# MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester

## Widening Participation - Schools Engagement

Career Journeys in Cancer Research

## Prof. Ananya Choudhury



The University of Manchester



MA in Pharmacology
Trinity College,

Cambridge

MB Bchir in **Medicine**Trinity College,

Cambridge



MRCP/FRCR

Postgraduate medicine

Royal Colleges of Physicians Royal College of Radiologists



PhD in

Medical Sciences

University of Leeds



Professor of Clinical Oncology
University of Manchester



I study the **best way to treat cancer patients**using radiotherapy and
chemotherapy.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

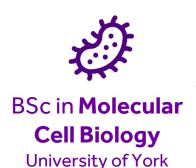
You can be anyone and do anything. Grab each opportunity that crosses your path – be fearless and fair. You never know where you will end up, so enjoy the journey!



## Charlie Heaven



The University of Manchester





Clinical Trials Coordinator

> The Christie Hospital



Patient Centred Research

The Christie Hospital



MSc in

Bioinformatics
and Systems
Biology

University of Manchester



**Data Analyst**Health Innovation
Manchester



PhD in Cancer Research University of Manchester

What do you do in your job?

In my PhD I am working on **creating a computational program** which simulates
what happens after we treat cells with
radiation. By creating this we can then
change bits of the set up to **predict** what
would happen if we **changed treatments**and what gets the **best results**.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Follow what you enjoy. If you like a subject, just go and explore the options in that. Talk to people working there, see what career routes they took and don't be worried about having it all planned out. I've changed careers so many times and now I absolutely love what I do and I have no regrets!



## Dr Claire Trinder



The University of Manchester



BSc in

Biochemistry

University of

Manchester



PhD in

Bioinformatics

University of

Manchester



Diagnostics: Computational
Biomarker Discovery

**Local Small Business** 

→ Expanding Business in Northern Ireland



Management
Global IT
company



Driving
Scientific
Programmes
UK Funding Agency



Director of

Research Strategy

and Operations

Manchester Cancer

Manchester Cancer Research Centre



I am responsible for Research Operations at the MCRC and ensuring we **deliver on our strategy** which includes becoming a top 5 world class comprehensive cancer centre. It's about working out **what needs to be done** and then **making sure it gets done!**  What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Think about the long term as well as the short term and do not be afraid to take an unconventional path. Do something you love and don't worry about what other people think. Aim high!



## Dr Ellie Badrick



The University of Manchester

PhD in

Medicine

University of

Manchester



BSc in

Physiology
University of
Liverpool



Lab
Technician
St. George's
Hospital



Research Assistant

University College London



Research Associate

Queen Mary University of London



MSc in **Social Epidemiology** 

University College London



Research Associate University of Manchester



Project Manager

University of Manchester

What do you do in your job?

Life isn't always straight forward. I wanted to be a GP, but took a different career path I'm now a cancer researcher in a medical school and help teach people who are training to be Doctors.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

There's no shame in changing your mind, the most important thing is try things.

Live in a different place for a few years, you can always move back, also be nicer to your Mum – she was right about a lot.



## Dr Eliana Vasquez Osorio

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The University of Manchester



BSc in **Computer Sciences** 

EAFIT University, Colombia



in a ComputerAided-Design lab
CAD/CAM/CAE Lab,
Colombia



Visiting researcher
working in
computer graphics

Fraunhofer Institute, Germany



PhD in

Medical Physics

Erasmus University,

The Netherlands



Senior Research Fellow

The University of Manchester



I work with medical images of cancer patients to improve future treatments.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Choose what makes you happy, and don't be afraid of trying stuff that looks complicated or difficult. Don't overthink your future; you can stir it in different directions later on. Life has a way to help you find your path!



## Emma Thorpe



The University of Manchester



University of

Manchester

Trainee
Biomedical
Scientist
University
College London

Hospital



Institute of
Biomedical
Sciences (IBMS)
qualification

University of Westminster



in Chemical
Pathology
Clinical Scientist in
Chemical Pathology



MSc in Clinical Biochemistry

University of London



Research in Industry

Proctor & Gamble
Pharma; AstraZeneca;
Contract Research
Organisations



Project Manager
in Academic
Research
University of
Manchester

What do you do in your job?

I am a **Programme Manager** and manage a **cancer research theme** working with academics and clinical academics across the University of Manchester and various NHS Trusts

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

I work with people doing similar roles that have a very different career history to me. You don't need to decide your future path at this age but if you do have specific goals then pursue them. If opportunities arise that you weren't expecting, have a go and see where the path takes you.



## **Grant Punnett**

MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester



BSc in **Psychology and Criminology**Staffordshire University



MSc in Health Psychology Staffordshire University



Various short
research and call
centre jobs
Various employers



Data manager for surgical team The Christie Hospital



Research Associate /
Part time PhD Nursing
The Christie Hospital

What do you do in your job?

