



**bluebox**  
innovations for the **real** world

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# Osteoarthritis therapeutic

## Technology

Queensland University of Technology (QUT) researchers are investigating a prospective therapeutic target for osteoarthritis (OA). Possibly the first non-surgical intervention of its kind, the technology acts by potentially slowing or preventing the progression of OA, instead of replacing the affected joint or managing the associated pain.

The researchers have demonstrated that altered bi-directional communication between cartilage and bone cells, which is mediated via the MAPK cell signalling pathway, could be responsible for the progression of OA. The previous lack of information regarding the molecular mechanisms - and in particular the signalling pathways - by which normal and osteoarthritic bone and cartilage cells interact to regulate articular cartilage differentiation has hampered early and effective treatment of osteoarticular diseases, including OA.

Pre-clinical studies have now demonstrated that local delivery of MAPK modulators can aid in the prevention of OA progression in OA animal models. A commercial partner is now required to progress the protected technology towards the development of a suitable therapeutic method or formulation.

## Business Opportunity

This technology is the subject of Australian and U.S. patent applications approaching filing in accordance with the patent cooperation treaty (PCT). Licensing and / or development opportunities are available to interested parties.

## Contact

The technologies team at **bluebox**, the technology transfer and commercialisation company for QUT, consists of experienced professionals with industry-relevant technical backgrounds and a broad range of skills in management, legal, patent and financing areas.

For further information, please contact **bluebox**:

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