

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Alexandra Wilson
Virologist

A SCIENTIST just like me

Hi there! I am Alexandra Wilson – A virologist



Where do I work?

I am a Ph.D. student at the MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research. Before this I did an Integrated Masters degree in Biochemistry at the University of Oxford.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I really loved science when I was at school, but originally, I wanted to be a vet. Instead, I investigate the viruses that infect animals.

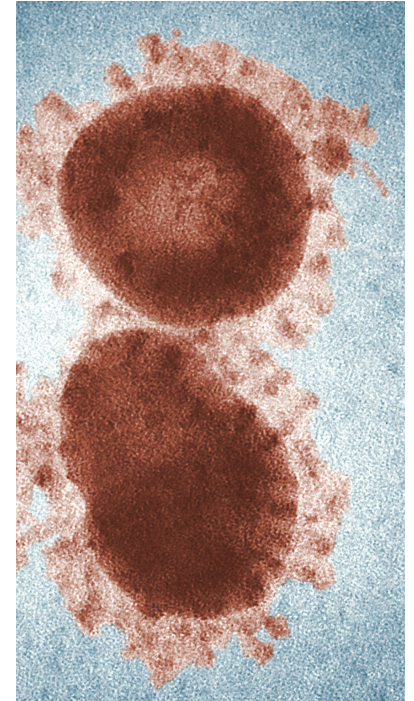
What do I like doing in my spare time?

I started learning to salsa dance when I started my Ph.D. I also enjoy playing my Nintendo switch and going hiking.

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

What do I do as a virologist?

For my work, I am interested in types of viruses that are carried by ticks, and my role is to try and figure out what it is about these viruses that allows them to be carried by ticks. A virologist studies viruses and the diseases caused by them.



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

The more we understand about different viruses, the more we can keep an eye on their spread, and hopefully develop treatments and vaccines against them.

A SCIENTIST just like me

What I like about my job

I love that I get to be in charge of my own research and investigate what I find really interesting. I also work in a lab as part of a team with other scientists who are awesome people, so I have a lot of support and I get to work with my friends.

Challenges I have faced

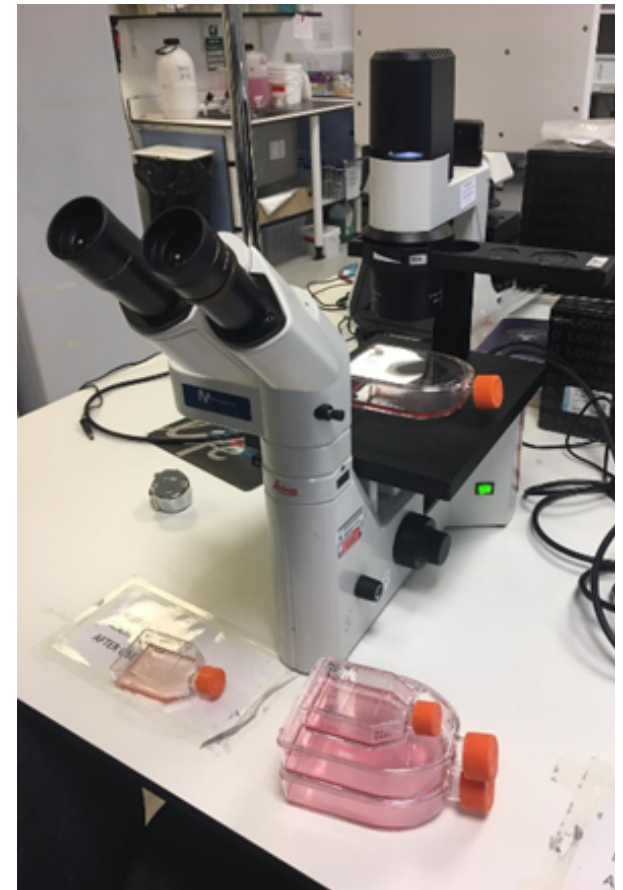
Sometimes experiments don't always go to plan or don't work, so it can be a bit tough trying to figure out what went wrong and fix a problem. It's a great moment when I do get something to work though!



A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

If you want to be a virologist, you need:

- ✳️ to like **puzzles and problem solving** as a lot of virology is about asking questions and trying to figure out the answers
- ✳️ to be **interested and curious** about how viruses work or how animals respond to viruses
- ✳️ to want to work in a **lab** or on a **computer** running experiments and analysing data
- ✳️ to **be patient** as sometimes experiments take a while to complete



A SCIENTIST just like me

Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a virologist like Alexandra Wilson?

Why? Why not?



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

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

Free supporting resources for virology

[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:

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

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

