# **TELL THE WORLD**

Global research outreach at the University of Tokyo



# Promoting your Research: Press releases, UTokyo Research and more

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Project Researcher, Public Relations Office

# About myself and the PRO

- Background in Neurolinguistics
- Press officer after finishing grad school



# The "whys" of outreach

- To win public support
- Public outreach can contribute to a scholar's scientific impact (Liang et al., 2014)
- Researchers who engage with society are those who have a good academic record (Jensen et al., 2008)

# The "whys" of outreach

### CASE 1 – skills development

"It (public engagement) developed my skills – I can now talk confidently to a wider range of people."

Dr Matthew Studley, University of West England



# "The whys" of outreach

### CASE 2 - additional funding, new ideas, boost in research

 Dr Darren Evans and Dr Michael Pocock were awarded new funding for a nation-wide research project to investigate the health of conker trees in the UK

What is happening to our trees? \* Take part \* Submit your records. Distribution. About the project \* Blog Home

### What's happening to our conker trees?

Have you noticed whitish patches on the leaves of horse chestruit trees? By the middle of summer, the whitish patches die and turn brown. Sometimes whole trees turn brown, and it looks like autumn has come early.

Our conker trees are under attack by 'alien' invaders!

The damage is caused by a tiny 'alien' species of leaf-mining moth, which is invading the UK. For biologists, an 'altern' is a species not naturally found in an area or habitat. The moth's caterpilars eat the leaves from the riside. Infected





# "The whys" of outreach

CASE 3 – raising your research profile

"I won a number of national and international research accolades for which I would not have been recognised if I had not been engaging with the public on a regular basis"

Dr Kelly BéruBé, Cardiff University

### The "hows" of outreach

1) Live or face-to-face events



### "The hows" of public outreach

### 2) Traditional media





CC BY © 2011 Jon S

# "The hows" of public outreach

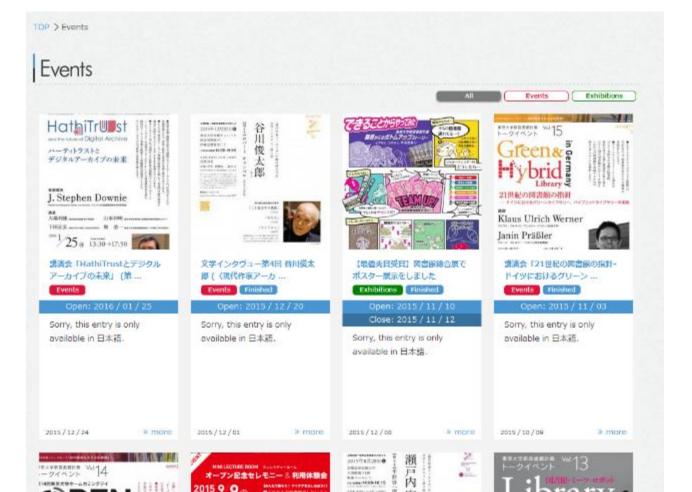
3) Online media



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# Activities at the University

### 1) Live or face-to-face events



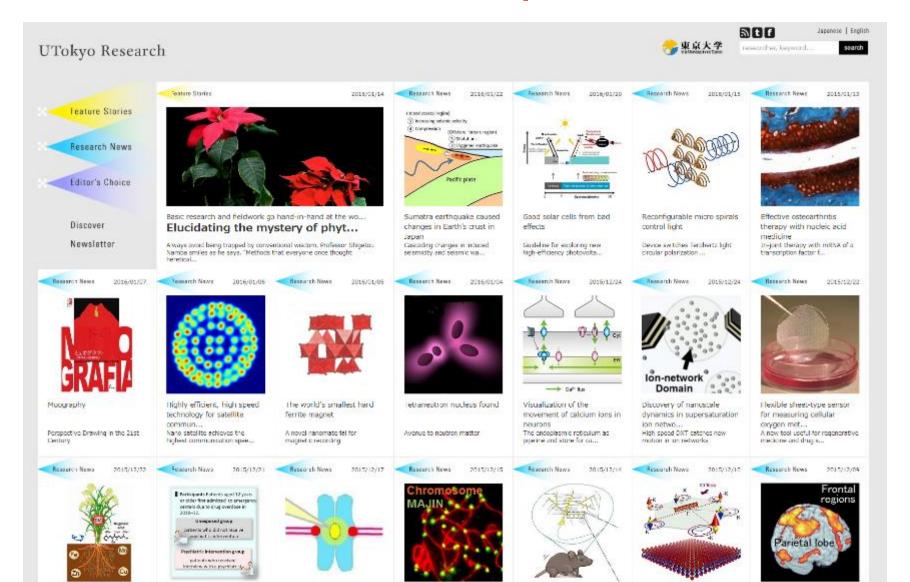
# Activities at the University

- 2) Traditional media
- Press releases
- Press conferences
- UTokyo Research, on site events

