It’s essential so that science doesn’t stay in its ivory tower, but can really be accessible, so more people understand what we’re doing in the lab.

For the 3MT winners, the contest offered more than bragging rights. Not only did each of the three top finishers earn a $500 grant, but both Frawley and Rajshekar took home an additional $500 when they tied for the audience-choice award. “At the end, I made an awful pun—which everyone expected of me,” Frawley admits with a rueful chuckle. “I’m known for my puns, unfortunately.” His orthopaedic groaner? “I said, ‘The technique isn’t perfect yet,’ he recalls, ‘but we’re boning up on our biochemistry.’”

— Beth Saulnier