

## **Top Notch hearing Jamie First**

There is new hope for those who have suffered hearing loss, with researchers successfully regenerating sound-sensing cells in the inner ears of mice.

While it's been known birds and fish are capable of restoring these cells, the same hasn't been the case in mammals... until now.

A team of American researchers, led by Harvard Medical School's Dr Albert Edge, found new hair cells formed after using a drug that blocks a cellular pathway in the ear (called Notch), resulting in hearing improvements.

"... The new hair cell generation results in a recovery of hearing in the region of the cochlea," Dr Edge said.

Hearing loss is a massive worldwide problem, affecting upwards of 250 million people.

According to the report, the results show promise in the development of a treatment for acute noise-induced deafness in humans.