

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Dr Ahna Skop
Cell Biologist

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Hi there! I am Dr Ahna Skop – A cell biologist



Where do I work?

I work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the United States.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I loved biology, art, French language, field trips, and entering science competitions.

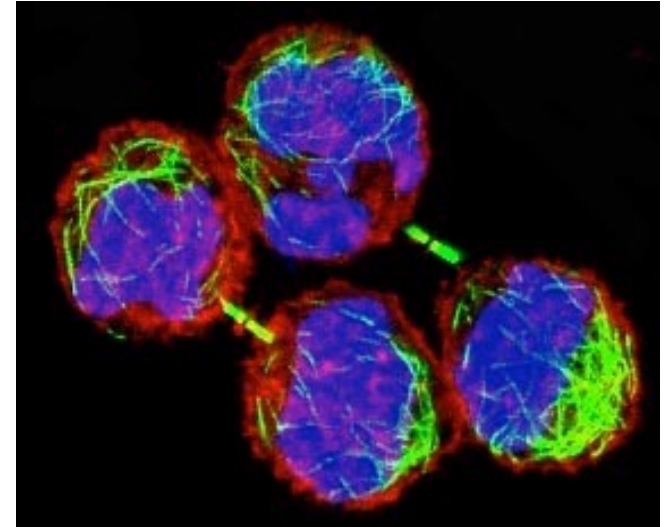
What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love cooking and baking. I bake science cakes based on my research! I like travelling and trying new foods and taking cooking classes in different countries. I also do art, love to swim and do gardening.

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What do I do as a cell biologist?

I run a research lab where I train students to become scientists or science artists. I do research on cancer and stem cells. My lab primarily works with very powerful microscopes and we look at cells dividing. I also create science art installations to get the public excited about science.



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

As a professor, scientist and artist, I change lives by mentoring young students to be scientists and science artists. I make science art with my students to help make science more accessible to the public and to delight in the beauty of science.

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What I like about my job



The best thing about my job is the students and the interaction with the public as a scientist. I always get so excited to see smiles when people like the science art installations and see the beautiful cells we work with too!

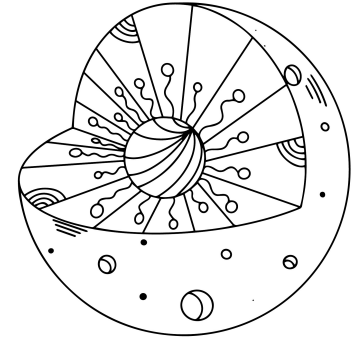
Challenges I have faced

I grew up in a low-income home and our family didn't have much money even for lunch. I had to get a special coupon to buy lunch which I was embarrassed about. I also had to work a lot in college to pay for my food and housing. But now that I look back, I realise that living in poverty taught me to be resilient in the face of adversity.

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If you want to be a cell biologist, you need:

- ★ **creativity:** using your unique perspective, skills, and gifts to think of new ideas
- ★ **curiosity:** seek to understand the world around you
- ★ **to communicate:** to be able to tell others about your work (visually, verbally and orally)
- ★ **passion:** so it will fuel you when things don't work straight away



N is for Nucleus



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a cell biologist like Dr Ahna Skop?

Why? Why not?



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

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Free supporting resources for cell biology



Dr Ahna Skop is a STEM Ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

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. See:

- Blood tests could detect cancers
- Dragons could save us from bad bacteria
- Bacteria get viral infections as well
- How to grow a new skin

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

