

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF BEING IN SCIENCE?

Bushra Ateeq,  
Molecular oncologist, IIT Kanpur

I think my favourite part of being in science is the freedom it brings, I can chase the problem (research question) of my choice, brainstorm ideas with my team members, and most importantly it keeps my childlike inquisitiveness alive. It's like a win-win situation where you get paid to do something you actually enjoy doing.

Meenakshi Munshi,  
Scientist 'G'/Adviser,  
Department of Biotechnology, Govt.  
of India

The most exciting part of being in science is that it teaches you to observe things keenly, connect the dots and become self-dependent. The grind you go through in doing research makes you ready for taking on real life challenges at different layers with more confidence. It teaches you how as a loner you can deal with challenges life throws at you without losing the purpose of life.



Suhita Nadkarni,  
Neurobiologist, IISER Pune

The journey of discovery using tools of your choice. This journey is typically never solitary but one that includes interactions with and contributions of students, postdocs, colleagues and mentors. This is my favourite part. An ongoing conversation that is challenging, forces you to think in different ways. From that 'aha' moment where all the data suddenly makes sense to being able to convince your colleagues that it is indeed how it works.

Sarah Iqbal,  
Public engagement officer, Wellcome  
Trust/DBT India Alliance

While it lasted, I absolutely enjoyed being on the bench and racking brains (and limbs) to find answers to those burning questions in science – to work on your own unique scientific problem, was exhilarating. The best part about my current job is that I get a birds eye view of the research happening in the country – one is perhaps a lot more in tune with the implications of scientific research now and its importance for the society -something that you are not exposed to while working in the lab where we mostly concern ourselves with a specific scientific question. Similar to research, in my current role I get to work on complex ecosystem problems that require an understanding of the scientific enterprise and its challenges, and requires analytical and problem-solving skills to examine as well as to find solutions to these problems.

Devapriya Chattopadhyay,  
Paleobiologist, IISER Kolkata

The best part is to discover new things every day about the nature, society and even about myself because a training in science teaches you to question anything and everything, to be ruthlessly logical and brutally honest.

Jugnu Jain,  
Entrepreneur, Sapien Biosciences

The fact that there are new discoveries, that knowledge grows with new ideas. The sense of curiosity and exploration. A purity. Rationality of argument. There is less hierarchy in general. Science at its core benefits society and it is rewarding to bring out solutions and products such as new drugs and diagnostics, that help patients.

Lipika Sahoo,  
Intellectual Property Professional,  
Lifeintellect consultancy Pvt Ltd

Science makes you think, it gives the courage to challenge the status quo.

Savita Ayyar  
Research Management Consultant,  
Jaquaranda Tree

I started my career as a scientist. Somewhere along the path, my work shifted to facilitation of science. The world of science is dynamic and goes beyond boundaries of all kinds. Science integrates despite going down into the minutest of details and also has the potential to touch many lives. I enjoy being able to contribute to that transformation.

Dhanashree Paranjpe,  
Ecologist, Abasaheb Garware College

Most scientists would say the best part of science is the excitement of discovery, understanding something that no one else has understood/ thought about yet. However, for me the best part(s) are quite different. As a bonus of doing research, I get to meet many wonderful, diverse set of people during my field work. I stay in villages and talk to people about their everyday life. These simple, so called uneducated people, understand and “practice” science in their own ways, i.e. they build testable hypothesis, are very keen observers, they also conduct little experiments while growing their crops or tending to their livestock, make “educated” guesses about how much rainfall will be there this year, predict many a times how animals/ plants around them will respond to particular weather conditions. They may not understand formal language of science but they do know and appreciate the significance of scientific inquiry. To me, these insights have been most humbling and rewarding at the same time. My research has

given me an opportunity to interact and learn from such diverse group of people- from farmers to world class scientists-that is no doubt the most favourite part of doing science!

P Hemalatha Reddy,  
Educator, Sri Venketeswara College

On one hand, it is the systematic and analytical approach of modern science; and on the other, the ability of being able to enlighten young and inquisitive minds of students by teaching them complexities of science at ground level.

Sonam Mehrotra,  
Cancer biologist, ACTREC

Analyzing data fresh from an experiment and then designing and conducting experiments to address more questions. A story that develops from one's own work is the biggest reward.

Smitha Hegde  
Educator, NITTE University Centre  
for Science Education and Research

The ability to generate new knowledge, freedom to propose, experiment and learn for oneself.