

# A SCIENTIST just like me



**Jennifer Shelley**  
**An Immunologist**

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**Hi there! I am Jennifer Shelley– An immunologist**



## **Where do I work?**

I work at the Centre for Inflammation Research in the University of Edinburgh, based in a building next to the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh.

## **What did I like doing when I was at school?**

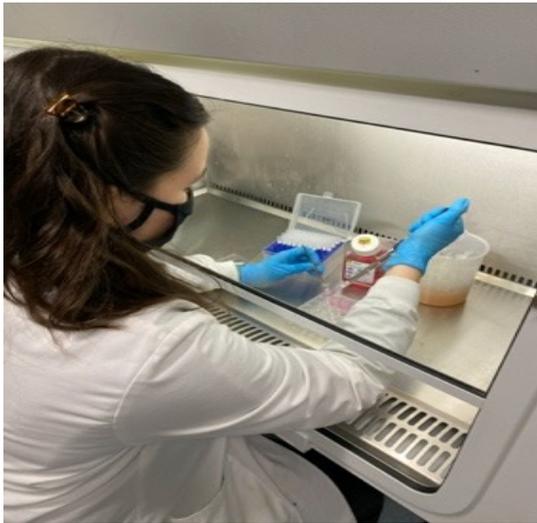
I loved science, especially biology and chemistry, but also art and design, history and English, particularly creative writing.

## **What do I like doing in my spare time?**

I read fiction books constantly, with my favourites being thrillers and fantasy. I also love cooking and baking, as well as being active in the gym and getting outside.

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## What do I do as an immunologist?



I am researching new ways to try to treat allergic eczema. A lot of my job involves growing skin in dishes and looking at how it reacts to different things that I add in. There is a lot of puzzle solving and creative thinking involved, as well as practical skills.

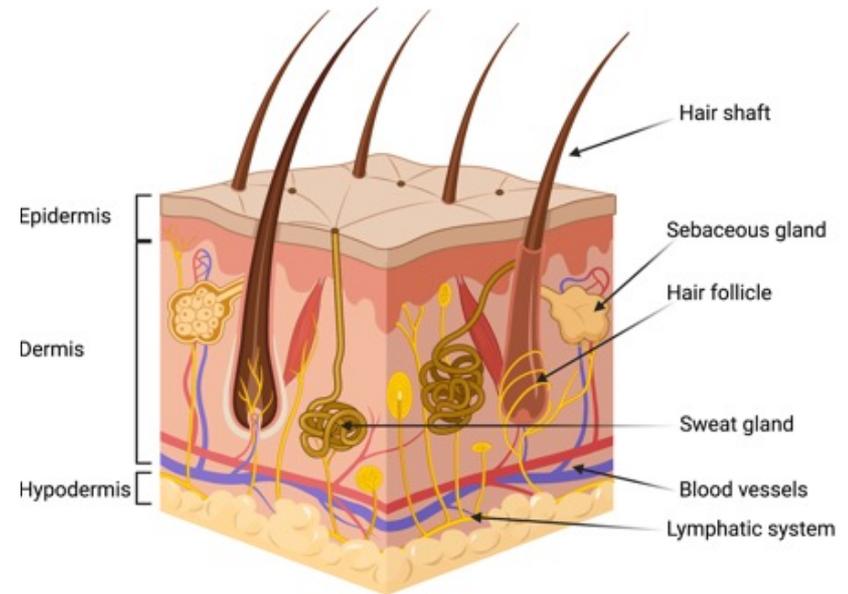
## How does what I do make the world a better place?

Most of the people at my work are trying to find new ways to treat diseases and understand the human body. The more we know, the better prepared we are to deal with anything that comes our way. We want to make people healthier and happier!

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## What I like about my job

Every day is different in my job. I get to learn new things and try to work things out, a bit like doing a puzzle. The human body is really intricate so there's always more to understand and amazing new information being found every day. I'm never bored!



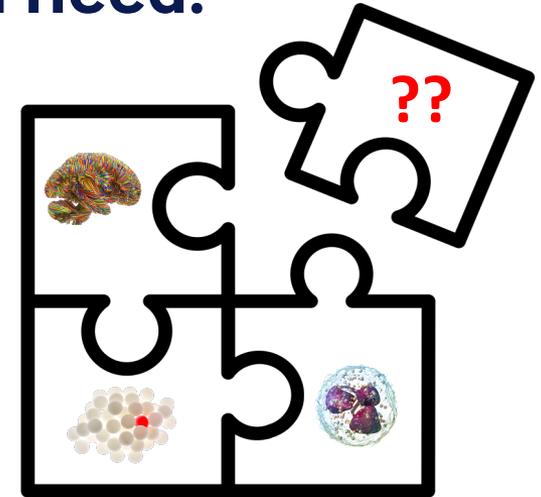
## Challenges I have faced

Exams have always been a challenge for me, so I sometimes struggled to get good grades. But I found that if I spent as much time as I could getting work experience and developing my practical skills, people didn't care as much about my grades and hired me anyway!

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If you want to be an immunologist, you need:

- ✳️ **to be creative** - we always need to find new ways to look at things
- ✳️ **to enjoy solving puzzles** - we spend every day trying to work out what is going on, a bit like fitting pieces of a puzzle together!
- ✳️ **to be curious** about the human body and how it works
- ✳️ **to want to help** understand and treat diseases



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## Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be an immunologist like Jennifer Shelley?

**Why? Why not?**



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

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## Free supporting resources for immunology

**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. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- How to grow a new skin (an article about growing large amounts of skin in a laboratory)
- Dragons could save us from bad bacteria
- Bacteria get viral infections as well

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