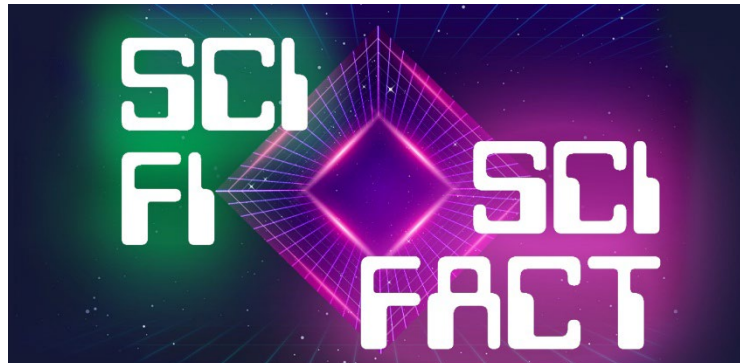




Te Mana Tangata Whakawhanake
MacDiarmid Institute
Advanced Materials & Nanotechnology



This Friday RNZ launches Sci Fi / Sci Fact, their latest podcast and a spinoff of the popular science [Materials: Fact or Fiction](#) segment from RNZ's Nights with Brian Crump.

Every episode takes an idea from pop culture to see how it stands up to scientific scrutiny, with a different guest [MacDiarmid Institute](#) scientist for every episode. The podcast series features the best segments from the past two years.

You can [Listen to the trailer](#) here.

[RNZ Nights](#) host [Bryan Crump](#) says that one of the great things about Sci Fi/Sci Fact is the link between science and the imagination, between the empirical and the hypothetical.

MacDiarmid Institute [Co-Director, Nicola Gaston](#), is thrilled that so many researchers from across physics, chemistry, materials engineering and biochemistry have gotten involved.

“One of the best things about asking scientists to assess fictional science is that there isn't always a right or wrong answer to the questions Bryan comes up with! The angles that different scientists take on a given topic can also be really different based on their own areas of study, which in itself I find really interesting,” she said.

“Bryan's style of questioning really encourages people to have fun with ideas while thinking out loud; in that sense it echoes the scientific tradition of the thought experiment, as used extensively in the work of Albert Einstein. I like to think it gives listeners some insight into how scientists think about unexpected problems, when the answers are not all known.”

The first three episodes released this Friday 10 December. Sci Fi/Sci Fact is available on Fridays from 10 December at rnz.co.nz/scifi, Spotify, Apple, iHeartRadio and wherever you get your podcasts. [Listen to the trailer](#). New episodes of the radio segment and podcast will return in late January.