

#MeetOurSTEMAmbassadors

We have so many amazing volunteers and we'd like you meet them!



About me

Name:	Kavita Raniga	Photo: 
Location:	Nottingham	
Job/course title:	PhD Medicine	
Organisation:	University Of Nottingham and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	
Fun fact about me:	I'm a scuba diver!	

Education/career journey:

I attended the following:

- Secondary School: Fernwood School, Wollaton, Nottingham
- Sixth Form: The Becket Sixth Form, West Bridgeford, Nottingham
- Undergraduate: BSc Biomedical Sciences, The University of Warwick
- Masters: MSc Microbiology & Immunology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

I really enjoyed studying biology, chemistry and history, especially learning about how our body works and the tools we have to increase our understanding. My favourite topic in history was 'Medicine through time' – the development of treatments from the Middle Ages to where we are now.

During my A levels, I carried out work experience in a lab at Queens Medical Centre. Speaking with the scientists there and seeing first-hand the research going on motivated me to take this up further. Reading about noble prize winners (e.g. Robert G. Edwards) and women in science (e.g. Rosalind Franklin) inspired me study Biomedical Sciences at University.

My current job:

I use STEM nearly every day! As part of my PhD project, I am developing a cellular model for drug testing. A lot of drugs have side effects on the heart. I am using stem cells (these cells can turn into any type of specialised cell, e.g. skin cells or nerve cells) and guiding them to become cardiac (heart) cells. Once I have this model, I will be adding drugs to this model and looking for changes in the cells (side effects).

The best part of this job is working with a diverse group of people! While I manage my own project, I get to work with scientists from pharmaceutical companies and use their resources. I am also learning new skills, for example coding!

Advice: Pick a subject area that you enjoy and talk to people in that field (so important!). The scientific field is multi-disciplinary so even if you studied engineering or mathematics you can cross over to biology and medicine.

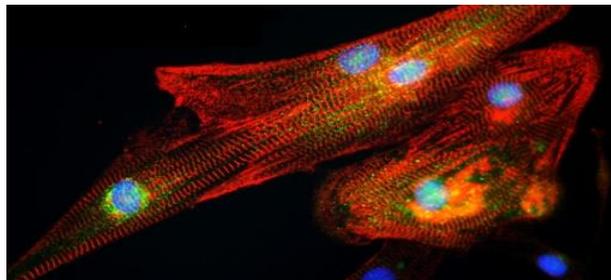
STEM Ambassador role:

I want to inspire young people (especially women) to take up these subjects and have someone they can relate to. I really enjoy teaching and seeing young people build their confidence in their subjects.

In my role as STEM Ambassador, I have taken part in remote networking events, women in STEM activities and simple science experiments you can do at home! I have also been involved in the Science & Curiosity festival, helping to run a range of exciting activities for kids & parents! Being a STEM Ambassador brings excitement into my work, knowing that what I am doing is not only helping medicine but helping to build a community of future scientists!

Student challenge:

Guess the image...



Nice to get to know you!