

Happy Eggs

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Abstract. The world of scientific discovery often remains far-fetched to ordinary people. Although the significance of engaging the public and making the science accessible has been increasingly recognised, few efforts have been made to investigate the popular stereotype of ‘crazy’ scientists, ambitious and sometimes nerdy. Whilst the media tend to focus on very few glamorous scientist celebrities, the majority of them often remain anonymous, battling with the tedium and the gruelling pressure. This story presents glimpses of the daily life of an ordinary young scientist and her search for the meaning of science and life, set in a futuristic scenario about genetic research on the formation of happy neurons when physical illnesses have been conquered. Questions are raised about the possibility of a formula for ‘happiness’, and the role of science and technology for the psychological health of human beings.

Keywords. Happiness, life science, scientific discovery, engaging the public, chicken embryos, neurons, art and science.

*‘It is the stress of failure that lends scientists their character, their humanity. Failure makes them interesting.’ - Natalie Angier, *Natural Obsession**

*‘The last frontier of the biological sciences – their ultimate challenge – is to understand the biological basis of consciousness and the mental processes by which we perceive, act, learn, and remember.’ - Eric Kandel, *Principles of Neural Science**

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