

## 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](mailto:naturejobs@nature.com)

**Senior European Sales Manager:**  
Nevin Bayoumi (4978)

### UK/ RoW/ Ireland:

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

### Netherlands/ Italy/ Iberia:

Evelina Rubio Hakansson (4973)

**Scandinavia:** Silje Opstrup (4994)

### France/ Belgium:

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](mailto:naturejobs@nature.com)

### International

**Advertising Coordinator:**

Hind Berrada (4935)

**Naturejobs web development:**

Tom Hancock

**Naturejobs online production:**

Ben Lund

### European Satellite Office

**Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland:**

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](mailto:p.phelan@nature.com)  
[o.wulffen@nature.com](mailto: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](mailto: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  
e-mail: [k.johnson@naturejp.com](mailto:k.johnson@naturejp.com)

**Asia-Pacific Advertising Manager:**

Kevyn Johnson

# naturejobs

## Alternative roads to success

**A**n analyst, an editor and a business-development professional. Three different professions, one striking similarity — they all got their current jobs without doing a postdoc. They revealed this to an alternative-career roundtable at a recent career fair co-sponsored by *Naturejobs* and the New York Biotechnology Association.

Eric Schmidt, managing director of SG Cowan, a financial analysis company in New York, realized midway through his PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that he didn't want a career in "bench science". His avid interest in the stock market led him to some business courses and his job at Cowan.

Meeghan Sinclair, an associate editor on *Nature Biotechnology*, wasn't sure she was ready to focus narrowly on one problem. "I wanted to be involved in learning about science but have a broader experience of science," she says. Her present position allows her to do just that, and also to be involved in technologies that have direct applications.

Catharine Johnson, manager of business development for Regeneron, a biotech company in New York, knew even before she entered university that an academic career probably wasn't for her — she had enjoyed a high-school internship with a biotech firm. Her extracurricular activities as a graduate student, including organizing panels on alternative careers, further piqued her interest.

All three rate their jobs as satisfying, but that doesn't mean that advancing their careers has been easy. Analysts' jobs are tied to a volatile stock market, editors' to a relentless cycle of deadlines, and business-development experts' to bridging the equally uncertain worlds of science and commerce. But for all three, such obstacles were better than the alternative — a series of postdocs and the anticipation of tenure track.

**Paul Smaglik**  
*Naturejobs* editor



## Contents

### SPECIAL REPORT

Plant biology goes back to its roots

p4

### WWW.NATUREJOBS.COM

Career centre  
Information on the  
scientific job market

FOCUS

SPOTLIGHT

RECRUITMENT

SCIENTIFIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS