

## Five Young Scientist winners who made it big

Ireland's Young Scientists competition, now called the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition, has had many brilliant winners since its start in 1965. Here we look at five previous winners who set the world on fire.



### Patrick Collison

Limerick native Patrick Collison won the competition in 2005 at the tender age of 16. With success under his belt and ambition in his heart, he moved to the US and, at the age of 19, sold his first software company, Auctomatic (which he founded with his younger brother John) for €3 million. Not bad for someone who [legally] couldn't buy a beer in the States at the time. Not content with being two of the youngest self-made Irish millionaires ever, the Collison brothers then founded [Stripe](#), an online payment company valued at over \$5 billion. The brothers are on course not only to change the way people pay for things online but to [help more SMEs](#) sell online and usher in the era of global mobile eCommerce.

### John Monaghan

The first ever Young Scientist winner hasn't done too badly for himself either. After winning the inaugural trophy way back in 1965, by building a working model of the human stomach, Kildare native John Monaghan ended up moving to California when the biotech industry was still in its infancy. Here, he founded Avigen Inc. As CEO of his firm, he raised nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in financing, and the NASDAQ-listed company is now a leader in the US pharmaceutical industry.



### **Adnan Osmani**

Mullingar-born and reared, Adnan Osmani claimed the 2003 title with his project, the XWebs browser, which he subsequently patented. Addy, as he is known to his 120,000 Twitter followers and friends, is a Youtube star with his show *Totally Tooling Tips*. As well as being a key influencer in the world of software development, Addy is currently working as an engineer for Google to "make building apps on the web easier", and has written two books, *Learning Javascript Design Patterns* and *Backbone.js Apps*. You can follow him on Twitter @addyosmani.

### **Micheal Og O'Brien**

He may not be Tom Crean, but Michael has been on quite a few expeditions into the Arctic to study the Irish Brent Goose, so that's quite cool, right? An adventurous zoologist from Dublin, O'Brien is a member of the environmental directorate of the European Union, making him responsible for nature conservation right across the EU. The Dubliner has come a long way since his study on 'The Conservation of the Rogerstown Estuary in Dublin' scooped him the Young Scientist top prize back in 1977.



### **Sarah Flannery Barthelet**

Sarah Flannery from Blarney in Cork was just 16 when she won in 1999 with her project on cryptography. In 2001, Flannery wrote a book on the subject called *In Code*. She then went on to help found the games company Tirnua before it was acquired in 2010 by Californian outfit

RockYou. A University of Cambridge graduate, she is currently touring the world with her husband on their yacht the *Makena*, so I guess you could say things have gone pretty well since wowing the judges in the RDS back in the late 90s.

*Pictured (main image) are the winners of the 2015 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition, Ian O'Sullivan and Eimear Murphy, on the way to Milan today to compete in the European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS).*

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