

Dem Bones



Professor Jillian Cornish, former Head Girl in 1967, has recently been appointed a Visiting Professor at Oxford University, specialising in Bone Research, as well as maintaining her New Zealand role, where she currently leads the Cell and Molecular Biology Bone Research Group in the Department of Medicine at Auckland University.

Her passion for medical research has provided Jillian with many opportunities here and

overseas. This recent appointment means that she can more easily collaborate with fellow researchers in her chosen field.

“It is a great chance for me to tune into researchers with complementary skills and share the knowledge with our students

Medical science research has always been my passion,” admits Jillian.

“Even from my days in Miss Carter’s Chemistry classes I always knew I wanted to pursue my love of science.”

After attending Auckland University, Jillian went on to teach and study throughout New Zealand, Canada and London. She gained her MSc in Renal Pathology and PhD in Immunopathology at University of Calgary, Canada.

When asked what her current bone research involves, she described how her team is investigating hormone and growth factors in the treatment of osteoporosis, rotator cuff injuries and reasons why Polynesian bones seem stronger than European bones, to name but a few.

Jillian has combined a successful career with family commitments and has raised two sons, one still at Grammar and the other in Bulgaria. Will they follow in her footsteps? She has already stressed to them that one enters research for the passion, certainly not for the money!