



**Press Review Taiwan  
Science, Technology and Education**



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This month, Taiwan’s science, technology and education press review includes the following news articles: Biobank project develops predictive model for diabetes; AML survival predictor genes identified; Heart cell injections could treat heart illness: researchers; Pioneer study finds how cancer spreads: NTU; Taiwan research team wins DREAM Challenge on ALS; Youth with overseas experience a positive force: MOE; Taiwan bags 56 medals at iENA Nuremberg; Local institute unveils warning system to prevent traffic accidents; Students’ mobile app wins Red Dot Award in Germany; Taiwan technology institute wins 4 ‘Oscars of Invention’ awards; and Taiwan shines at APICTA Awards.

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## Science

### **Biobank project develops predictive model for diabetes (Taipei Times, 02.11.2015)**

The Academia Sinica said its Taiwan Biobank project — a large-scale population-based genetic database — has identified a predictive model for diabetes with a precision rate of about 88 percent. In three years of operations the database has gathered information from more than 53,000 people, including bio specimens, blood, urine, DNA, dietary patterns, lifestyle and family health history.

### **AML survival predictor genes identified (Taipei Times, 03.11.2015)**

A research team from National Taiwan University (NTU) and its hospital said they have identified gene markers — three microRNAs and 11 genes — from blood acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients which could be used to predict patients' survival rate after treatment.

### **Heart cell injections could treat heart illness: researchers (Taipei Times, 09.11.2015)**

Academia Sinica researchers have discovered four microRNAs that could induce the growth of human and mouse heart cells, which could be used to culture heart cells to be injected into dysfunctional hearts as treatment for heart disease.

### **Pioneer study finds how cancer spreads: NTU (The China Post, 12.11.2015)**

Researchers from Weill Cornell Medicine and National Taiwan University (NTU), among other institutions, have published a study that could guide researchers in detecting the early spread of cancer cells (metastasis), NTU announced on Nov. 11. "This is the first study of its kind. Before, there were no means of telling whether a patient's tumor would spread, let alone to where," said Shen Tang-long, professor in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology and co-author of the cross-national study.

### **Taiwan research team wins DREAM Challenge on ALS (Focus Taiwan, 18.11.2015)**

A Taiwanese research team has won a global science competition seeking to improve prognosis prediction of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) in Tainan said on Nov. 18. This is the first time a team from Taiwan has won the challenges created by the Dialogue on Reverse Engineering Assessment and Methods (DREAM) to develop new methods of using data to better understand and improve biological sciences and human health, according to the university.

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## Education

### **Youth with overseas experience a positive force: MOE (The China Post, 22.11.2015)**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) hosted a travel story-sharing event on Nov. 21 to encourage young people to realize their dreams, as well as present results of the ministry's latest project aimed at developing global mobility for students. MOE Minister Wu Se-hwa said that to achieve global competence in the future, youth should have skills that give them the ability to travel and work abroad.

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## Technology

### **Taiwan bags 56 medals at iENA Nuremberg (Focus Taiwan, 02.11.2015)**

Inventors from Taiwan have won 56 medals, including 12 gold, at this year's iENA Nuremberg -- a leading international trade fair that showcases innovation. Among the gold-medal inventions were a low-cost copper conductive ink with anti-oxidant properties, invented by the Institute of Nuclear Energy Research, and an environmental sensor and alarm system by the National Chip Implementation Center.

### **Local institute unveils warning system to prevent traffic accidents (Focus Taiwan, 06.11.2015)**

A local research institute on Nov. 6 launched a new system that sends a warning signal to drivers to avoid collisions at traffic intersections. The system was designed in response to a particular situation in Taiwan, where most road accidents occur at intersections, said the government-funded Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), which is based in Hsinchu in northern Taiwan.

**Students' mobile app wins Red Dot Award in Germany (Focus Taiwan, 08.11.2015)**

"BlindNavi," a mobile navigating app designed and developed by four Taiwanese university students for visually impaired users, won the junior prize at the Red Dot Awards in Berlin on Nov. 6. The BlindNavi app "helps blind people to reach independence when navigating in unknown environments. The developers have spent much effort on simplifying the interaction both for planning a trip and for traveling autonomously," the jury said.

**Taiwan technology institute wins 4 'Oscars of Invention' awards (The China Post, 17.11.2015)**

Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) has received four prizes at this year's R&D 100 Awards in Las Vegas, winning for the eighth consecutive year at the "Oscars of Invention," as they are widely known. The ITRI awards were given for the most innovative products in two categories — IT/Electrical and Mechanical Devices/Materials — at a ceremony on Nov. 13, the government-sponsored ITRI said in a statement on Nov. 16.

**Taiwan shines at APICTA Awards (Taiwan Today, 25.11.2015)**

Taiwan was the biggest winner with four golds and two merit awards at the Asia-Pacific ICT Alliance Awards held Nov. 18-22 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, underscoring the country's position as a leading center of technological innovation in the region. Led by the Industrial Development Bureau under the Ministry of Economic Affairs, 12 Taiwan teams competed against 180 groups from 12 other members, delivering the nation's best performance in the contest since it first took part two years ago.

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