

## **DEVELOPING FASCINATION IN SCIENCE – CHANCES AND CHALLENGES**

Zbigniew L. Pianowski

Institut de Science et d'Ingenierie Supramoleculaires  
Universite Louis Pasteur  
8, allée Gaspard Monge, 67000 Strasbourg, France

In the course of my talk I would like to show some of the key points at the beginning of a scientific career. Following passionate teachers from the early stage of education opens for students a way to develop outstanding skills. Organizations supporting talented scholars can very effectively improve that process by exchange of ideas among the young people as well as between them and academic staff, creating an extremely intellectually stimulating environment. Such a contribution is far more effective than any direct financial support of single talents would ever be.

Such an experience for gifted teenagers is of great importance when the way and the form of academic studies is to be chosen. While hardly any talent is restricted only to one department, interfaculty studies are a very interesting alternative to the regular ones. Although in that moment there is usually a scientific tutor to be found directing the general passion towards certain scientific problems and investigations, the more wide and general background than usually is gathered, being of high importance when an independent research career will begin. Creating opportunities to perform doctoral studies with scientists working on the most recent scientific issues is the logical consequence of investing money and effort in the previous steps of education. For such young PhD people there is usually no other motivation but interesting research.

I will mention the existing European institutions which effectively stimulate young students and points where, in my opinion, the help is insufficient yet.

As science does not happen 'in vacuo', scientists are an important part of every local society. Apart from the research work and literature knowledge, the scholars should be also familiar with basic ethical and cultural issues to become in the future not only highly qualified workers, but real leaders and examples for their apprentices.