

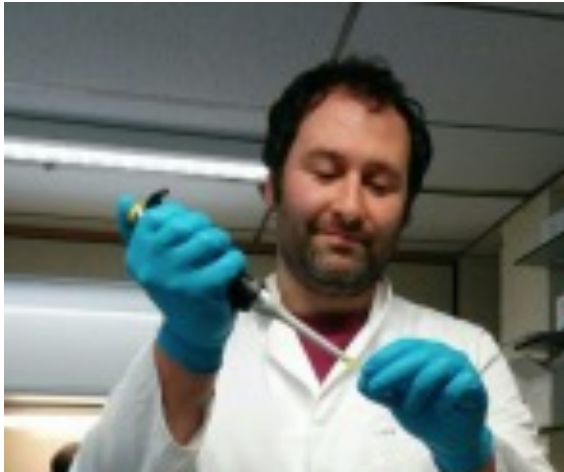
A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Dr Chris Staples
Cancer Researcher

A SCIENTIST just like me

Hi there! I am Dr Chris Staples – A cancer researcher



Where do I work?

I run a laboratory called the Cancer Research Bangor Institute, which is part of Bangor University in North Wales.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I really enjoyed chemistry and biology and our teachers were fab, so it made sense to study biochemistry at university in Belfast.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love cooking, playing guitar and going on holidays with my wife and kids. I have to admit to also enjoying work in my spare time!

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What do I do as a cancer researcher?



When our bodies get damaged they are very good at healing themselves, but with cancer it is more difficult, and it often needs treatment, like chemotherapy. My job is to try and find ways to make chemotherapy more effective so it will destroy the cancer, but without harming the patient.

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

Every little bit of knowledge we get about cancer and how it grows is important, so every discovery we make is useful. We are working to discover more about how cancer develops so we can improve how it responds to treatment.

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What I like about my job

It is fun to do research that you know nobody else has done before, especially when it might one day make a difference to people who are very ill. It is also very rewarding to help train younger scientists and watch them develop and learn.



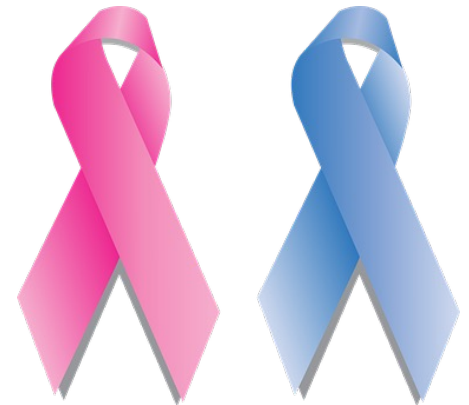
Challenges I have faced

Because I run my own laboratory, I do not have a 'boss' and so I must work hard and stay motivated without having any instructions, encouragement (or pressure) from others. I have to apply for funding to support my work which can sometimes be difficult.

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If you want to be a cancer researcher, you need:

- ✱ **Imagination** - if you are open to new ideas and spend time imagining them, you can really change how we understand the way things work
- ✱ **Persistence** - getting funding to do science is hard and progress in the lab can be very slow; you must keep trying and be patient
- ✱ **To be critical** - it is important to be able to criticise and then improve your own work
- ✱ **Self-belief** - if you have an idea and believe in it, don't give up even when others are negative



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a cancer researcher like Dr Chris Staples?

Why? Why not?



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

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Free supporting resources for cancer research

[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:

- Blood tests could detect cancers
- Dragons could protect us from bad bacteria