

Biosketch 2026 Auckland NZPsS

Professor Cliff Abraham completed his PhD in neuroscience at the University of Florida in 1981, and then moved to New Zealand as a postdoctoral fellow in the Psychology Department at the University of Otago. He is now Emeritus Poutoko Taiea Distinguished Professor in Psychology at the University of Otago. Professor Abraham's research has focused primarily on synaptic plasticity mechanisms of learning and memory, including metaplasticity, and new therapies in animal models of neurological disorders. He has played major leadership roles in national neuroscience organisations such as the Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research, the Brain Research New Zealand-Rangahau Roro Aotearoa Centre of Research Excellence, and the Aotearoa Brain Project-Kaupapa Roro o Aotearoa. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society Te Āparangi and has been awarded the University of Otago's Distinguished Research Medal, the Marsden Medal by the NZ Association of Scientists, and the Rutherford Medal by the Royal Society Te Āparangi.