



Noriko Osumi

Vice President for
Public Relations and
Promotion of Diversity

Member of the Science
Council of Japan

Associate fellow of The
World Academy of Sciences
(TWAS) since 2012,

Associate member of
European Molecular Biology
Organization (EMBO).

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 pre- and postnatal development of the brain, sensory organs and craniofacial region, as well as the behaviour of animals as models of neurodevelopmental disorders.

Recently, she has been studying the regulatory mechanisms for transgenerational effects of paternal aging with regards to offspring behaviour. 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 was a representative of the Japan Science and Technology Agency's CREST project (2005-2010) and of the KAKENHI Group Grant, supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

At Tohoku University, she was involved in the Global Centre of Excellence (COE) programme on

neuroscience from 2007-2012 and in the Neuro Global Programme since 2018.

She has been a member of the Science Council of Japan since 2005, an associate fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) since 2012, and an associate member of European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO).

As Tohoku University's first female vice president, 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 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.