

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Dr Aarti Sehdev
Neurobiologist

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Hi there! I am Dr Aarti Sehdev – A neurobiologist



Where do I work?

I work in a laboratory at Yale University in Connecticut, USA.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

At school I really enjoyed studying biology, chemistry and maths. I also really liked learning languages, which has helped me to do further studies for my job in different countries.

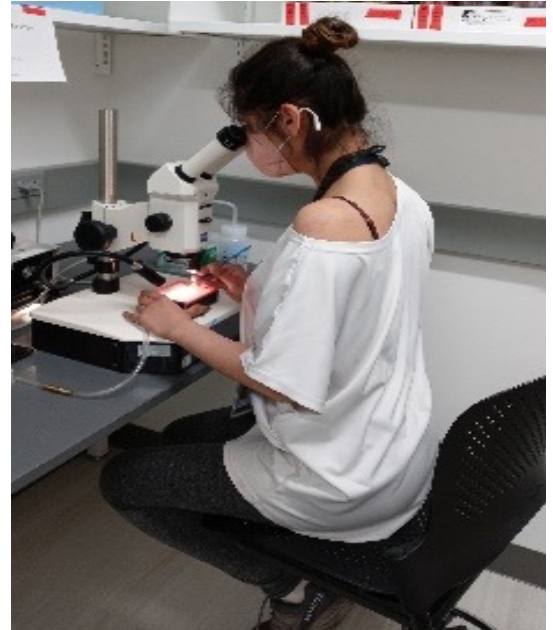
What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love to work out and take my dog out for walks. I also enjoy drawing, reading and playing video games.

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What do I do as a neurobiologist?

I study the brains of insects (like bees) and how they process different smells, such as food odours. I spend my time in a laboratory, doing experiments and analysing this information on my computer. I also go to meetings to tell other neurobiologists about my results.



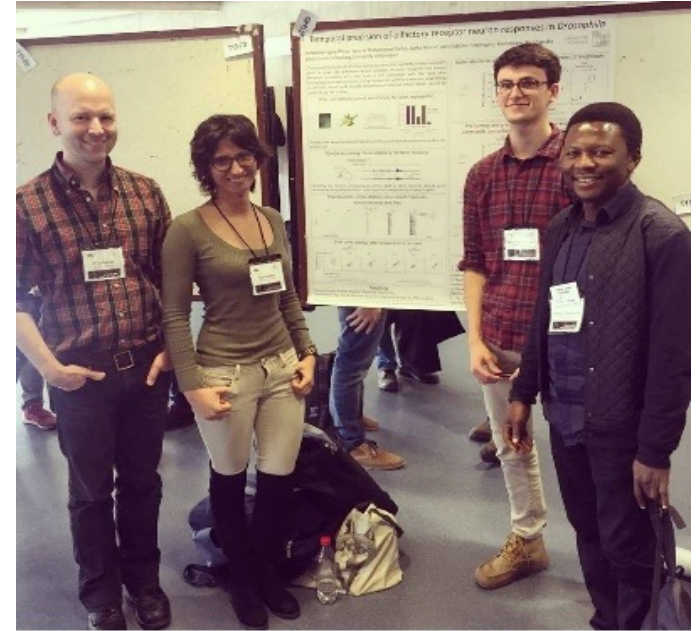
How does what I do make the world a better place?

Insect smell is important for us to survive. Insects use smell both to help and hurt us. Bees use smell to find a plant to pollinate, whereas mosquitoes use smell to find a human to bite. Understanding how insects smell odours can help us to provide food and prevent disease.

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What I like about my job

I love that being a scientist gives me lots of opportunities to travel, for example, to give talks and visit other labs. Because of this, I get to make a lot of friends from all over the world! Also, being a scientist means that you constantly get to learn new and exciting things.



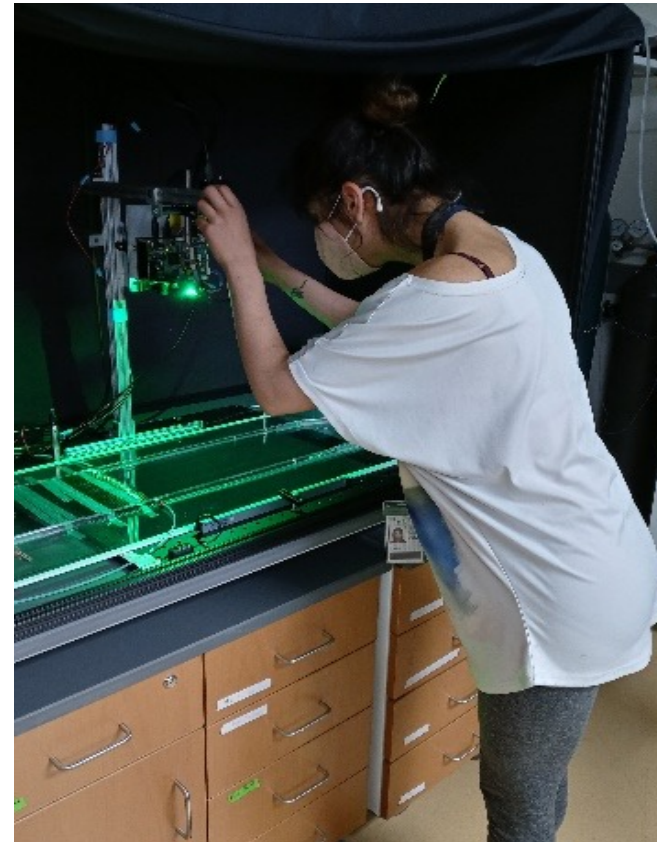
Challenges I have faced

Being a scientist can be hard as sometimes experiments do not work out, which feels disappointing, but you have to keep trying new ideas. I also often work long hours at the computer, which can be tiring.

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If you want to be a neurobiologist, you need:

- ✳️ **to enjoy learning new things**, such as new technology and skills
- ✳️ **to be creative** - science makes progress because people like you have new ideas!
- ✳️ **to enjoy working with others** - working together helps scientists to make a better world for everyone
- ✳️ **to be positive!** Sometimes things work, sometimes they don't. Positivity helps you to keep moving forwards in the difficult times



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a neurobiologist like Dr Aarti Sehdev?

Why? Why not?

- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a neurobiologist?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



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Free supporting resources for neurobiology

[I bet you didn't know...](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. There are currently no articles about research on animal brains but you may be interested in these articles about bees:

- Bees and caterpillars can change the evolution of plants
- What is happening to the bees

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

