

# Dr Andrew Holding

Lecturer in Biomedical Science  
University of York

I lead a research team looking to understand the impact of steroid hormones on cancer patients. This research is hugely important because steroid hormones are both produced naturally by the body and are an essential medication to treat the symptoms of cancer.

**#iamabiologist**  **Biology Week**  **2021**

Friday 8 October | all day online 2 - 10 October | [rsb.org.uk/biologyweek](https://rsb.org.uk/biologyweek)



# Jack Cooper

PhD student | Swansea University

I am a palaeobiologist specialising in fossil sharks and their teeth. I study megalodon, the biggest shark that ever lived. My research gives me fascinating insight into how sharks, including those of enormous proportions, shaped marine ecosystems in the past and how similar this might have been to their current ecological roles.

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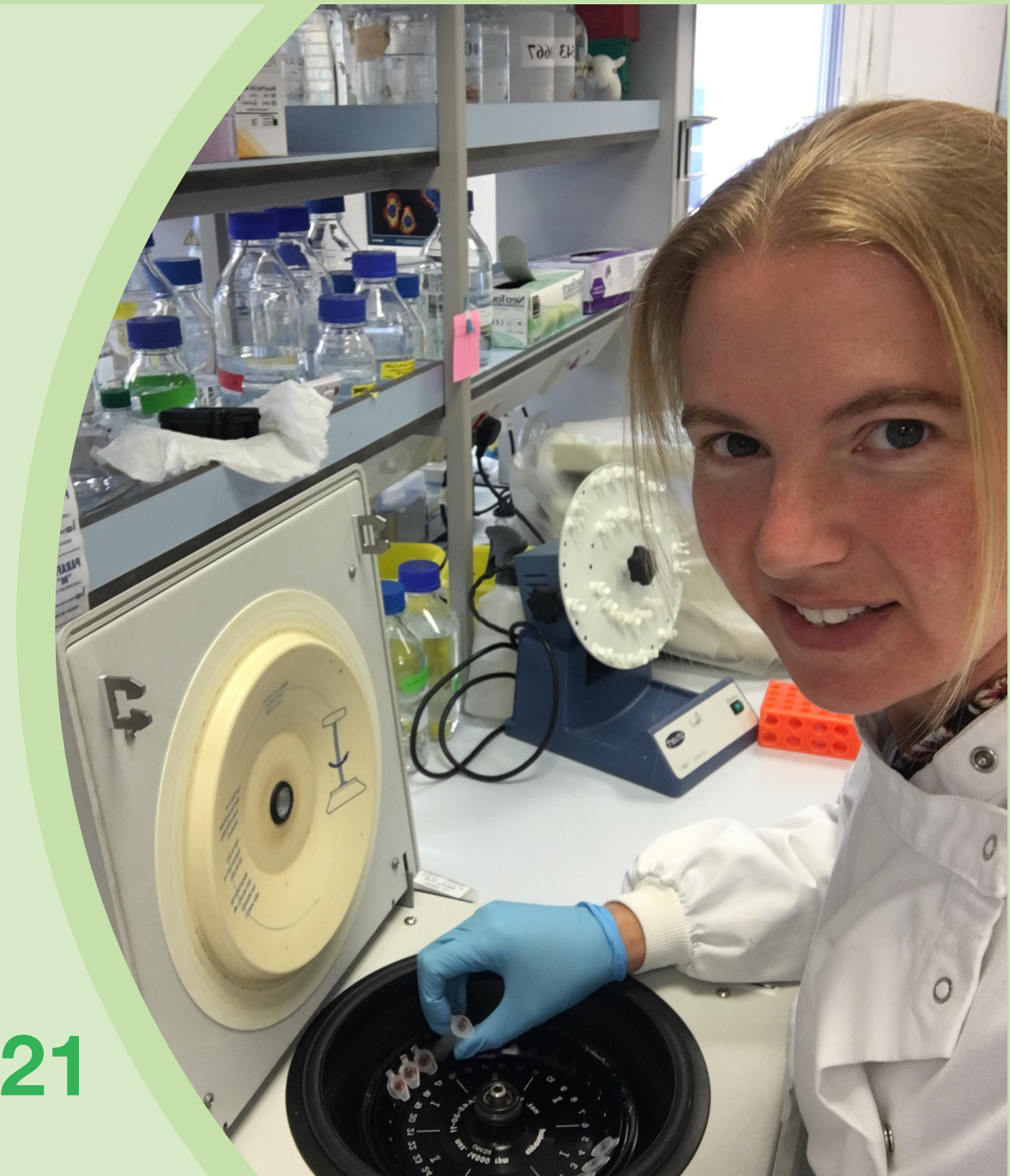
# Dr Karen Mifsud

Research Fellow | University of Bristol

I investigate the epigenetic and gene expression changes occurring in the brain in response to stress. The best bit of my work is the moment you discover something completely new that no-one knew before.

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# Emma Weschke

PhD student | University of Bristol

I explore the dark side of the reef, investigating how man-made noise and light is altering the secret world of nocturnal coral reef fish. Combining underwater night vision cameras and hydrophones allows me to discreetly spy on the reef activity at night. Watching the footage back in the morning – yeah, that’s my favourite part!

