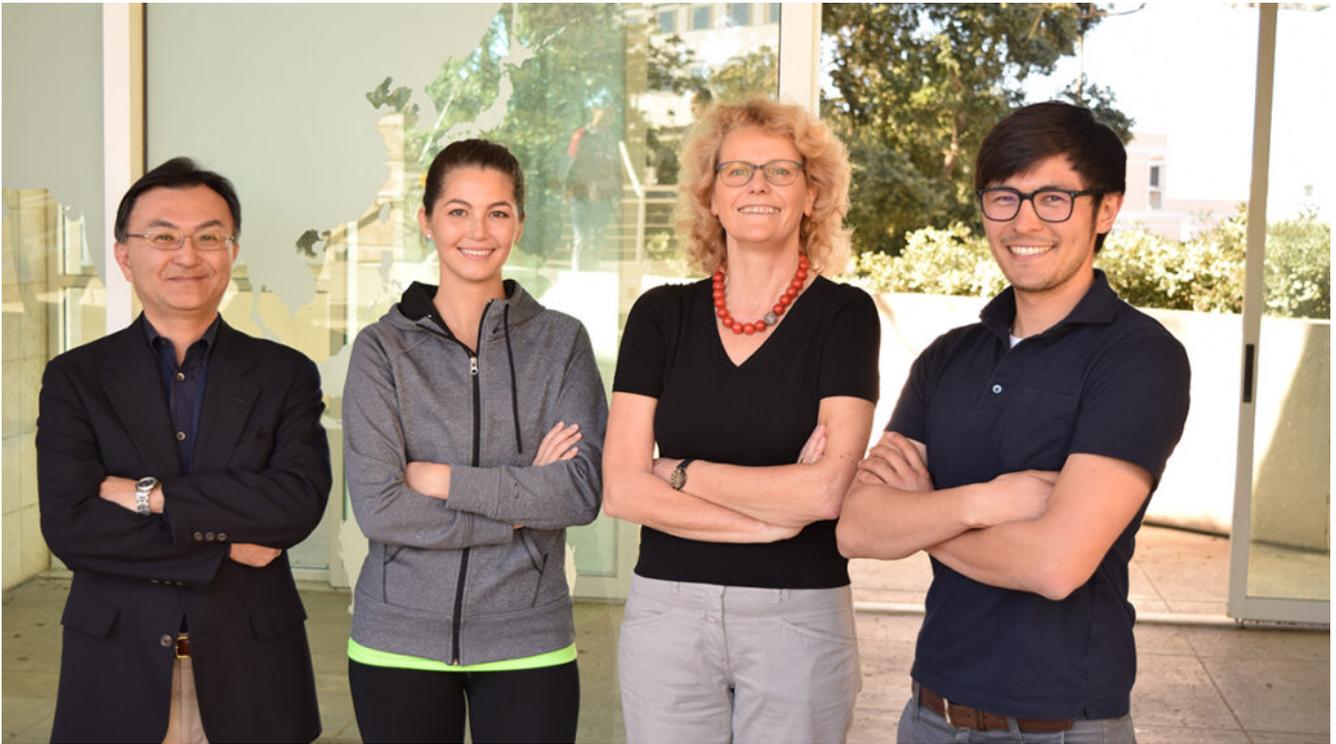


JFIT broadens health sciences gateway between Japan and San Diego



Through leadership roles in LINK-J, GPS's research center on Japan supports yet another avenue for innovative exchange between San Diego and Japan

By Sarah Pfladderer | GPS News



Delivering on its mission to connect businesses and policymakers across the Pacific, the [Japan Forum for Innovation and Technology](#) (JFIT) at the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) is at the heart of a major new collaboration between San Diego and Tokyo's life sciences clusters.

JFIT Director and GPS Professor [Ulrike Schaede](#) and JFIT Executive Manager [Takashi Kiyozumi](#) have been recruited to serve in the Board of Supporters of the

[Life Science Innovation Network Japan](#) (LINK-J). Alongside distinguished scholars such as Nobel Prize-winning stem cell researcher Shinya Yamanaka, UC San Diego Interim Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and GPS Dean [Peter Cowhey](#) is a member of LINK-J's Advisory Board.

Established in April by the Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd., a major real estate developer in Japan, LINK-J is an incubator dedicated to facilitating interactions among industry, academia, government and public sectors in Japan. It is housed at the Nihonbashi Life Science Building in Tokyo, where UC San Diego also recently launched its first-ever workspace overseas: [UC San Diego Tokyo Office](#).

The involvement of Cowhey, Schaede and Kiyozumi in LINK-J is related to GPS's connections to Kan Suzuki, a special adviser to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan. In his previous role as vice minister at the ministry, Suzuki played a formative role in structuring the Nihonbashi health science cluster project. In 2014, Suzuki came to UC San Diego as a [Pacific Leadership Fellow](#) at GPS's Center on Global Transformation and at that time helped spark the idea to create JFIT.



Cowhey, Schaede and Kiyozumi are excited to be involved in the LINK-J project. In addition to the UC San Diego Tokyo Office, this connection brings a direct tie-in in policy and strategy shaping not only Japan's largest emerging bio-incubator and biocluster, but in regard to entrepreneurship and innovation in Japan more generally.

"The energy and enthusiasm of the incubator will be a great setting for the UC San Diego Tokyo Office," said Schaede, also the only woman in the LINK-J Support System. "As supporters of LINK-J, JFIT and UC San Diego are gaining yet another important foothold in Japan that will allow us to build many new

opportunities for both research and business expansion between San Diego and Japan.”

Hideyuki Okano, the chairman of LINK-J and dean of Keio University School of Medicine, expressed his gratitude to have Schaede and Kiyozumi serving as the only non-Japan LINK-J supporters.

“We at LINK-J are fortunate to have this global addition of supporters spanning diverse fields, as Professor Schaede and Dr. Kiyozumi bring deep knowledge of San Diego’s biocluster and innovation ecosystem, as well as management and academic insights,” Okano said. “Given JFIT’s influence in industries such as biotech, the Internet of Things, and global business and public policy formulation, their engagement results in a global group of eminent scholars and business people that will push the Japan-U.S. connection to the next level.”