

PRESS RELEASE FROM NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP
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***Nature* recognises outstanding German mentors**

Klaas Bergmann, Heinrich Betz and Peer Bork will accept the 2008 Nature Awards for Mentoring in Science at a ceremony this evening at Bode Museum zu Berlin in Germany. The Awards will be presented by *Nature*, the leading weekly science journal.

The annual Nature Awards for Mentoring in Science, launched in 2005 to recognise outstanding scientific mentorship, focus on a specific country or countries each year. The 2008 awards invited nominations from Germany, with two prizes of €10,000 – one for mid-career and one for lifetime achievement. The panel of judges for the 2008 awards was chaired by Professor Dr Ulrike Beisiegel, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg.

"Much too often, good scientific mentoring is taken for granted and bad mentoring ignored. I'm delighted that we at *Nature* and our judges are able to highlight outstandingly good examples in Germany," said Dr Philip Campbell, Editor-in-Chief of *Nature*.

Klaas Bergmann and Heinrich Betz share the lifetime achievement award. Klaas Bergmann is a physicist and senior research professor at the Technical University of Kaiserslautern. His nomination was supported by scientists from 10 countries and the judges noted that support for his mentees was long-term "with an exceptional effort to [achieve] acknowledgement and appropriate positions after leaving his laboratory". Heinrich Betz is director of the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research in Frankfurt. The judges commented that Dr Betz was nominated by "very successful mentees who attest him an enormous energy for creative research and a special power in motivating young people."

Peer Bork received the mid-career award. Peer Bork is a senior scientist in the field of bioinformatics and is joint coordinator of the Structural and Computational Biology Unit at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg. According to the judges, those who nominated him "emphasized his exceptional leadership ability and enthusiastic and responsible way of mentoring."

The Nature Awards for Mentoring in Science will be awarded in a joint ceremony with the Georg von Holtzbrinck Prize for Science Journalism on October 23rd at 7.00 pm in the Bode Museum zu Berlin, Bodestraße 1-3, 10178 in Berlin - Mitte. Speakers at the ceremony include Dr. Annette Schavan, the Federal Minister of Education and Research for Germany, Prof. Peter Gruss, President of the Max Planck Society, Dr Philip Campbell, Editor-in-Chief of *Nature*, Dr. Stefan von Holtzbrinck, Chairman of the Georg von Holtzbrinck Publishing Group, and Prof. Parzinger, President of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz.

More information about the Nature Awards for Mentoring in Science is available at www.nature.com/nature/awards/mentorship/.

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Interview requests

Awardees Klaas Bergmann, Heinrich Betz and Peer Bork, and Philip Campbell, Editor-in-Chief of *Nature* will be available for phone interviews on on 23 Oct between 15:00-17:00 London/16:00-18:00 Berlin times. To arrange a time, please contact Grace Baynes or Ruth Francis:

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