

A SCIENTIST just like me



Broc Drury
Immunologist

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Hi there! I am Broc Drury – an immunologist



Where do I work?

I work in the Queens Medical Research Institute near the Royal Infirmary Hospital in Edinburgh. I work within the Centre for Inflammation Research.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I loved biology more than anything else. I loved to learn how my body works! I also liked maths and chemistry as well as sport and art.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I am a triathlete, which means I swim, cycle and run, all in the same race! I also like to travel, play music and read.

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What do I do as an immunologist?

I help to come up with new experiments to figure out how the body defends itself against viruses and bacteria. My job involves doing experiments with cells and bodily fluids in the lab. Lots of scientists write about their work and give presentations so others can learn – I share my work with other immunologists and we discuss exciting new findings!



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

Understanding our immune system allows us to protect ourselves better from diseases like Covid-19. Immunologists are responsible for making vaccines such as the vaccine against Covid-19.

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What I like about my job



The best parts of my job are reading about what other people have discovered in immunology and thinking about how my work might help people fight disease. All this helps improve the lives of people who have pain or disability due to a problem with their immune system.

Challenges I have faced

I wasn't naturally the smartest or the most popular person in my class and this made growing up very difficult for me throughout school. However, I learnt that working hard and following what I found interesting, got me to where I wanted to be and made me happy.

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If you want to be an immunologist, you need:

- ✳️ **imagination and creativity** to come up with different ways to understand how the body works
- ✳️ **curiosity** about how the body works and what happens during disease
- ✳️ **courage** to ask questions - often the people who go further are those who ask good questions
- ✳️ **patience** because science can be frustrating. Accepting things might not go the way you want them to is very important and all you can do is try again.



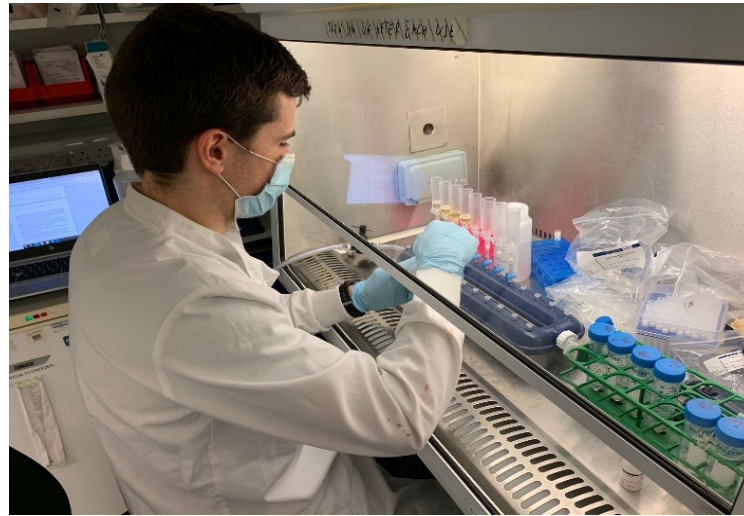
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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be an immunologist like Broc Drury ?

Why? Why not?

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



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Free supporting resources for immunology

Science At Work – see ‘Meet two doctors’, a chance to meet a viral immunologist and a hospital doctor.

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:

- Dragons could save us from bad bacteria
- Catching flu might depend on the type of place in which you live
- Bacteria get viral infections as well

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