

A SCIENTIST just like me



Letizia Delle Vedove
Molecular biologist

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Hi there! I am Letizia Delle Vedove – A molecular biologist



Where do I work?

I study and work at the University of Aberdeen, in Scotland, where I am learning how to be an expert scientist.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

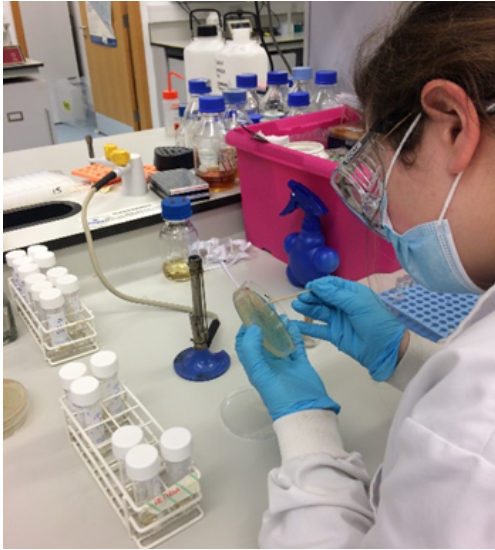
My favourite school subject was art, and I wasn't thinking then about being a scientist! But I liked biology so decided to learn more about it.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I like to cross-stitch, crochet and bake. I like reading with the cat on my legs, going on long walks and watch ballet whenever I can.

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What do I do as a molecular biologist?



A molecular biologist studies what is happening in living things by looking closely at molecules which are the tiny things they are made of. I investigate proteins in microbes to see how they are made. Microbes are things like bacteria, viruses and yeast. My work involves looking at the proteins in the yeast that bakers use.

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

It is important to have well made proteins: some of them are needed as medicines, like insulin, and need to be made perfectly. It is also important to understand why proteins do not assemble well, so that we know why some diseases appear.

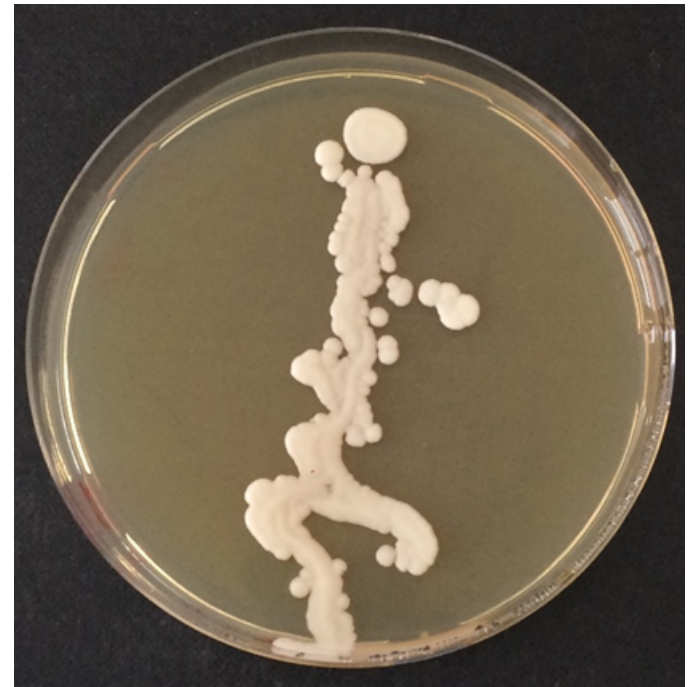
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What I like about my job

Working with microbes is fun, you get to feed them and name them too! You also get to study things that are invisible to the naked eye, but you learn techniques that allow you to see them. I always get very excited when this happens!

Challenges I have faced

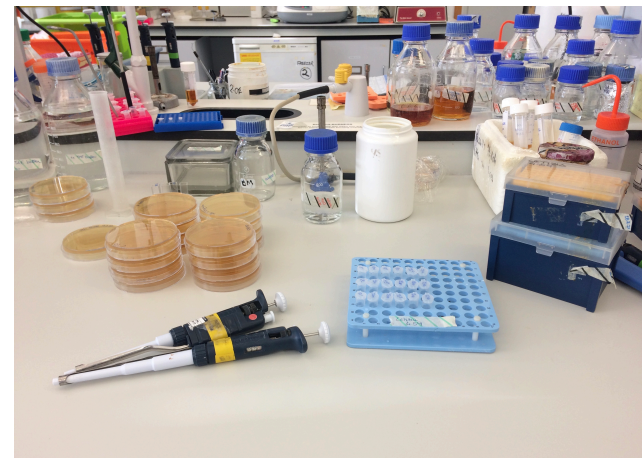
The most difficult thing has been moving so far away from Italy, where I am from, but I left with all the support I needed from my family and friends. Because English is not my first language, I struggled a little with some new science words when I moved here.



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

- ✱ to **be curious** as you'll have to ask yourself and others lots of questions
- ✱ to **get excited** about little or odd things, because anything you observe might be important
- ✱ to **like telling stories**: a scientist is a special storyteller, who tells what happens without inventing anything!
- ✱ to **enjoy cooking!** A kitchen is nothing other than a lab!

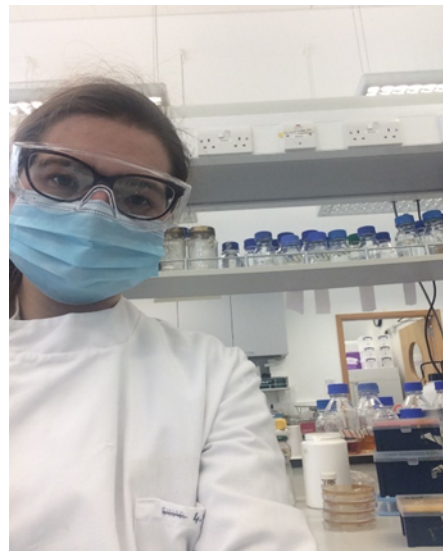


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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a molecular biologist like Letizia Delle Vedove?

Why? Why not?



Yeast food recipe

- 2g of sugar
- 1g of baking powder
- 2g of gelatin
- 2g of milk (powder)
- water to 100ml

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

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Letizia Delle Vedove is a STEM Ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

Free supporting resources for molecular biology

[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 research on microbes:

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

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