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LORD WINSTON WINS AVENTIS PRIZES FOR SCIENCE BOOKS JUNIOR PRIZE 2005

www.aventisprizes.com

Robert Winston, one of the UK's best known scientists and television presenter of hit shows such as the BBC's 'The Human Mind', has won the Aventis Prizes for Science Books Junior Prize 2005, with his first ever children's book – *What Makes Me, Me?* (Dorling Kindersley). The Aventis Prizes for Science Books are the world's most prestigious awards for popular science writing.

Robert Winston was thwarted from becoming the first person ever to win both the General Prize and Junior Prize when Philip Ball's 'Critical Mass' was named as the General Prize winner. Winston's book 'The Human Mind' was one of six books on the 2005 General Prize shortlist.

Lord May of Oxford, President of the Royal Society and Dr Dirk Oldenburg, Chairman of the Board of Management of the Aventis Foundation, presented the £10,000 prize to Winston at an award ceremony at the Royal Society in London.

A judging panel, chaired by presenter and on screen expert for BBC TV's Teen Angels and Little Angels programmes Dr.Tanya Byron, selected a shortlist of six titles before handing over the final judging decision to 800 young people in 75 groups across the UK.

Commenting on *What Makes Me, Me?* Melis, aged 12, said: "The subjects were interesting and it was easy to understand. I didn't close the book until it was done."

"What makes the book different is that there are so many quizzes you can take and you can do them with your family too. It is a book for everyone. It is really fun and interesting." said Marischen, aged 14.

Dr. Tanya Byron said: “‘What Makes Me, Me?’ is exceptional. Not only are children fascinated with the subject matter but Lord Winston keeps them stimulated with interactive features such as quizzes and tests, that can be done alone or with others. My congratulations to Lord Winston on a fantastic book.”

Lord May of Oxford, President of the Royal Society said: “The Royal Society is delighted that the prizes are generating a greater interest in science amongst young people and the public at large. The books competing for the 2005 Junior Prize play an enormously important role in stimulating the imagination and capturing the interest of the younger generation in science and its achievements.”

The Aventis Prizes for Science Books were set-up seventeen years ago to celebrate, reward and draw attention to the fantastic popular science writing available to inspire both children and adults.

What Makes Me, Me unravels how biology and experience make each person individually themselves. Questions such as ‘why do we have hairy fingers?’, ‘which of my parents is to blame for my fear of spiders?’ and ‘why are some people left handed?’ are all debated and discussed. A revolutionary design and user-friendly text tell the story of the human mind and body from a child’s point of view, while the tests help children to see how the information relates back to themselves.

The shortlist for the 2005 Junior Prize was:

Kingfisher Knowledge: Endangered Planet – David Burnie (*Kingfisher*)

Mysteries and Marvels of Science – Phillip Clarke, Laura Howell & Sarah Khan (*Usborne*)

Leap Through Time: Earthquake – Nicholas Harris (*Orpheus*)

Night Sky Atlas – Robin Scagell (*Dorling Kindersley*)

Kingfisher Knowledge: Microscopic Life – Richard Walker (*Kingfisher*)

What Makes Me, Me? – Robert Winston (*Dorling Kindersley*)

The judges for the 2005 Aventis Prizes for Science Books Junior Prize were:

Tanya Byron, BBC presenter and consultant clinical psychologist (**chair**)

Jim Al-Khalili, theoretical nuclear physicist and popular science author

Nick Arnold, author and winner of the Junior Prize 2004

Frances Dipper, marine biologist and winner of the Junior Prize 2003

Simon Pugh-Jones, award-winning secondary-school teacher

The adult judging panel select the longlist and shortlist from which a winner is collectively chosen by 75 groups of young people across the UK. The Prizes work with ecsite-uk, the science and discovery centre network, to involve 800 young people from groups at science centres, libraries and youth groups, sciZmic, Young Engineers and the BA clubs, and schools including Royal Society Partnership Grant recipients.

The Aventis Prizes for Science Books are managed by The Royal Society, the UK national academy of science, and generously supported by the Aventis Foundation, a German charitable trust established by a predecessor of sanofi-aventis, a world leader in pharmaceuticals.

For more information on the Aventis Prizes for Science Books please visit the website at www.aventisprizes.com.

Notes to Editors

Young Judges

To find out about which groups participated in the junior judging process please visit http://www.aventisprizes.com/prizes2005_yngjudges.htm

About The Royal Society

The Royal Society is an independent academy promoting the natural and applied sciences. Founded in 1660, the Society has three roles, as the UK academy of science, as a learned Society and as a funding agency. It responds to individual demand with selection by merit not by field. The Society's aims are to:

- strengthen UK science by providing support to excellent individuals
- fund excellent research to push back the frontiers of knowledge
- attract and retain the best scientists
- ensure the UK engages with the best science around the world
- support science communication and education; and communicate and encourage dialogue with the public
- provide the best independent advice nationally and internationally
- promote scholarship and encourage research into the history of science

For more information, visit the web site at www.royalsoc.ac.uk

About The Aventis Foundation

The Aventis Foundation is generously supporting the Aventis Prizes for Science Books.

The Aventis Foundation is a German charitable trust established by a predecessor of sanofi-aventis, a world leader in pharmaceuticals. The Aventis Foundation serves to promote music, theatre, art and literature, projects in the social and political arena with a focus on healthcare, as well as science, research and higher education. For more information visit the website at www.aventis-foundation.org

About sanofi-aventis

The sanofi-aventis Group is the world's 3rd largest pharmaceutical company, ranking number 1 in Europe. Backed by a world-class R&D organization, sanofi-aventis is developing leading positions in seven major therapeutic areas: cardiovascular disease, thrombosis, oncology, diabetes, central nervous system, internal medicine, vaccines. The sanofi-aventis Group is listed in Paris (EURONEXT : SAN) and in New York (NYSE : SNY).

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