

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Danielle Johnson
Clinical Scientist in Neurophysiology

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Hi there! I am Danielle Johnson – a clinical scientist in neurophysiology



Where do I work?

I work in the Clinical Neurophysiology Department at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I loved biology and learning about the human body. I also enjoyed English, History and PE and I was in the netball and athletics teams.

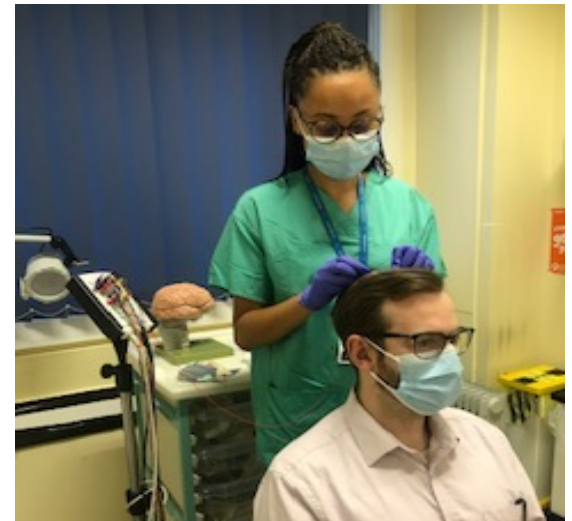
What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love spending time with friends and family, listening to music and reading. I also love to travel and recently took a career break to spend time in the Caribbean.

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What do I do as a clinical neurophysiologist?

Neurophysiology is the study of how the brain works. I perform a range of tests to check patients for various disorders of the brain and nervous system. My specialist area is long-term monitoring of brain activity for epilepsy – a disorder which causes people to have seizures.



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

My work helps to find the correct diagnosis and therefore guide the treatment plan for patients with epilepsy. I am passionate about this work for children, limiting the impact of their seizures and optimising their development.

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What I like about my job



Every day is different – I see patients of all ages, from newborn babies to the elderly, and with a range of neurological conditions. I am always learning and enjoy working as part of a team of doctors, nurses, scientists and researchers.

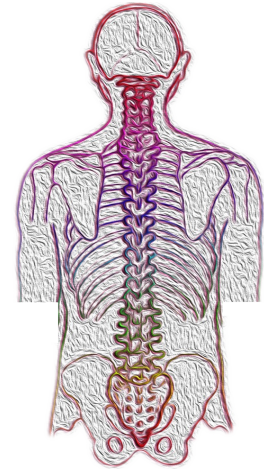
Challenges I have faced

Any healthcare role can be very busy, high pressure and emotionally challenging at times. Alongside my clinical role, I also carry out 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' work to improve the experiences of staff and patients from all backgrounds and to address the lack of diversity and representation in my field.

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If you want to be a clinical scientist in neurology, you need:

- ✦ **to have a genuine interest** in how the brain and nervous system work
- ✦ **to be kind, caring and empathetic** - able to listen to your patients and make them feel at ease
- ✦ **to have problem solving skills** to perform the correct tests and successfully diagnose your patient
- ✦ **to be flexible** – this job is unpredictable and we could be called to see critically ill or acutely unwell patients at any time



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a clinical scientist in neurophysiology like Danielle Johnson?

Why? Why not?

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



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Danielle Johnson is a STEM ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

Free supporting resources for neurophysiology

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. There are no articles about the brain and nervous system in humans but you may be interested in 'How do plants know good microbes from bad ones' which explains how plants use chemical and electrical signals.

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

