

# Who are the women involved in STEM?

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## The most rewarding part of my job is

Having the intellectual freedom to pursue research that interests me, and seeing how that research contributes to the advancement of science.

## Professional

### Top-level responsibilities

As a neuroscientist, I conduct research into understanding how the brain is damaged during neurological disease.

### Day-to-day work and skills

Mostly I'm designing and conducting experiments or analysing data. I spend a lot of time reading research articles to identify gaps in knowledge to come up with new and exciting research ideas. I will then write up grant proposals to attract funding to support the research. I also take pride in supervising and training research students and junior staff.

## Personal

### Current location and community

Newcastle, Hunter Region, NSW

### My interests and hobbies

I enjoy listening to music, watching cricket, enjoying nature, and spending time with my two beautiful daughters.

### I am passionate about

I love understanding how the brain functions.

### What I would say to 16-year-old me

Anything is possible when you're not afraid to give it a go!



**Adjanie Patabendige**

NSW Health EMC Fellow

University of Newcastle

My passion for understanding the brain led me to study a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Neuroscience at King's College London, UK.

I followed this with a PhD in Neuroscience at the same university, where I developed a model to study the protective barrier of the brain (blood-brain barrier).

I then pursued postdoctoral research at the University of Liverpool, UK.

My research led to successfully securing independent research fellowships in the UK and Australia.

I will continue to use my skills and experience to develop new therapies to treat brain disease, and keep training the next generation of neuroscientists.