

## Results of the "Best Places to Work in Academia 2006" Survey Announced

EMBARGOED UNTIL OCTOBER 1 – *The Scientist's* readers this year ranked St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee as the best place to work in US academia, according to the Best Places to Work in Academia 2006 survey results announced today. As an unnamed respondent from St. Jude put it, "The mission of our institution—treating children with cancer and finding new therapies for childhood diseases—is pervasive throughout the institution at all levels and inspires me to do a good job every day."

That jibes with what survey respondents voted the No. 1 factor in determining workplace satisfaction for the second year in a row: personal fulfillment. Peer relations, institutional management and tenure procedures also ranked among the most important factors, as determined by responses from more than 1,500 survey respondents, and institutions earning high marks in those categories took this year's top honors.

"We're proud to be able to provide this information to our readers year after year," said *The Scientist* publisher Richard Gallagher. "It's important for scientists to be able to tell their peers exactly how they feel about where they work." Survey results were published in the October issue of *The Scientist*.

The top 15 US academic institutions are:

1. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN
2. The J. David Gladstone Institutes, San Francisco, CA
3. Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
4. Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
5. Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI
6. Trudeau Institute, Saranac Lake, NY
7. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
8. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
9. Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA
10. National Institutes of Health, Bethesda/Rockville, MD
11. Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
12. University of Delaware, Newark, DE

13. Stanford University, Stanford, CA
14. Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
15. Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, St. Louis, MO

The top 10 UK academic institutions are:

1. University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England
2. University of Leicester, Leicester, England
3. Oxford University, Oxford, England
4. University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland
5. University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland
6. University of Manchester, Manchester, England
7. University of Nottingham, Nottingham, England
8. Imperial College London, London, England
9. University College London, London, England
10. King's College London, London, England

The top 5 Canadian academic institutions are:

1. Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
2. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta
3. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario
4. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia
5. University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

*The Scientist's* Best Places to Work survey series—including BPTW Academia, BPTW Postdocs, and BPTW Industry—is currently in its fourth year. Full results of the "Best Places to Work in Academia 2006" and other BPTW surveys are available online at [www.the-scientist.com/bptw](http://www.the-scientist.com/bptw). For press access to the site, or for more information about the survey series, please contact [bptw@the-scientist.com](mailto:bptw@the-scientist.com).

#### Survey Methodology

*The Scientist* posted a Web-based questionnaire and invited readers of *The Scientist* and registrants on The Scientist web site who identified themselves as tenured or tenure-track life scientists working in academia or other non-commercial research organizations to respond. We received 1,623 usable responses. We asked respondents to assess their working conditions and environments by indicating their level of agreement with 39 criteria in 8 different areas. They also indicated which factors were important to them. We ranked 58 institutions from the US, 7 from Canada, and 10 from the UK.

To calculate an institution's overall ranking, we first weighted each factor based on the average importance score. Because several factors that ranked as important in the United States are valued less elsewhere and vice versa, we used different factor weightings to rank US, Canadian, and UK institutions. The overall rankings are based

on the average score per institution from all respondents on all factors weighted according to their regional importance. Detailed information on the survey methodology is available on *The Scientist* website at [www.the-scientist.com/bptw](http://www.the-scientist.com/bptw). Our sample of scientists was self-selected, and we have made no attempt to standardize the results or to conduct detailed statistical analysis. Survey development and analysis were carried out by AMG Science Publishing (<http://www.amgpublishing.com>).

#### About *The Scientist*

First published in 1986, *The Scientist's* mission is to provide compelling print and online coverage of the latest developments in the life sciences including research, technology, careers and business. Our target audience is active researchers that are interested in maintaining a broad view of the life sciences by reading articles that are current, concise, accurate, entertaining and interactive. Our editorial and sales offices are located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

###