

# Health Zone, November 2012



This report has been compiled by the I'm a Scientist team as a summary, containing moderator observations and our web data, to provide some meaningful information on the zone.

Health was the quietest zone with fewest questions and live chats, but this didn't mean the students and scientists were any less eager and excited. It was a really friendly fun zone and the scientists all got on well and would joke with each other before and after the live chats. The scientists always turned up early or apologised for being late, and liked playing games and discussing the questions on the site, and also on Twitter. The scientists were understanding of the students' varied abilities.

## Popular topics

There were some great chats and others where the students were less engaged. There were also, strangely, lots of weird death questions... can you die from skin cancer, can you die from eating too many eggs, can I die from too much water?

There were lots questions about health and cancer; what's good for you & what's bad for you, healthy foods, sweets, and why our bodies do things. Topics of discussion in the live chats often depended on which scientists were there, and then there were lots of questions on their work: [Enda](#)'s robot Janus and finding cures for cancer, [Jean](#) got a lot of questions about baking and chemistry, [Tim](#)'s work with parasites & [Kev](#) on bacteria.

Key figures from I'm a Scientist November 2012 for the zone, the average of all 3 zones, and the whole event

	Zone	Zones average	Whole event
Registered students	240	270	809
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	70%	79%	-
Questions asked	370	499	1,498
Questions approved	187	230	690
Answers given	291	487	1,461
Comments	50	75	225
Votes	166	228	683
Live chats	11	13	38
Lines of live chat	2,358	3,166	9,499
Schools	10	10	31

## Sample questions

[Are scientists working on a way to record your dreams and is that possible?](#)

[Why is it illegal to have babys under the age of eighteen](#)

[is there any scientific way to make your hair grow longer?](#)

[can you find a cure to spots?](#)

[how do people go colourblind?](#)

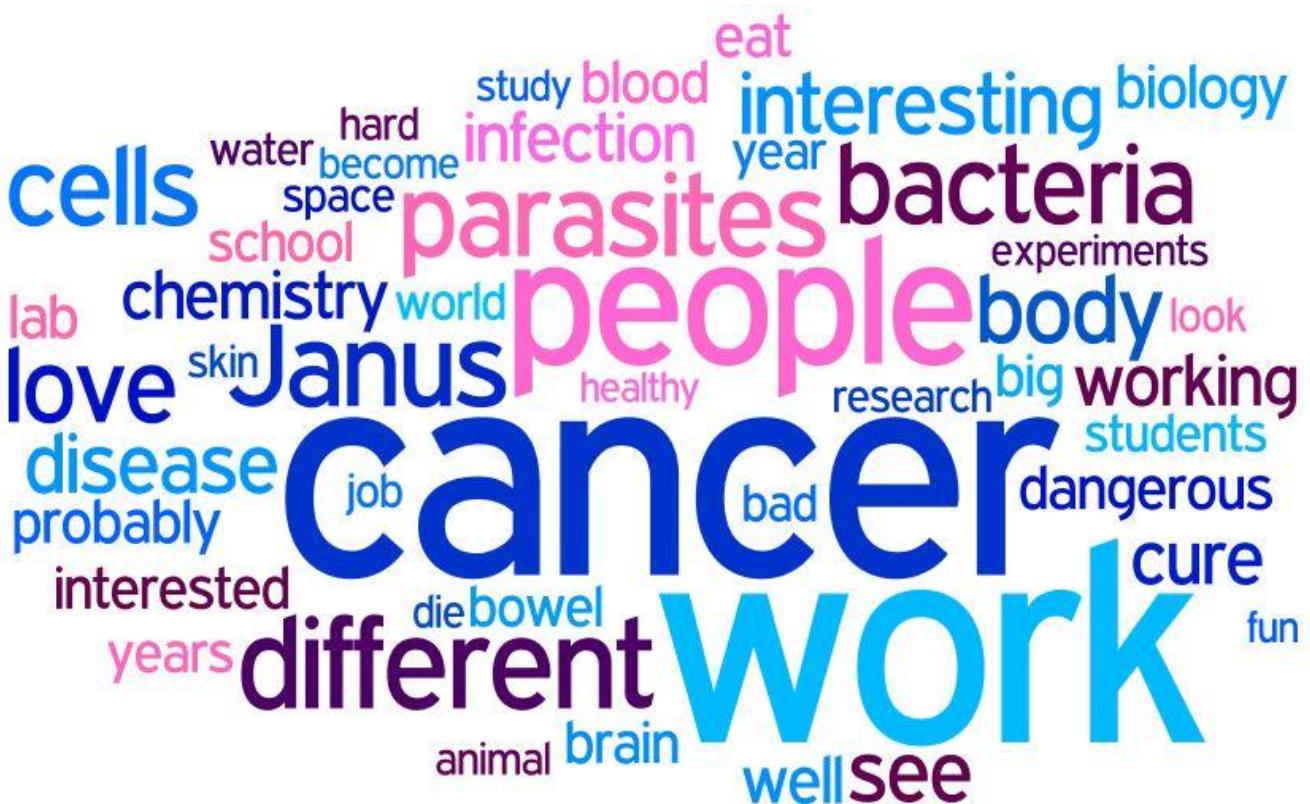
[if you were going to a party, and the invite told each person to bring a flesh eating parasite, who or what would you bring?](#)

