

# naturejobs

Seeing fellow researchers receive awards for their endeavours offers an ideal time to study success and learn valuable lessons about how to guide your scientific career. The two medals given out in the past month by the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), based in Heidelberg, Germany, are no exception.

The organization's 2006 Award for Communication in the Life Sciences went to developmental geneticist Armand Marie Leroi of Imperial College London. Leroi's success had its roots in his desire to spice up his lectures. When he discussed the connection between mutated fruitfly genes and disabilities in humans, his students "sat up and took notice — especially after snoozing through the 50th fly gene", Leroi says. Inspired, Leroi sought out other connections between genetic mutations and human development, and brought them together in a book called *Mutants: On the Form, Varieties and Errors of the Human Body*. A television producer saw a copy of the book's manuscript and approached Leroi to make a programme, which was broadcast under the title *Human Mutants*. Although Leroi says he finds public communication of science "seductive", he tries to stay "grounded" in his research on the nematode worm *Caenorhabditis elegans*. "Ultimately communicating science isn't more satisfying than doing science," he says.

Frank Uhlmann, winner of the 2006 EMBO Gold Medal, attributes much of his success to working in a number of different locations. Now based at Cancer Research UK in London, Uhlmann moved round six labs in Munich while doing his diploma in Germany. He then spent time at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and Vienna's Research Institute of Molecular Pathology before heading to Britain. "It's always good to go to different places and see different people's approach to research," Uhlmann says. "Learn as much as you can as early as you can."

The career paths of these two winners show how gaining different skills and perspectives can broaden your career. And they also serve as a reminder that success emerges from a passion to do the best science you can.

**Paul Smaglik, Naturejobs editor**

**Publisher:** Ben Crowe  
**Editor:** Paul Smaglik  
**Assistant Editor:** Gene Russo

**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)

**European Sales Manager:**  
Andy Douglas (4975)  
e-mail: [a.douglas@nature.com](mailto:a.douglas@nature.com)  
**Business Development Manager:**  
Amelie Pequignot (4974)  
e-mail: [a.pequignot@nature.com](mailto:a.pequignot@nature.com)

**Natureevents:**  
Claudia Paulsen Young (+44 (0) 20 7014 4015)  
e-mail: [c.paulsenyoung@nature.com](mailto:c.paulsenyoung@nature.com)  
**France/Switzerland/Belgium:**  
Muriel Lestringuez (4994)

**UK/Ireland/Italy/RoW:**  
Loredana Milanese (4944)  
Nils Moeller (4953)  
**Scandinavia/Spain/Portugal:**  
Evelina Rubio-Morgan (4973)  
**Germany/Austria/The Netherlands:**  
Reya Silao (4970)  
**Online Job Postings:**  
Matthew Ward (+44 (0) 20 7014 4059)

**European Satellite Office**  
**Germany:** Patrick Phelan  
Tel: +49 89 54 90 57 11  
Fax: +49 89 54 90 57 20  
e-mail: [p.phelan@nature.com](mailto:p.phelan@nature.com)

**Advertising Production Manager:**  
Stephen Russell  
To send materials use London address above.  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7843 4816  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7843 4996  
e-mail: [naturejobs@nature.com](mailto:naturejobs@nature.com)

**Naturejobs web development:** Tom Hancock  
**Naturejobs online production:**  
Catherine Alexander

**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](mailto: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 Manager:**  
Ayako Watanabe  
e-mail: [a.watanabe@natureasia.com](mailto:a.watanabe@natureasia.com)

**THE CAREERS  
MAGAZINE FOR  
SCIENTISTS**