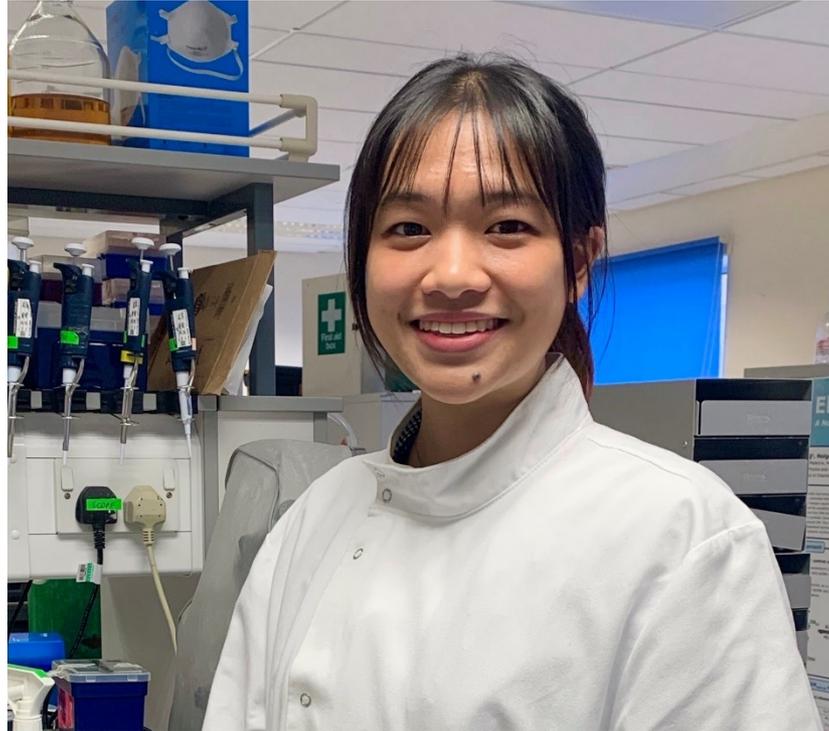


# A SCIENTIST just like me



**Nelly Mak**  
**Virologist**

# A SCIENTIST just like me

**Hi there! I am Nelly Mak – A virologist**



## **Where do I work?**

I work in the department of Infection Medicine at University of Edinburgh where I study how our bodies fight off viruses to stay healthy.

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

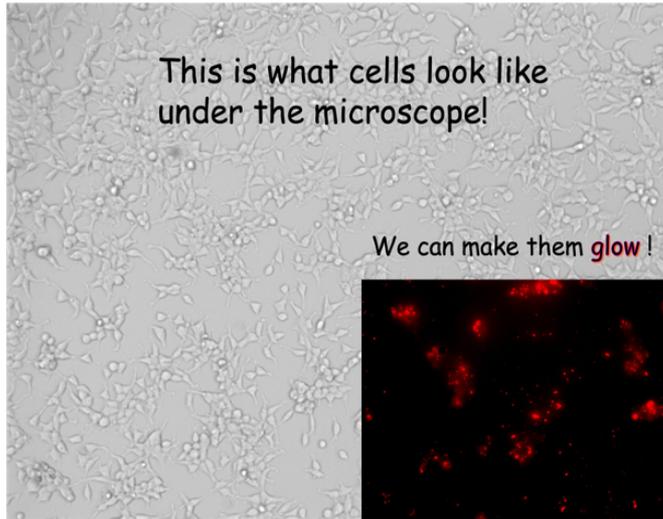
Maths and science were my favourite subjects at school because I think they are closely related to everyday life. I especially enjoyed doing science experiments!

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

I love being in nature and I am an animal lover, so I enjoy going for walks or visiting farms. I also like travelling to different countries!

# A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME

## What do I do as a virologist?



Viruses make us sick by attacking the cells in our body. Luckily, cells make their own weapons to fight against viruses. I want to understand how these weapons work and whether cells in other animals also know how to make them. I do this by growing and studying cells in the laboratory.

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

Viral infections can be deadly, some viruses cause pandemics which threaten many lives around the world. As virologists, it is our job to understand how viruses attack cells, so that we can make medicine, to help our cells fight them off.

# A SCIENTIST just like me

## What I like about my job

I enjoy designing and doing experiments to try to find out something that we don't already know. I like that every day in the laboratory is different and what my experiments show always surprises me, so I never get bored!



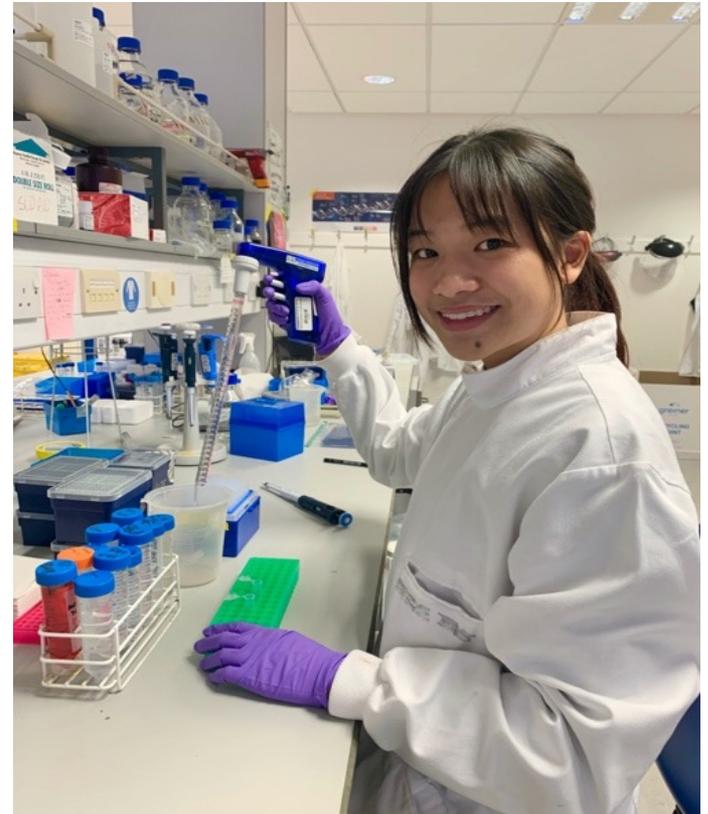
## Challenges I have faced

I grew up in Hong Kong and came to study in the UK when I was seventeen. It was difficult for me to leave my family and friends and come to an unfamiliar place to chase my dreams of becoming a scientist, so I am proud of myself for doing that!

# A SCIENTIST just like me

If you want to be a virologist, you need:

- ✳️ **to be curious** because we are always asking questions and trying to find the answers
- ✳️ **to never stop learning** because scientists discover new things all the time and you need to stay updated!
- ✳️ **to not give up easily** even when your experiments don't go as planned
- ✳️ **to be interested in viruses** – loving what you do is important!



# A SCIENTIST just like me

## Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a virologist like Nelly Mak?

**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. For more about virology see:

- Dragons could save us from 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

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