

Contacts

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

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/ Corporations:

Peter Bless

Classified Sales Representatives:

Phone: +1 800 989 7718

Pennsylvania, New York,

Maryland/ Latin America/ NIH:

Michael McGillion

Midwest USA:

Wade Tucker

East USA/ Canada:

Janine Taormina

San Francisco Office

Classified Sales Representative:

Michaela Bjorkman

West USA/ West Corp. Canada

225 Bush Street, Suite 1453

San Francisco, CA 94104

Tel +1 415 781 3803

Fax +1 415 781 3805

e-mail: m.bjorkman@nature.sf.com

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)

Advertising 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:

Niamh Shields

European Satellite Office

Germany/ Austria/ Italy/

The Netherlands/ Belgium:

Patrick Phelan

e-mail: p.phelan@nature.com

Sharon de Weert

e-mail: s.deveert@nature.com

Japan Head Office, Tokyo

MG Ichigaya Building (5F),

19-1 Harakatamachi,

Shinjuku-ku,

Tokyo 162-0841

Tel +81 3 3267 8751

Fax +81 3 3267 8746

Asia-Pacific Sales Director:

Rinoko Asami

e-mail: rasami@nature.jp

naturejobs

Welcome competition

Every year a colleague of mine does a presentation to the new intake for the mass-media science fellows course at the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Her talk always includes a serious warning. Science writing is a treacherous, cut-throat world, she tells the prospective journalists, and there are few full-time jobs. "Are you sure you want to do this?" she asks, pausing before she adds: "Because I don't need the competition." In all honesty, this pitch could just as easily apply to scientists in general as to science writers — in either case, landing a full-time job straight after a PhD is difficult.

My friend's indoctrination talk would have been welcome at the inaugural meeting on scientific publishing in Bremen, Germany, last month. The meeting, organized by charitable foundation Bertelsmann Stiftung and the German Journalists' Federation, brought together scientists, policy-makers and journalists. But it did not offer specific advice on how to succeed in the field — just as scientists often receive little career advice at conferences, beyond the latest in scientific advances.

The turnout for the meeting, some 350 people, was a mix of established and aspiring science writers. Such a range gave a strong indication of the need for advice and information — especially as the economics of science-writing has caused a general shift from full-time jobs to freelance opportunities (see *Nature* 432, 418–419; 2004).

But there were some hopeful signs after the conference. Two German newspapers, *Die Zeit* and *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, are launching science sections this month. And career talks for scientists are now *de rigueur* at most US-based scientific conferences. I'm sure my colleague would agree that more of the same in Europe — for both traditional and off-the-bench scientific careers — would facilitate some welcome competition.

Paul Smaglik
Naturejobs editor



WWW.NATUREJOBS.COM

Career centre
Information on the
scientific job market

FOCUS

SPOTLIGHT

RECRUITMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENTS