SCIENTIST BECOMES PLUMBER

Dr Karl Gensberg has a diploma (PhD) in molecular biology and has conducted significant studies into arthritis and cancer.

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But after ten years as a university researcher, he is abandoning his academic career... to become a gas fitter.

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Karl Gensberg, a 41-year-old father of one, believes he can more than double his £23,000 annual earnings by exchanging 15... his lab coat and test tubes for a

boiler suit and a tool kit.

The Birmingham University scientist reached his life-changing 20... decision after asking a plumber to fit a boiler at his home. The plumber thought Dr Gensberg's PhD was a guarantee of a good income.

"I showed him my payslip and he was stunned," said Dr

25... Gensberg "He said he earned £33,000 a year and some of his mates could bring home double the amount I was paid. He added that the plumbers who were

30... prepared to be on call around the clock for emergency work can double that figure.

"That made me realise just how 35... bad my job is. I was not only undervalued but underpaid as well."

"I love molecular biology and I am passionate about the 40... research but enough is enough. I have got a family to support and although I love the job I can't continue with it."

Then Dr Gensberg decided to start training as a gas fitter. He will begin his new career next year.

Adapted from the *Daily Mail* February 24, 2004