I project manage a number of research studies investigating patient centred outcomes. This involves setting studies up, recruiting participants, line managing research assistants working on the studies and analysing the resulting data. I sit on a number of committees, one of which is a monthly forum at the trust which I co-run with my colleague which aims to inform and educate healthcare professionals and researchers about research skills and issues.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

It is OK to not know just yet what you want to do with your life. You are in charge of your own destiny and it is never too late to change course. Don't let anxiety hold you back.



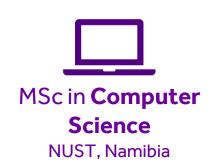
## Mr Lameck Mbangula Amugongo



The University of Manchester











What do you do in your job?

I work with **medical images** of lung cancer patients to **personalise treatment** for future patients.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Believe in yourself, you can be anything you want to be.
Impossible is nothing.



## Dr Lana Lai



The University of Manchester











Studied and worked Boston, USA

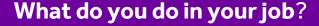












l am an **epidemiologist** currently studying the **association** between obesity and survival in patients with colorectal cancer.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Don't be afraid to **EMBRACE** every opportunity that comes your way. Don't be shy to **ENGAGE** in conversations with your teachers / mentors about your passions & interests. Don't forget to **ENJOY** every moment of the learning journey!



## Lauren Hewitt



The University of Manchester



BSc in **Psychology** Northumbria University



MSc in **Clinical and Health Psychology** University of Manchester



Psychology / Therapy Assistant roles



Research **Project Officer** University of Manchester



**Research Project** Manager

University of Manchester & The Christie Hospital



The Christie Hospital

#### What do you do in your job?

l am a Project Manager within Radiotherapy Related **Research** and responsible for making sure research projects are delivered on time. It is an incredibly diverse role: I am involved in multiple research projects, meaning in one day I could be organising an international network of researchers, costing a clinical trial and talking to the government to ask if an engineer can come into the country! You have to be organised, pragmatic and **determined** to overcome problems, finding timely solutions to a wide and varied range of challenges.

### What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Whether you have a path and you know what you want to do, or whether you have no idea about your future direction, either way, work hard, be curious, ask and learn as much as you can. Then you are in a position to make **choices**. Keep persevering and **don't be** afraid to change direction to pursue something that you find interesting!



### Lee Malcomson



BSc in
Psychology
and Computer
Science
Keele University



Courier in charge, Eurocamp Holiday Park La Trinité-sur-Mer France



Clinical Coordinator,
Advanced Medical
Institute
Sydney, Australia



Data Manager & Clinical Systems Product Specialist

The Christie Hospital



The University of Manchester



Research Associate & Project Manager / MSc in Health Data Science

University of Manchester

What do you do in your job?

Most of my time is spent with health
data – either analysing it, collecting it,
writing about it or co-ordinating
projects that use it. It can sometimes
lead to discoveries that help
improve the lives of patients!

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Don't worry if you're not sure where you want to be in 20 years time – take your time to decide what's best for you and if you have the opportunity to travel & try out a few different roles, take it!



### Nadin Hawwash



The University of Manchester



Foundation year
Biomedical
Sciences

University of

Manchester



First year

Biomedical

Sciences

University of

Manchester



Year 1
Medicine
University of
Manchester



Year 2
Medicine
University of
Manchester



Year 3
Medicine
University of
Manchester



MB-PhD Cancer
Sciences
University of
Manchester



lam a medical student taking 3 years out of my medicine degree to complete a PhD in Cancer Sciences, specifically looking at body fatness and the cancer risk across a person's lifetime. So the main focus of my PhD is in cancer prevention.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

The working world is full of so many opportunities! No opportunity is too big for you! You are capable of whatever you put your mind to! I grew up in Greater Manchester and took Arabic, Biology, Chemistry and Physics A-Levels. Work experience in a hospital and my love for healthcare and research helped me decide what I wanted to do in the future.



### Dr Nicola Flaum

MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester



Medicine, with

BSc in

Physiology

Cardiff University











PhD in Genetics of
Ovarian Cancer
University of
Manchester

What do you do in your job?

I am an **oncologist** currently doing a **laboratory-based PhD in cancer genetics**, specifically looking at risk prediction and cancer prevention.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

You don't have to decide everything now! I grew up in Birmingham and took English Literature, Psychology, Biology and Chemistry A Levels. Follow what genuinely interests you. Talk to people who do jobs you find interesting and show interest in them, it may open a lot of doors!



## Sam Ingram



The University of Manchester



BSc in
Theoretical
Physics
Swansea University



MSc in Medical Radiation Physics Swansea University



Started training as a Clinical Scientist (& part-time MSc)

Christie Hospital / Liverpool University



PhD in Proton Therapy Research Group (incl. bank clinical position) University of Manchester / Christie Hospital



Christie Hospital / University of Manchester

What do you do in your job?

I make sure that **radiotherapy** (a type of cancer treatment) is **optimised for patient treatment**. This includes the planning, dosimetry and safety of the treatment.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Jobs are far more of a pick n mix than you are led to believe. There is no one way you might arrive in your career, so it's best to focus on self-development rather than a career check list.



