

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

Naturejobs Sales Director:

Nevin Bayoumi (4978)

UK/ RoW/ Ireland:

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

Scandinavia/ Spain/ Portugal:

Evelina Rubio Håkansson (4973)

Natureevents:

Sille Opstrup (4994)

France/ Switzerland:

Amelie Pequignot (4974)

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

Naturejobs web development:

Tom Hancock

Naturejobs online production:

Stefan Hales

European Satellite Office

Germany/ Austria/ Italy/ The Netherlands/ Belgium:

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

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: r.asami@naturejpn.com

naturejobs

The joy of the lab

Career talks usually feature speakers who discuss ways to get jobs outside the laboratory. There is good reason for this — long-term, well-funded research positions are hard to secure, and young scientists need to know the odds and the options. At a *Naturejobs* career symposium last month, held during the EuroScience Open Forum in Stockholm, Sweden, we featured a smorgasbord of scientists who have pursued work beyond the bench — including positions in the drug industry, communication and entrepreneurship.

But one speaker, who has stayed in the lab, reminded the young scientists in attendance that basic research is also worth pursuing and that, with determination, it can result in a satisfying career. Jon Storm-Mathisen of the University of Oslo's Centre for Molecular Biology and Neuroscience in Norway, offered some tips on how to succeed on this path.

One of the most important factors, says Storm-Mathisen, is a good mentor — someone who can inspire and generate an atmosphere of curiosity and drive. Another key point is to select a strong question to research. There are two potential pitfalls here, he notes. First, young scientists sometimes ask a question that is too easy. Initially, this might increase the odds of success, but the answer will often be empty and won't lead you forwards. Going out on a limb and asking a hard question can be frightening, but may result in greater long-term security. Second, young scientists are often tempted to follow the crowd — in terms of technology or disease area, for example. Doing so may help secure funding early on, but it won't help you to make your mark. "You shouldn't jump on any bandwagon," Storm-Mathisen says.

Finally, scientists need to have the right motivation. Storm-Mathisen uses one word: "Joy." In fact, that driver should be the same, regardless of where a scientist works.

Paul Smaglik
Naturejobs editor



Contents

CAREER VIEW

Nuts & Bolts

Performance reviews

Graduate Journal

Try, try again

Movers

Elaine Ostrander

p228

WWW.NATUREJOBS.COM

Career centre

Information on the
scientific job market

FOCUS

SPOTLIGHT

RECRUITMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENTS