

A Scientist just like me



Georgia Canton
Embryologist

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Hi there! I am Georgia Canton – an embryologist



Where do I work?

I work in a laboratory at King's Fertility – a fertility clinic based in South London. I am part of a big team of 19 lovely embryologists.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I loved English and reading whenever I could. I also liked science and doing experiments in class. However, I had an amazing science teacher at secondary school who really inspired my love for biology.

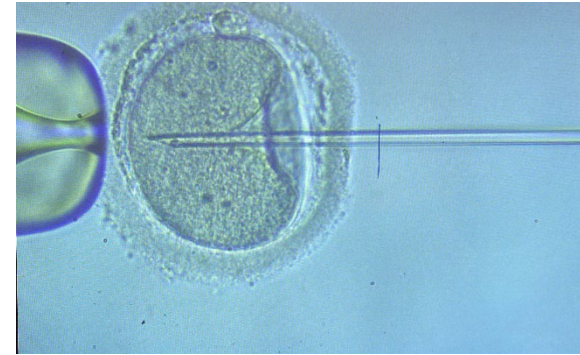
What do I like doing in my spare time?

I like running, swimming and playing netball. I also love spending time with my family, going on dog walks and enjoying nice food.

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What do I do as an embryologist?

I help people from all kinds of families and backgrounds to have a baby when they are unable to do so naturally. In the laboratory, we can create and grow embryos which hopefully implant and grow to become a baby when transferred into a person's uterus.



Injecting an egg with sperm

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

Being unable to have a baby when you really want one. By helping these people, we can help to bring lots of happiness and love to their lives that may have felt was missing otherwise.

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What I like about my job

I love that my job is different every day. I get to meet and work with lots of people from all backgrounds. My job can be challenging sometimes, and it tests my brain, but this is one of the things which I enjoy. Also, it never gets boring seeing the smiles on our patients' faces!



Using a microscope to inject an egg with sperm

Challenges I have faced

Lots of people want to be an embryologist, and there aren't lots of available jobs – so you must work hard (and have a bit of luck) to get into a laboratory. Also, it can be sad at times meeting patients who do not successfully have a baby, despite our help.

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If you want to be an embryologist, you need:

- ✱ **to be good with your hands** – we use lots of pipettes and move many tiny cells around under a microscope
- ✱ **problem-solving skills**
- ✱ **to be caring** – the patients we see are sometimes anxious or nervous, so it is important for us to support them
- ✱ **to be curious**



An embryo on day 5

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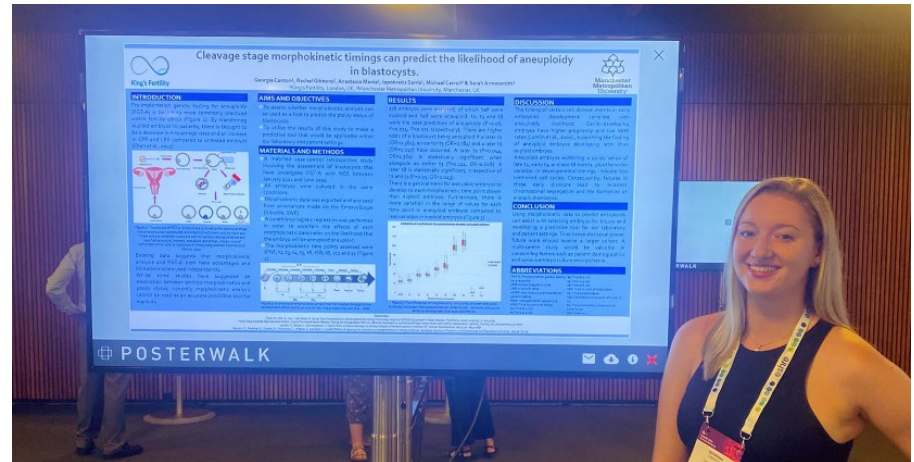
Discussion time

✳ Would you like to be an embryologist like Georgia Canton?

Why? Why not?

✳ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become an embryologist?

✳ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



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

Free supporting resources for embryology

[Why & How magazine](#) – see ‘Pictures for Talk’ in issue Autumn 2022

[Science at Work](#) – see ‘Meet two doctors’

[Did you know?](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides can be used as classroom presentations. They explain what scientists have done and suggest practical activities for children. Children interested in marine science might also be interested in these projects. See:

- [How to Grow a New Skin](#)
- [Blood tests could detect cancers](#)

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