### Scott Brown

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The University of Manchester



BSc in
Biochemistry &
Physiological
Sciences
University of Dundee



PGDip Adult Nursing, University of

Dundee



Colorectal and Anal
Cancer Clinical Nurse
Specialist (CNS)
Christie Hospital



Lead Clinical Nurse
Specialist Gastrointestinal
(GI) cancer

University College London Hospitals



Gastroenterology
Advanced Nurse
Practitioner and
Endoscopist

St Helens and Knowsley NHS Teaching Hospitals



I am an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Gastroenterology and Nurse Endoscopist. My role involves in-patient management in addition to undertaking suspected cancer clinics and performing flexible sigmoidoscopy to diagnose colonic polyps and tumours.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Do the best you can and don't worry about making the right subject or career choices! I was interested in Biochemistry and initially wanted to pursue a career in research but things change. Look at me now, I am able to work in a rewarding environment on a daily basis.



### Dr Suzanne Johnson



The University of Manchester



BTEC National
Diploma
Biomedical
Sciences

Coventry Technical College



BSc in
Biomedical
Sciences
Bradford
University



MSc in
Molecular
Pathology &
Toxicology
University of

Leicester



PhD in Breast
Cancer in
Younger Women
University of Leicester



**Division Lead for Social Responsibility** 



Post-Doctoral Research Associate

MRC Toxicology Unit; University of Manchester; Paterson Institute Manchester



Research Fellow
Division of Cancer
Sciences, University of

Manchester



Lecturer
Division of Cancer
Sciences,
University of
Manchester

#### What do you do in your job?

I am a Teaching Focussed Lecturer developing a new online Masters
Programme to educate future oncologists and other health professionals all over the world.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Follow what you **enjoy**, keep asking **questions**, networking is fun, people in senior roles are still just people, don't just talk about it, **do it!** Most of all, **believe in your abilities**.



## Malini Dey



The University of Manchester





University of Bath





**MSc in Molecular** Medicine

University of York





Work experience University of Bath





What do you do in your job?

I am currently a **second year PhD student** in an ovarian cancer and cell biology lab, based at **Manchester Cancer Research Centre**, which is part of University of Manchester.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Find a good mentor, who is approachable and can quide you with career choice advice.

Every day is a school day! I am still learning something new every day, even in my PhD, and I am continuing to improve in specific skills which I was not confident in when I left school.



## Samantha Littler



The University of Manchester



### BSc in **Forensic** Science

Staffordshire University



**Bar staff** Student Union



#### Gap year

1 year, travelled solo (Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong)



### **MResin Biomedical Sciences**

University of Edinburgh



#### Lab assistant

**Edinburgh Scientific Services** (Industry) + A-level **Science Tutor** 



#### Research **Technician**

University of Manchester





#### **Research Assistant** + Division of **Cancer Sciences SR Environmental Sustainability Lead** University of Manchester

### Work experience

Staffordshire Police (Forensic Unit)



I'm a **research assistant** in Stephen Taylor's lab, trying to figure out how to kill ovarian cancer cells using various chemotherapy drugs and looking at their genes! Plus I help keep the lab running by ordering chemicals, making solutions and making sure fellow scientists can work safely.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

It's more than OK to change your mind, take a step back and reassess. **Sometimes** things don't work out and that's OK, just ask "What did I learn and how would I go about it differently next time?" Also, don't take yourself too seriously!



### Dr Jo McGrail

MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester





PhD in Gene Expression University of Manchester



Post-doctoral research scientist

University of Manchester



Medical writer (cardiovascular)

Chameleon

Senior media

Senior medical writer (oncology)

Nucleus Global



Research Project Manager

Manchester Cancer Research Centre

What do you do in your job?

I provide scientific writing and project management support for grant applications and research manuscripts.

I've also helped with website development.

What career advice would you give your 15 year old self?

Follow your interests! When you're doing something that interests you, it feels much less like work!





"You can be anyone and do anything. Grab each opportunity that crosses your path—be fearless and fair. You never know where you will end up, so enjoy the journey!"



"Choose what makes you happy, and don't be afraid of trying stuff that looks complicated or difficult. Don't overthink your future; you can stir it in different directions later on. Life has a way to help you find your path!"



"It is OK to not know just yet what you want to do with your life. You are in charge of your own destiny and it is never too late to change course. Don't let anxiety hold you back."



"Choose what makes you happy, and don't be afraid of trying stuff that looks complicated or difficult. Don't overthink your future; you can stir it in different directions later on. Life has a way to help you find your path!"



"Work hard, be curious, ask and learn as much as you can. Then you are in a position to make choices. Keep persevering and don't be afraid to change direction to pursue something that you find interesting!"



"Follow what you enjoy, keep asking questions, networking is fun, people in senior roles are still just people, don't just talk about it, do it! Most of all, believe in your abilities."