

2008 Science Communication Awards Winners

The Biosciences Federation (BSF) presented its 2008 Science Communication Awards to flu researcher Ed Hutchinson, University of Cambridge, and ocean scientist Dr Jon Copley, University of Southampton, for their outstanding enthusiasm, commitment and innovation in communicating biological science to the public. Presentation of the awards was made at an event held on the 12th November at the Geological Society, London.



Ed Hutchinson came top of the New Researcher category, is studying the genetics of influenza A for a PhD at the University of Cambridge. Ed has employed a variety of different methods - including magazine articles, podcasts, radio programmes, short talks for schools, and practical science sessions - to take biology to a wide range of audiences. An approachable manner and the use of everyday objects as props have enabled Ed to cleverly tackle an assortment of subjects from the basics of DNA to complex virology. He has also covered such hot topics as Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), the importance of animal research, and the role of scientists and evolution. Ed was nominated by the Society for General Microbiology.

Dr Jon Copley, a marine ecology lecturer at the University of Southampton, won the Established Researcher category. In addition to working full-time as a successful lecturer and researcher, Jon writes popular science articles, gives public lectures, and talks to schools and science festival attendees about the diversity and balance of life in the world's seas. He is often interviewed by newspaper and magazine journalists and has featured on number of radio programmes and in television documentaries. Jon also draws on his experiences to provide others with valuable training in science communication: he runs courses for postdoctoral and PhD students at research establishments across the UK, often in his own free time. Jon was nominated by the Genetics Society.

