

15<sup>th</sup> March, 2005

## SHORT-LIST REVEALED FOR 2005 AVENTIS PRIZES FOR SCIENCE BOOKS JUNIOR PRIZE

[www.aventisprizes.com](http://www.aventisprizes.com)

Winner announced 12<sup>th</sup> May 2005

The Royal Society has announced the short-list for this year's Aventis Prizes for Science Books Junior Prize, which celebrates the very best in science writing for children and young adults. The Aventis Prizes are the world's most prestigious awards for popular science writing.

The six books that have made it to the short-list are:

**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 short-list was announced by Nick Arnold, winner of the Junior Prize in 2004 and a member of the judging panel for this year's awards, at a reception at the London Book Fair on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

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

**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

This year's short-list honours a diverse range of books, covering topics as broad as microscopic bugs to nurturing and protecting the earth. Robert Winston's first book

for children 'What Makes Me, Me?' makes it onto the short-list. His book 'The Human Mind' has also been long-listed for the General Prize.

"This year's Aventis Prizes for Science Books Junior Prize short-list ranges from the minutiae of insects to the broad sweep of the future of our planet and what makes us, us!" commented Dr. Tanya Bryon, chair of the Junior Prize judges. "Not bad for six books."

The Junior Prize is awarded to the best book written for under-14s and for the fourth year running, the Aventis Prizes has teamed up with ecsite-uk, the national network of science and discovery centres. Children aged up to 14 in 70 Junior Judging Panels in schools, libraries, science centres, and science clubs across the country will be selecting the winner from the six short-listed books.

The Prizes are managed by the Royal Society, the UK national academy of science and are generously supported by the Aventis Foundation, a German charitable trust established by a predecessor of sanofi-aventis, a world leader in pharmaceuticals. Now in their 17<sup>th</sup> year, a total of £30,000 is awarded to the Prizes' winners and short-listed authors.

For more information on the Aventis Prizes for Science Books please visit the website at [www.aventisprizes.com](http://www.aventisprizes.com).

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **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](http://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](http://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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