# Activities at the University

- 3) Online media
- University of Tokyo repository
- Spacewarps
- Essays by junior scientists
- UTokyo Research

# How the PRO can help: UTR





Discover Newsletter

### Effective osteoarthritis therapy with nucleic acid medicine

weench News

In joint therapy with mRNA of a transcription factor for cartilage formation.

issue osteoarthritis messenger RNA transcription factor nucleic acid therapeutics disease-modifying therapy Graduate School of Engineering / Pacuity of Engineering

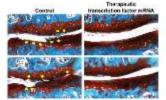
Researchers at the University of Tokyo have demonstrated that in-joint delivery of a transcription factor messenger RNA (mRNA) required for cortilage formation suppresses the progression of estoparthritis in an animal model. This result suggests that transcription factor mRNAs can function as a novel nucleic acid therapy that specifically regulates transcription of therapeutic genes, supporting its use as an efficient treatment of musculoskeletal degenerative diseases and will advance the development of curative treatments or

Cartilage in our joints (articular cartilage) plays a key degeneration and above on of the articular cartilage role in our locomotion throughout our lives. Degeneration or damage of the articular cartiage arises from a variety of couses, resulting in estepartnints (OA). In the current aging societies, OA is one of the major diseases threatening the

the articular cartilage of the RUNX1 mRNA-injected group.

tissue regenerative therapies for such diseases.

treatment has been developed yet for OA.



Suppression of asteoarthritis progression by in-joint delivery of transcription factor mRNA that promotes: cartilage formation

Articular cartilage is stained in red. Curling. surface (velice arrows) are suppressed in the therapeutic transcription factor RUNX1 mRNA-injected group compared with the control group. () 2016 Hallati Ami.

In the current study, Project Researcher Halfati Airi, Project Associate Professor Shinsake Obba and Professor Ung-II Chung at the University of Tokyo Craduate School of Engineering, together with Project Associate Professor Keiji Itaka and Professor Kazunon Katacka at the University of Tokyo Graduate. School of Medicine, used a polymex nanomicalle based mRNA delivery system, developed in previous studies by the research group, to inject mRNA of the transcription factor 80 NX1, which supports cartilage formation, into kines joints of OA model mice (mice that are surgically engineered to develop OA) once every three days for a month. OA was significantly suppressed in the RUNX1 mRNA-injected. group compared with the control group. In addition, augmented expression of type II codagen (a major cartiage matrix protein), SOX9 (a transcription factor necessary for cartilage formation) and a protein

quality of life of the elderly and shortening their healthy life expectancies. However, no curative

"These results suggest that the mRNA delivered to the joint is translated to produce the RUNX1 protein. which acts as a therapeutic transcription factor, regulates the expression of a set of genes involved in the maintenance and proliferation of cartilage cells," says Project Associate Professor Ohba. He continues, "This result should find applications in curative treatments or tissue regenerative therapies for a variety of musculoskeletal degenerative diseases.

that increases when cells are proliferating (PCNA, proliferating cell nuclear antigen) were observed in

This work was published in the online version of the British journal Scientific Reports on January 5th, 2016.

### Press release

#### Paper

Hallati Aini, Keiji Tiaka, Ayano Fujisawa, Hirokuni Uchida, Satoshi Uchida, Shigeto Fukushima, Kazunori Katzoka, Taku Szito, Ling-il Chung, Shinsuke Ofiba, "Messenger RNA delivery of a cartilage-anabolic transcription factor as a disease-modifying strategy for osteoarthritis treatment", Scientific Reports Online Luition: 2016/01/05 (Topon time), doi: 10.1038/srep18743. Article Ink (Publication)

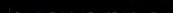
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#### Creduate School of Engineering

