

**Tinnitus Awareness Week  
Moving the World Toward a Cure!  
May 18 – 24, 2008**

**ATA-Funded Research Highlights**

**Can Acamprosate help?**

This is a medication used to treat brain chemical imbalances that can lead to alcohol addiction. William H. Martin, Ph.D., at the Oregon Hearing Research Center, Oregon Health & Science University in Portland will evaluate Acamprosate to determine if it can provide significant tinnitus relief. He will particularly focus on whether it is more helpful to some tinnitus patients than others, taking into account factors such as degree of hearing loss or tinnitus duration.

**ATA's first two student grants.**

Awarded in 2008, these student grants give a boost to the next generation of tinnitus researchers. Virginia Ramachandran at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich. will study why masking sounds are so helpful in providing relief to tinnitus sufferers. Daniel Stolzberg at State University of New York at Buffalo will examine animals with tinnitus to see if and how brain neurons fire abnormally, and why this abnormal change may cause tinnitus.

**Studying the brain.**

When someone develops hearing loss, the nerve activity in the brain changes. These brain changes are known as *cortical plasticity*. People with hearing loss often have tinnitus. But is the tinnitus caused by the hearing loss directly, or is the tinnitus a side effect of the changing nerve activity in the brain? Shaowen Bao, Ph.D., at University of California, Berkeley, will induce cortical plasticity in animals with no hearing loss. If tinnitus results, then the sound is more than just a side effect of hearing loss.

**New imaging technology.**

Pim Van Dijk, Ph.D., at the University of Groningen, in the Netherlands, will use *functional magnetic resonance imaging* (fMRI) to compare the brain activity of hearing impaired patients with and without tinnitus. This will help determine why some hearing impaired patients have tinnitus while others do not.

**Are self-help books helpful?**

These types of books for tinnitus sufferers are low-cost, convenient to use and widely available. But do they actually help? Nicola Schutte, Ph.D., at the University of New England, in New South Wales, Australia, will test whether a self-help book using cognitive therapy techniques will actually help reduce tinnitus-related distress.

*\*Please support the groundbreaking research funded by ATA.  
Move the world toward a cure by donating today.*



**YES - I want to support ATA's commitment to cure tinnitus!**



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