

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

### Naturejobs Sales Director:

Nevin Bayoumi (4978)

### 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)

### Naturejobs web development:

Tom Hancock

### Naturejobs online production:

Stefan Hales

### European Satellite Office

**Germany/ Austria/ Italy/**

**The Netherlands/ Belgium:**

Patrick Phelan, Odo Wulffen

e-mail: [p.phelan@nature.com](mailto:p.phelan@nature.com)

[o.wulffen@nature.com](mailto:o.wulffen@nature.com)

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

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## Rewarding season

The fall brings a flurry of awards for scientific research. The high-profile honours recognize well-established researchers, and many of the recipients of one eventually go on to win another — a sizeable subset of Lasker Award winners have subsequently received Nobel Prizes, for example.

One could say, tongue in cheek, that those people don't really need recognition at this point in their career. After all, they tend to have good funding and facilities already. Sure, the award money is nice. And statues on one's desk convey a certain gravitas.

But it is younger researchers who really need the recognition that prizes bring. They tend to be doing much of the bench work themselves and often have to scramble for support to keep their lab running, even with a good publication record. Fortunately, such awards do exist, although they are less well known. A new prize, the European Young Investigator Awards (EURYI), gave out its first crop of €1.25-million (US\$1.55-million), five-year grants this summer.

Another, the EMBO Gold Medal, was awarded last week to María Blasco, director of the molecular oncology programme at the National Cancer Centre in Madrid. She is the first Spanish citizen and only the third woman to receive this award for young European scientists since its launch in 1986. Individual countries are also following the trend, with Science Foundation Ireland's President of Ireland Young Researcher Award (PIYRA) being awarded last week to four young researchers, each of whom will receive up to €1.2 million over a five-year period.

Hopefully, more awards programmes like EURYI, PIYRA and the 'Gold' will follow. And they will aid as well as predict the future winners of those high-profile prizes.

### Paul Smaglik

Naturejobs editor



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