(Okayama, Japan, 24 February 2016) Â This issue includes a feature on designer DNA-binding proteins to combat viral infections in agriculture and medicine; news items include updates of official opening of the Okayama University Silicon Valley Office at Fremont (CA), and international collaboration work with Xiamen University; research highlights on immunizing plants; identification of gene Vrn-D4 for enabling wheat to adapt to areas with warm winters; importance of introgression on intra-specific genetic differentiation and adaptive divergence; an interesting twist on supercooled liquid water; and manufacturing denim in Okayama.

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Feature

Designer DNA-binding proteins to combat viral infections in agriculture and medicine.

http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/user/kouhou/ebulletin/feature/vol14/feature_001.html

Development of unique artificial DNA-binding proteins to prevent the proliferation of viruses in both plants and for treating cancer in humans. Specifically, Sera designs DNA-binding proteins to bond to a target virus 1000 times more strongly than the replication protein of the virus itself. Such blocking of bonding between a virus and its own replication protein prevents the spread of the virus.