

2010 RESULTS ANNOUNCED: BEST PLACES TO WORK FOR POSTDOCS

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(Philadelphia, PA) – February 25th, 2010 – The Scientist, magazine of the life sciences, announced today the winners of its 8th annual Best Places to Work for Postdocs survey. This year's award winners represent an array of forward thinking institutions that are open to changing in support of the values and needs of its postdocs.

The Trudeau Institute in Saranac Lake, NY was ranked the top U.S. institution, receiving high marks for its networking opportunities and family support. The Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation maintained strong 2009 performance to round out the top three for 2010. Genentech and Sandia National Laboratories saw significant improvements in their standings from 2009.

Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research in Horsham, UK placed 1st among top International institutions, while also improving their presence in the rankings with their Cambridge, MA and Basel, Switzerland facilities. This year welcomed newcomers to both the Top U.S. and International lists, including both 1st place institutions.

Nearly 45 percent of postdocs surveyed have been in their position more than two years - up from 28 percent in 2009. This increase in tenure may be instigating a shift in values as many institutions that topped the 2010 list were noted for encouraging rich personal lives outside the lab, as well as offering comprehensive benefits packages.

Many institutions offer incentives to postdocs such as onsite housing, specialized facilities, interactive workshops, and worldwide resources. Trudeau, the top ranked U.S. institute, offers housing for postdocs on 42 acres of lakeside property. "It is a really unique environment here ... it is almost like a science camp for adults," says Richard Robinson, a postdoc who has been at the Trudeau Institute more than two years.

Institutions would do well to listen to the intellectual and personal needs of their postdocs. "There's a small army of great postdocs behind every high achieving scientist," says Associate Editor Edyta Zielinska, who oversees the Best Places surveys. "Our survey is one of the few in the world to give postdocs a place to voice their concerns. And it highlights the institutions that do the most to nurture talented fellows."

The Top 15 U.S. Institutions:

1. Trudeau Institute, Saranac Lake, NY
2. Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, OK
3. Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, MA
4. Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, MA
5. Genentech, South San Francisco, CA
6. Rocky Mountain Laboratory, NIH, Hamilton, MT
7. University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO
8. Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, CA
9. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA
10. Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
11. Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, IL
12. J. David Gladstone Institutes, San Francisco, CA

13. The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME
14. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
15. Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle, WA

The Top 10 International Institutions:

1. Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Horsham, United Kingdom
2. University College London, United Kingdom
3. University of Dundee, United Kingdom
4. Umea University, Sweden
5. Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Basel, Switzerland
6. Biozentrum Basel, Basel, Switzerland
7. University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
8. Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciencia, Oeiras, Portugal
9. Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
10. University of Toronto, Canada

The full article with detailed survey results can be found in the March issue of The Scientist and is available online at www.the-scientist.com/bptw on February 25th, 2010.

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