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# Peter Finegold MRSB

Head of Policy | Royal Society

I lead the education policy work and a team of policy experts at the Royal Society to help bring about change in the educational experience of young people by generating research evidence and presenting a rationale and a persuasive narrative to policymakers and practitioners.

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# Paul Downie FRSB

Science Head | Hyndland Secondary School

I have a passion for inspiring young people about the life on their planet. Whether in the classroom or the Amazon Rainforest, I enjoy sharing the wonder of the natural world and sparking curiosity in young minds. I have created and host The Higher Biology Podcast and I am currently seconded from my role as Faculty Head of Science to coordinate West OS as part of the National e-Learning Offer in Scotland.

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# Ben Parker

PhD student | Bournemouth University

My research investigates microplastics in freshwater fishes to determine which factors impact ingestion and the potential interactions with additional anthropogenic stressors. This exciting project includes a great mix of fieldwork, processing in the lab and running experiments too. I also do work as an environmental consultant, mostly assisting with fish surveys!

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# Professor Andrea Streit

Professor of Developmental Neurobiology  
King's College London

As a developmental biologist I investigate the formation of sense organs using chick embryos as a model to uncover basic principles, but also to understand human disease. I feel privileged to work with some of the brightest researchers from all over the world.

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# Daisy Henesy

Public Engagement Officer | Institute of Cancer Research

I connect researchers with the public and help them share their world-leading cancer research with different audiences. I love that I get to use my biology background and my communication skills in this job, but my favourite thing about my job is the people I get to work with - researchers, ICR staff and members of the public.

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# Jose Martinez Pardo RSci MRSB

## Biology Technician | Lewes Grammar School

I work in science education as part of a team to inspire young people about the world around them. In this picture you can see a plate made by students investigating effects of plant extracts on microbes. They found that essential oils like clove, lavender, peppermint and tea tree inhibit the growth of baking yeast. Simple and safe experiments are such a joy. Happy Biology week to everyone!

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# Ada Eslava

PhD student | University of St Andrews  
and The University of The West Indies

I am a biologist studying freshwater fish ecology and biodiversity! In my project, I investigate how freshwater fish diversity is changing over time, and I focus on the beautiful fish fauna of Trinidad & Tobago!

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# Louise Gibson

Bats & Bugs Project Co-ordinator and research technician | Institute of Zoology, ZSL

I really enjoy the variety of work. I can be in the field sampling bats in Africa, in the lab researching zoonotic bat viruses, in the office co-ordinating samples and supplies or sometimes a mixture of all three. No two days are the same and I love that.

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# Matt Perkins

Senior Technician | Institute of Zoology, ZSL

I assist researchers and students with varying aspects of their work, help run and maintain the labs and facilities, conduct diagnostic testing for various amphibian diseases using qPCR techniques and work on the Cetacean Stranding Investigation Programme assisting with necropsies on stranded marine mammals, turtles and sharks across England and Wales.

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# Dr Nishant Chakravorty

Assistant Professor | Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

I am a biologist working in the field of Regenerative Medicine. As a physician-scientist, I utilize the principles of molecular biology and biomaterials to find solutions for management of human diseases. I truly believe that genetics is the universal language of life.

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# Adama Saccoh

Cardiovascular Research Technician |  
University College London

As a research technician my role involves helping with all the projects going on in the lab. I love the fact that no two days are the same and I get to learn about my favourite organ ( the heart) everyday!

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# Dr Gina Manning

Deputy Head of the School of Science  
University of Wolverhampton

I studied biological Sciences at university as I knew I loved biology but didn't know which part I liked the most. I specialised as a microbiologist and have been a researcher and lecturer in this area for just under 30 years. I really enjoy teaching biology and supporting both staff and students to develop.

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# Dr Beth Lawry

Biomedical Sciences lecturer  
Newcastle University

I am a biomedical sciences lecturer, but I love to do outreach and teach science to school children and the public too! My work is really varied - teaching via lectures, laboratory practicals, online content, radio and events. I also help our students apply for placements.

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# Yasmin Meeda

PhD student | University of Exeter

My PhD is focused on understanding how tiny algae (diatoms) can sense environmental phosphorus and I use various molecular tools in the laboratory to do this. What I love the most is how diverse this role is and that I am constantly learning new things.

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# Dr Amanda Hardy MRSB MRSC FLS

Senior Outreach Officer  
Royal Society of Biology

I am the RSB's Senior Outreach Officer and my job is to get more people enthused with biology through our outreach and engagement work. We want more people to feel that biology is relevant and accessible. Although a chemist by training, through the delivery of my outreach and engagement work I am definitely a biologist too.

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# Raghav Selvam MRSB

Competitions and Outreach Officer  
Royal Society of Biology

I oversee the Royal Society of Biology's awards and competitions and help run our outreach and engagement programme. It's fantastic to be able to speak to people about the biosciences, as it affects our lives in many ways. Biology is a dynamic subject – it is constantly changing and I enjoy that my job enables me to learn something new every day.

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