[How can we be sure that you are all not figments of my imagination or a dream????](#)

Keywords of questions asked in the zone. The size of the word represents its popularity; the number indicates the number of times it was tagged as a keyword.

baby3 bacteria2 birth2 bowel3 cancer6 career2 cell3 crystal2 cure3 death2 disease5 dream3 egg3 experiment3 flesh eating5 food4 gene2 grow2 hair3 health5 human body16 infection2 janus5 job2 lifestyle2 light3 medicine3 parasite9 personal2 reproduction2 research5 robot9 school2 science3 scientist4 serendipity berry2 space2 Sperm6 study3 sugar4 technology2 tongue3 tuberculosis2 work3 world4

Keywords from live chats in the zone. The size of the word represents its popularity.



### ***Examples of good engagement***

Enda and Jean in particular were good at getting chats going, and continuing to ask questions to students who perhaps were being a bit disruptive or disinterested. A couple of live chats were slow as questions were asked through the teacher, but the scientists did well to keep the answers “personal” to the students who asked.

In lots of questions, such as [Does more than one sperm ever implant into the woman's egg?](#) the scientists learnt new things from each other, as did the students “*i didn't know about the barrier breaking down either, cool!*”.

## **Scientist winner: Enda O'Connell**



**WINNER!**

Enda's plans for the money are: "Next year I plan on running a schools video competition, where secondary school students will get to make a short video explaining a science topic in a fun way for other students. The winning students will then receive a prize, either some money or some equipment, to be used to teach science in their school."

He's written a thank you post with more details about his plans at

[healthn12.imascientist.ie/2012/11/28/thank-you-from-your-winner-end/](http://healthn12.imascientist.ie/2012/11/28/thank-you-from-your-winner-end/)

## **Student winner: roisin**

For asking some good questions about different areas of health, including about memory, genetics & hereditary conditions. Roisin gets a €30 iTunes voucher and a certificate.

## **Feedback**

We're still collecting feedback from teachers, students and scientists but here's a few of the comments made during the event...

"our zone has the best & most comprehensive replies. Even internationally vs UK" – Tom Downing, scientist

"Questions are great, some are tough and I find myself learning some new things!" – Kevin Lomasney, scientist

"the response from the pupils was so good that we're keen to get more classes involved in future events. my pupils especially enjoyed the Live Web Chat, and some were proudly coming into class on other days, bursting to tell me that their questions had been answered." – Alison Chestnutt, teacher, The Royal School Dungannon

"I really enjoyed chatting with the students, answering their questions about science in general and my work in NUI Galway. It gave me a new perspective on what it means to be a scientist. I've also enjoyed meeting different Irish scientists from other disciplines, and learning about their work in other Universities" – Enda O'Connell, scientist

"Thanks guys, great answer s😊" – julia123yermak, student

"The students are excited about communicating with the rest of you and I hope to get down to encouraging them to ask questions on line. They certainly have lots of questions for me in class, many that have stumped me, so be warned!" – Philip Brady, teacher, John Scottus Secondary School