



RICH AND FAMOUS



Dr Martin
Westwell

Science isn't such a bad route to fame and fortune. You might discover something amazing and find yourself in the media spotlight!

If you are really after immortality you will want to win a Nobel Prize. These are awarded for original groundbreaking work. Others will honour you too; the chemical element Curium was named after Marie Curie and her husband Pierre. If you devise a theory you can put your own name to it and keep your fingers crossed no one comes up with a better one for the next few hundred years. To really make a fortune invent something that everyone wants.

Dr Martin Westwell runs a research programme aimed at discovering drugs to cure brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. If his company cracks it and produces a winning drug it could help millions of people and make a lot of money.

He says

"I didn't have a scientific upbringing, but my dad is an electrician and I developed a desire to find out how things worked from him.

"I studied physics, chemistry, maths, design and English GCSEs at my local comprehensive school. My A-levels were in physics, chemistry and maths. I then studied natural science at university before starting my PhD in chemistry.

"What I love about my job is seeing the big picture - finding a cure for diseases like Alzheimer's - and the rush when you get a good result from an experiment. You just want to run around and tell everyone!

"I think I'm lucky because I get great satisfaction from my job and it pays well too! I also don't have to work weekends like some of my friends from school.

"In the future I would like people to remember me as being part of the team that - I hope - cured Alzheimer's disease".

If you want to find out more about what Martin and the rest of his team get up to check out his company's website at www.synaptica-research.com.

The Institute of Biomedical Science can also give you help and advice about a career in biomedical science. Their website is www.ibms.org or you can telephone them on **020 7713 0214**.