Department of Bioengineering, Graduate School of Engineering



\* Language





### Why UTokyo?









### News and Events

### Melec Amosty 21, 2016

· call for volunteers (ovi ERREDIATHEQUE)



### UTokyo Research

### January 22, 2016

. Sumetry carthquake caused changes in barth's crist in Japan



Professor Kajita



### Cassasition January 20, 2016

. Good solar cells from bad effects



### Banuary 20, 2016

· Petruary 19, 2016 (Desagn Innovation Open Sember)



### Innervolved January 15, 2016

\* Reconfigurable mond spirals control light



### January 12, 2016

+ The and GSDM International Symposium





### 3anuary 12, 2016

 Public Symposium "Structural Shift of Publicness and Sodal Capital in Biox Society Technology 27, 2016



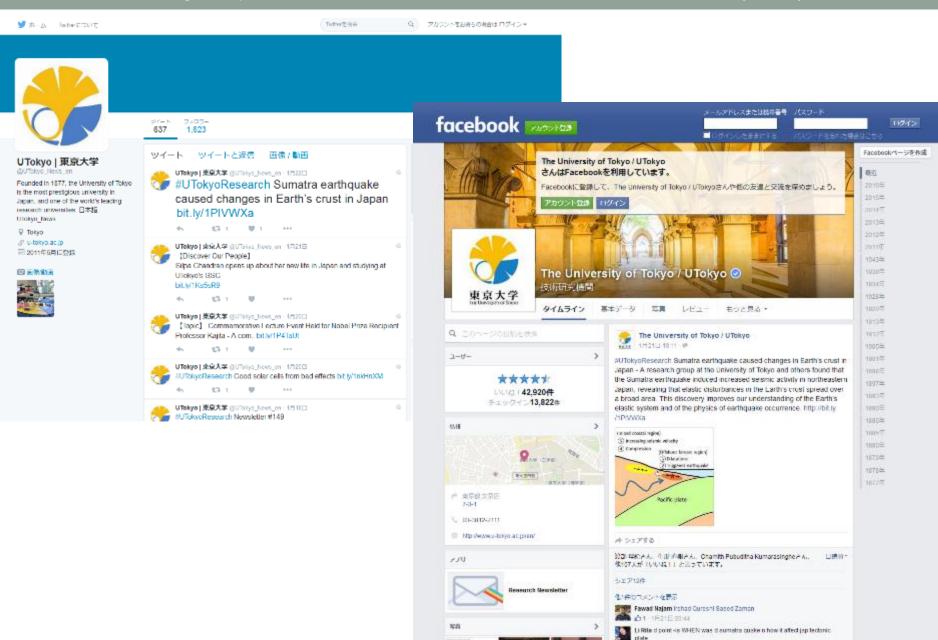
Effective osteoerfibritis therapy with nucleic add medicine.



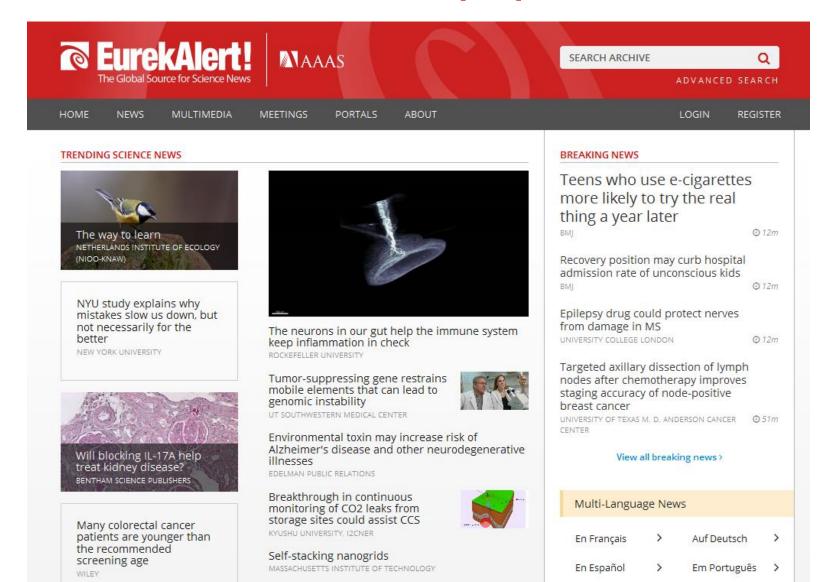
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# How the PRO can help: press releases



# Organization

