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by **Matthew Herper**, Forbes Staff

Science and medicine, and believe this is biology's century.

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Rising Stars Of Science: The Forbes 30 Under 30

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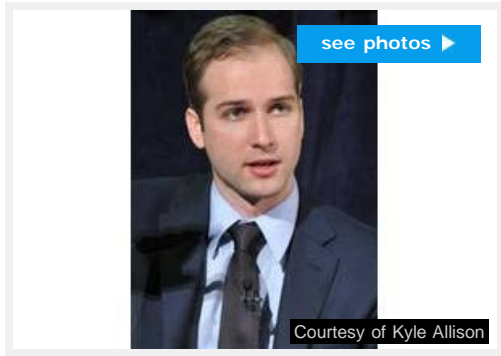
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The assignment seemed impossible – even if you had to find 30 scientists under age 30 who were lighting in the pages of Forbes.

Sure, even if you had to find 30 or 40 stars every year, but the cross across a far broader swath. I wasn't to include too many tech companies – there was another list of 30 being assembled for tech. The idea was that, as part of Forbes' first 30 Under 30 project, we would be putting together not one but 12 different lists of rising stars in fields including not only science and tech but also energy, finance, art, music and law.



see photos

Courtesy of Kyle Allison

Click for full photo gallery: 30 Under 30: Science



Daniela Witten, statistician

The problem with this, as any graduate student or postdoctoral fellow will eagerly tell you, is that nobody makes it in science by age 30 anymore. Sure, Nobel Prize Winning Physicists like Frank Wilczek or Richard Feynman made their mark that young. But these days, making a contribution requires coming to understand more specialized information that ever before, not to mention a need

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Matthew Herper

Forbes Staff

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I believe this is biology's century. I've covered science and medicine for Forbes from the Human Genome Project through Vioxx to the blossoming DNA technology changing the world today. [Email me](#), follow me on [Twitter](#), circle me on [Google Plus](#).

to get your hands on expensive gadgets like DNA sequencers and particle accelerators. Nobody in science makes it by age 30 anymore. That's what I told my editors.

I was wrong. This list, assembled with help from geneticist and cardiologist Eric Topol of the Scripps Research Institute, physicist Lisa Randall of [Harvard University](#), and genomics technologist Stephen Quake of Stanford, shows how even in this day and age some researchers manage to make their mark young. There's Daniela Witten (highlighted in a photo spread in Forbes Magazine), developing new statistical tools to understand genetic data that could someday lead to new treatments for disease, and Christina Fan, who already developed a blood test for Down's syndrome that is moving toward the market. There's MIT physicist Jeremy England, working to understand the basic physics behind biological processes like protein folding. There are researchers from [Intel](#), [IBM](#), [GlaxoSmithKline](#), and Genentech developing everything from nanotech to new ways to diagnose cancer.

Jean Baptiste-Michel, a researcher at [Google](#) and Harvard who has been using giant databases of books, even told me that the age 30 cut off wasn't so crazy – in most fields, many people whose names eventually wind up in the dictionary do make their mark by age 30. Except maybe science. Especially not physics and math. (More on that [in this post](#).) Well, whatever. These 30 are beating the odds. See more in the photo gallery above, or read the [whole list on one page here](#). For a look at the complete [30 Under 30 project](#), go [here](#).



Physicist Jeremy England

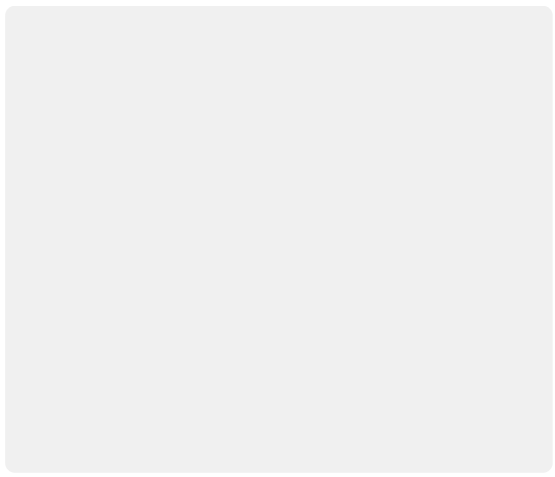
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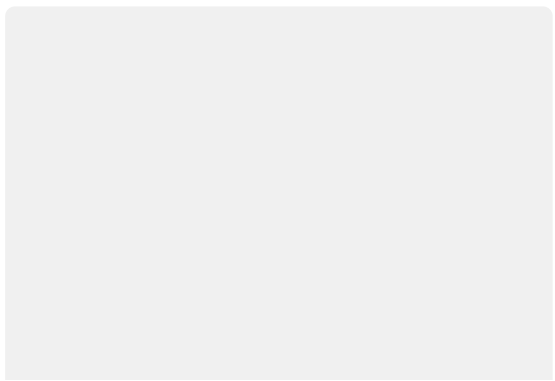
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