.

Part of Professor Baker's research looks at proteins of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes TB. The Wilkins Centre research identifies genes and the associated proteins that may be potential drug targets for treating the disease. By analysing the structure of the identified proteins in the bacterium, compounds that interact with the protein can be engineered as potential new drugs against TB.

"I am delighted to receive this award," says Professor Baker. "It is a great honour for me to be recognised by the Royal Society, and is a reflection of the great team I work with. Drug discovery is a collaborative effort and is not possible without the excellent science available at the Wilkins Centre and through our international partners."

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