

A SCIENTIST just like me



Ntombizodwa Makuyana
Immunologist

A SCIENTIST just like me

**Hi there! I am Ntombizodwa Makuyana –
an immunologist**

Where do I work?

I work at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge, where I research lungs and viral infections such as flu.



What did I like doing when I was at school?

I liked doing science experiments. I have always been fascinated with how things are built and how they work.

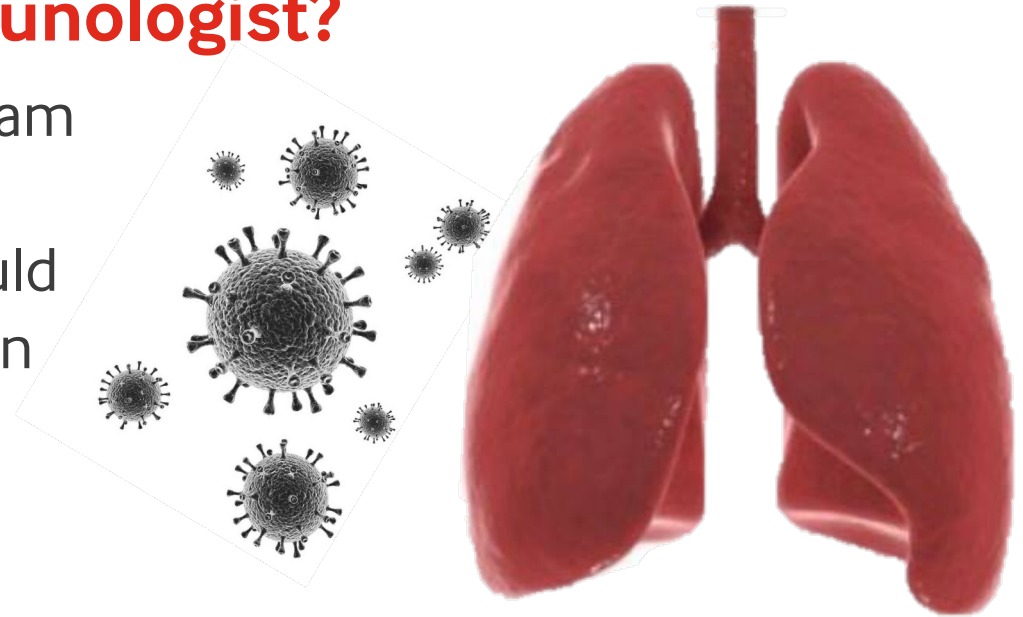
What do I like doing in my spare time?

I cook, dance, and sing. One of my favourite shows is Bill Nye Saves the World, and I love watching football.

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

What do I do as an immunologist?

I study the lungs. Currently, I am working on minimising the damage to the lungs that could happen during a viral infection such as flu. If people's lungs become damaged it makes it harder for them to breathe.



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

My work helps us to learn more about viral infections so we can save people's lives. My research is crucial in times like the pandemic caused by covid-19 as it helps develop an understanding of the functioning of lungs and the processes that happen in them.

A SCIENTIST just like me

What I like about my job

I like the flexibility of my job and that I can use my creativity and imagination. It is fulfilling to be part of team efforts that are changing people's lives for the better.



Challenges I have faced

I grew up in a society where education of boys is prioritised. From an early age, girls are taught house chores in preparation to be great housewives. Also, coming from an economically disadvantaged background, I had to study hard to gain scholarships and show my society that girls can dream beyond the kitchen door.

A SCIENTIST just like me

If you want to be an Immunologist, you need:

- ✱ **to be interested** in things and to be motivated or have the desire to study something in depth.
- ✱ **to be curious** and ask lots of questions.
- ✱ **to practise doing science** even if they are little experiments at home, (with adult supervision of course). These could help you to understand the processes involved in experiments.



A SCIENTIST just like me

Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be an immunologist like Ntombizodwa Makuyana?

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?



A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

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. These articles explain more about microbes:

- 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

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

