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## LONGLISTS ANNOUNCED FOR TOP SCIENCE BOOK PRIZES

~ Aventis Prizes judging panel urges an increase in women science writers ~  
[www.aventisprizes.com](http://www.aventisprizes.com)

**Winners Announced: 14 June 2004**

The Royal Society has today announced the General and Junior longlists for the Aventis Prizes for Science Books 2004, which celebrate the very best in popular science writing for adults and children.

A five-strong judging panel, chaired by Professor Robert Winston, selected a longlist of fifteen titles for the General Prize.

The longlisted books for the General Prize are:

- **Galileo's Finger** By Peter Atkins (*Oxford University Press*)
- **The Essential Difference** By Simon Baron-Cohen (*Penguin: Allen Lane*)
- **In the Beginning was the Worm** By Andrew Brown (*Simon & Schuster*)
- **A Short History of Nearly Everything** By Bill Bryson (*Doubleday/Transworld*)
- **Magic Universe** By Nigel Calder (*Oxford University Press*)
- **A Brief History of Infinity** By Brian Clegg (*Constable & Robinson*)
- **Freedom Evolves** By Daniel C Dennett (*Penguin: Allen Lane*)
- **Sex, Botany & Empire** By Patricia Fara (*Icon Books*)
- **Mutants** By Armand Marie Leroi (*Penguin: Viking USA*)
- **After the Ice** By Steven Mithen (*Weidenfeld & Nicolson*)
- **How to Clone the Perfect Blonde** By Sue Nelson and Richard Hollingham (*Ebury Press*)
- **Nature via Nurture** By Matt Ridley (*Fourth Estate*)
- **Einstein's Refrigerator** By Gino Segre (*Penguin: Allen Lane*)
- **Backroom Boys** By Francis Spufford (*Faber & Faber*)
- **Adam's Curse** By Bryan Sykes (*Bantam Press*)

**Professor Robert Winston comments:** "The judging process has so far proven to be an enlightening experience. The diversity of themes has been most fascinating, covering everything from the history of infinity to evolution and issues surrounding the gender debate. My fellow judges and I found it to be an extremely enjoyable experience to debate each of the entries but difficult to agree on a longlist because of the sheer number of outstanding entries, in fact the highest number of entries ever. In future, we hope to see an increase in the number of submissions from women science writers, which seemed to be in short supply this year."

The judging panel for the General Prize consists of Professor Robert Winston (Professor of Fertility Studies at Imperial College London - chair), Terry Pratchett OBE (author), Sunetra Gupta (reader in epidemiology at the University of Oxford and author), Daniel Glaser (neuroscientist at University College London and former scientist in residence at the Institute Of Contemporary Art) and Emma Read (commissioning editor for Discovery Channel Europe).

Time, weather, oceans and optical illusions are just a few of the subjects covered in the longlist for the Junior Prize, which is awarded for the best book for under 14s. A judging panel chaired by CBBC presenter, Kate Heavenor, longlisted fourteen individual and thought-provoking titles.

The longlisted books for the Junior Prize are:

- **The Beginning: Voyages Through Time** By Peter Ackroyd (*Dorling Kindersley*)
- **Really Rotten Experiments** By Nick Arnold & Tony De Saulles (*Scholastic Children's Books*)
- **A Drop In The Ocean: The Story Of Water**, By Jacqui Bailey & Lilly Matthew (*A & C Black*)
- **Mysteries & Marvels of Nature** By Elizabeth Dalby (*Usborne*)
- **Riotous Robots** By Mike Goldsmith (*Scholastic Children's Books*)
- **The Science of Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*** By John Gribben & Mary Gribben (*Hodder*)
- **Big Numbers** By John Gribben & Mary Gribben (*Icon Books*)
- **Forces and Motion** By Sally Hewitt (*Chrysalis Children's Book*)
- **Introduction to Weather & Climate Change** By Laura Howell (*Usborne*)
- **Optical Illusions** By Duncan Muir (*Chrysalis Children's Books*)
- **Who Lives In Space?** By Clare Oliver (*Chrysalis Children's Books*)
- **Eureka!** By Richard Platt (*Kingfisher*)
- **In the Rainforest** By Peter Riley (*Hodder Wayland*)
- **Artificial Intelligence** By Anne Rooney (*Chrysalis Children's Books*)

**Kate Heavenor comments:** 'The level of exceptional entries made our task of selecting the longlist extremely tough. The titles selected are unique in style and cover a broad range of subject matter from robots to space to climate change. The titles are highly informative and we are very much looking forward to discussing the shortlist.'

For the third year running, the Aventis Prizes have teamed up with SciZmic, the national network for science clubs. Children aged up to 14 from 60 science clubs around the country, will be selecting the winner of the Junior Prize, from a shortlist selected by the Junior Prize judging panel.

The judges for the Junior Prize 2004 Aventis Prizes For Science Books are Kate Heavenor (presenter of Eureka TV on CBBC), Jacqueline Wilson (children's author), Professor Heinz Wolff (television presenter and Professor of Bioengineering at Brunel University), Mark Evans (veterinarian and TV Presenter on the Discovery Channel) and Abdul-Hayee Murshad (deputy head teacher of Hermitage Primary School, London).

The Aventis Prizes 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 Aventis, a world leader in pharmaceuticals.

The winning authors of the Junior and General Prize will each receive £10,000 whilst £1,000 will be awarded to each of the shortlisted authors. The winners will be announced at a ceremony at The Royal Society in London on 14 June 2004.

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#### **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 ([www.aventis-foundation.org](http://www.aventis-foundation.org)) is a German charitable trust established by Aventis, a world leader in pharmaceuticals. The Aventis Foundation serves to promote music, theater, art and literature, projects in the social and political arena with a focus on healthcare, as well as science, research and higher education. It was established in 1996 as the Hoechst Foundation and was renamed the Aventis Foundation in 2000, following the merger of Hoechst, its founder, with Rhône-Poulenc which created Aventis. Aventis is a global pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, markets and manufactures branded prescription drugs and human vaccines to protect and improve the quality of life of patients around the world. For more information visit the website at [www.aventis-foundation.org](http://www.aventis-foundation.org) and [www.aventis.co.uk](http://www.aventis.co.uk)

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