

-  FOCUS
-  SPOTLIGHT
-  RECRUITMENT
-  ANNOUNCEMENTS
-  EVENTS

naturejobs

A plan for the future

Six days, three countries and far too many miles. Not an ambitious holiday schedule but a snapshot of my travels last November, as I rounded off a busy year of meeting young scientists around the world. In just over a week I met Max Planck PhD students at their annual meeting in Göttingen, Germany; joined young scientists interested in industry at the European Biotech Crossroads meeting in Lille, France; and sat in on an informal roundtable for students and postdocs at the University of Leeds, UK. Three countries, three completely different groups — and yet all echoed concerns I'd been hearing all year.

The students were aware that the odds of securing a tenure-track position in academia are low, but they didn't know the average success rate. I always say that on average only one in three is likely to land a long-term position. And all the students were vaguely aware that there are options 'outside' academia, but few knew exactly what they were, or how to take advantage of them.

My message to all these groups is the same: research your options with the diligence you spend on your science. Take an inventory of the skills you use in science — whether it is

interacting with intellectual-property people, writing papers or managing interdisciplinary collaborations. See what you enjoy and are good at. Then consider where else you could apply these skills. Cast a wide net. Be prepared to leave your home country. Don't discount government and industry jobs. And find creative ways to gain new skills — whether it be informal mentoring, short courses or yet more education.

As well as talking to young scientists about navigating their career, I have been trying to draw up some guidance to help them. One result is a collection of 'off the bench' career stories now gathered in one location under Editor's Choice on the *Naturejobs* homepage (www.nature.com/naturejobs). I hope that this collection will help scientists at all stages of their career realize their options and make informed choices about their next move.



Paul Smaglik, *Naturejobs* editor

CONTACTS

Publisher: Ben Crowe
Editor: Paul Smaglik
Assistant Editor: Corie Lok

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)

Natureevents: Sille Opstrup (4994)

UK/RoW/Ireland/Italy:

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

Scandinavia/Spain/Portugal:
Evelina Rubio Håkansson (4973)

France/Switzerland/Belgium:
Amelie Pequignot (4974)

Germany/Austria/The Netherlands:
Reya Silao (4970)

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/

The Netherlands:

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

75 Varick Street,
9th Floor, New York,

NY 10013-1917

Tel: +1 800 989 7718

Fax: +1 800 989 7103

e-mail: naturejobs@natureny.com

US Sales Manager: Peter Bless

Japan Head Office, Tokyo

Chiyoda Building,
2-37 Ichigayatamachi,
Shinjuku-ku,
Tokyo 162-0843

Tel: +81 3 3267 8751

Fax: +81 3 3267 8746

Asia-Pacific Sales Director: Rinoko Asami

e-mail: rasami@naturejpn.com