

Contacts

Publisher: Ben Crowe
Editor: Paul Smaglik
Marketing Manager: David Bowen

European Head Office, London

The Macmillan Building
4 Crinan Street
London N1 9XW, UK
Tel +44 (0) 20 7843 4961
Fax +44 (0) 20 7843 4996
e-mail: naturejobs@nature.com

Global Head of Naturejobs:
Nevin Bayoumi (4978)

UK/ RoW/ Ireland:

Matt Powell (4953)
Andy Douglas (4975)
Frank Phelan (4944)

Netherlands/ Italy/ Iberia/ Belgium:

Evelina Rubio Hakansson (4973)
Scandinavia: Silje Opstrup (4994)

France/ Switzerland:

Amelie Pequinot (4974)

Natureevents:

Paul Constant (4954)

Production Manager:

Billie Franklin
To send materials use London
address above.

Tel +44 (0) 20 7843 4814
Fax +44 (0) 20 7843 4996

e-mail: naturejobs@nature.com

International

Advertising Coordinator:

Hind Berrada (4935)

Naturejobs web development:

Tom Hancock

Naturejobs online production:

Ben Lund

European Satellite Office

Germany/ Austria:

Patrick Phelan, Odo Wulffen
Tel + 49 89 54 90 57 11/-2

Fax + 49 89 54 90 57 20

e-mail: p.phelan@nature.com
o.wulffen@nature.com

US Head Office, New York

345 Park Avenue South,
10th Floor, New York, NY 10010-1707

Tel +1 800 989 7718

Fax +1 800 989 7103

e-mail: naturejobs@natureny.com

US Sales Manager:

Peter Bless

US Advertising Coordinator:

Linda Adam

Japan Head Office, Tokyo

MG Ichigaya Building (5F),

19-1 Haraikatamachi,

Shinjuku-ku,

Tokyo 162-0841

Tel +81 3 3267 8751

Fax +81 3 3267 8746

Asia-Pacific Sales Director:

Rinoko Asami

e-mail: rasami@naturejpn.com

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New perspectives

Why did the DFG, the German Research Foundation, open an office in Washington a year ago? To gain a perspective on how science is conducted in another country, said the DFG's president Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker last week at a reception to welcome the new director of the Washington office, Marina Koch-Krumrei. Naturejobs is opening a new feature this issue, called Career View, for similar reasons. We want to bring in more voices from different career stages — from the postdoc trying to land his or her first tenure-track job to a senior scientist who's bounced between academia and industry.

The first new perspective we've added is that of an outsider. Deb Koen, vice-president of the company Career Development Services based in upstate New York, has years of experience counselling scientists and non-scientists. We know that her 'nuts and bolts' advice, on everything from writing resumés to negotiating salaries, will be valued by scientists, even if they're not actively job-hunting.

Noting the many organizations catering specifically to young scientists — from students to postdocs — popping up around the globe, we thought they deserved a platform. The first Career View features the results of a survey of young biotechnologists by the Association of Italian Biotechnologists. We will try to give a voice to organizations from all over the world. Finally, we have moved our established feature 'Movers' to this new page in an altered format that focuses on one scientist and their career path.

And like the incoming head of DFG's Washington office, Naturejobs also has an interest in addressing so-called 'soft issues', such as finding jobs for spouses when a scientist relocates, or the effect that housing costs have on recruiting postdocs to expensive cities. We encourage suggestions for new issues and angles and welcome the addition of your voice to our Career View.

Paul Smaglik
Naturejobs editor



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