

Scientist earns Kudos for his work

ELI HILL

The Waikato scientist who helped develop new ways of testing for micronutrients in infant formula has been recognised for his work.

Senior research scientist at Fonterra, Dr Brendon Gill, won Hamilton City Council's emerging scientist award at the Kudos regional science awards on September 27.

The Matamata chemist works at Fonterra's Waitoa lab and said the awards were a great way of seeing what other scientists were up to.

"We do some amazing work that is largely unheralded, and that's okay we're not in it for the fame and the glory but it's interesting work."

Two of Gill's methods for proving the nutritional value of infant formula are now benchmarks for chemical analysis and are used in laboratories in Australasia, Asia, North America and Europe.

Last year he won the Association of Official Analytical Chemists Method of the Year for his protocol analysing Vitamin D in dairy-based powders.

He was made a Fellow of the Association in 2015 and has been appointed to its top scientific body, the Official Methods Board.

Gill said the biggest highlight of his job is meeting with his fellow scientists, who come from food companies such as Nestle in Switzerland and Abbott labor-



Dr Brendon Gill has had two of his methods for proving the nutritional value of infant formula become benchmarks for chemical analysis.

ELI HILL/STUFF

atories in North America. "If I could do one thing a little bit more it would be sitting in the room with my colleagues just talking about science. "As a field it's always develop-

ing, as a scientific endeavour you're always trying to find ways of testing more samples, more efficiently and accurately in a shorter amount of time." For Gill, who completed his

doctorate five years ago, things are coming full circle. Later this year he will be supervising a PHD student, something he's excited about. "The project is relatively

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interesting so I'm looking forward to that as well as mentoring someone who is just starting out."

Alongside his role at the Official Methods Board, Gill is also keen to get back to the drawing board and has a few ideas for new methods he's keen to try.

"I guess I've got this award and now it's time to knuckle down again, do some bench work and write some more papers and get some more good work out."

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