



Noriko Osumi

Vice President for
Public Relations and
Promotion of Diversity

Noriko Osumi is vice president of public relations and the promotion of diversity at Tohoku University.

A graduate of Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Osumi has a Ph.D. in craniofacial developmental biology. She has been a professor at Tohoku University's School of Medicine since 1998, working in the field of developmental neuroscience.

Osumi's research interests include development of the brain and models of neurodevelopmental disorders to understand underlying neuropathology.

Recently, she has been studying the regulatory mechanisms for transgenerational effects of paternal aging with regards to offspring behavior. Handling rodent embryos and imaging brain cells are the expertise of her lab.

Osumi sits on various governmental committees and has particular interest in those dealing with ethical issues, grant system development and career paths for young scientists. She served as a member of Science Council of Japan (2005-2014) and has been assigned as Associate Fellow of TWAS (2012-) and as Associate Member of EMBO (2018-). She was a representative of the Japan Science and Technology Agency's CREST project (2005-2010) and of the KAKENHI Group Grant (2016-2020), supported by

the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

As Tohoku University's first female vice president from 2018, Osumi is passionate about gender equality and diversity, and being a role model for young women in science. She heads the Tohoku University Center for Gender Equality Promotion and is an active member of Japan's diversity network.

Osumi is a keen reader, and her love of books is also reflected in her work. She currently serves as director of Tohoku University Libraries. She has contributed to write several books on brain development, evolution, and disease for public, and also translated three books so far, from English into Japanese: "Essential Developmental Biology" by Jonathan M.W. Slack, "The Birth of the Mind" by Gary Marcus and "Why Aren't More Women in Science?" a collection of essays edited by Stephen J. Ceci and Wendy M. Williams.