

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)

European Sales Manager:

Andy Douglas (4975)

UK/ RoW/ Ireland:

Nils Moeller (4953)
Irene Vigila-Atton (4944)

Scandinavia/ Spain/ Portugal:

Evelina Rubio Håkansson (4973)

Natureevents:

Sille Opstrup (4994)

France/ Switzerland:

Amelie Pequignot (4974)

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

Tel + 49 89 54 90 57 11

Fax + 49 89 54 90 57 20

e-mail: p.phelan@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 Harajukamachi,

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

Fighting urban myths

Pets flushed down toilets that turn into monster-sized, sewer-prowling predators. Large companies that promote occultism through secret messages in the labels on their products.

Popular consumer goods that actually have toxic properties. All these are examples of urban myths — tales that have circulated by either word of mouth or forwarded e-mails. Many of these stories, and similar examples, perch perpetually on the threshold of belief, perhaps because they exploit people's fears so well. As a result, they tend to persist despite being frequently debunked.

Scientific employment has its own urban myths. PhDs who end up pursuing a career as a taxi driver. Legions of postdocs mired in fellowships that last a lifetime. The need for ever-more scientists in a particular 'hot' subdiscipline, despite an abundant supply of scientists in general.

Such myths can only be fought effectively if you have an abundance of reliable data, a panel of experts told a careers workshop at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington DC last week. But good information is not always easy to find — at least not all in one place. And even the best data on scientific employment and the workforce tend to be too old and broad to produce good projections for specific parts of the world or for narrow subdisciplines.

But this is set to change, the panellists said. The Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology (www.cpst.org) is bringing together key data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, US census data, the National Science Foundation and a host of other scientific organizations. The new database should make it easier for people to debunk any scientific-career myths standing in the way of their professional path. For scientists wishing to confront such issues in their own workplace, the truth is out there.

Paul Smaglik

Naturejobs editor



Contents

CAREER VIEW

Nuts & Bolts

Networking for introverts

Graduate Journal

A hard day's night

Movers

Deepak Srivastava

p120

WWW.NATUREJOBS.COM

Career centre

Information on the
scientific job market

FOCUS

SPOTLIGHT

RECRUITMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENTS