

Hormones Zone, June 2013



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.

The Hormones Zone was busy, with lots of questions directly relating to hormones. Scientist Bimpe withdrew from the event during the first week, but the remaining four scientists all took part and engaged well with the students.

Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

Zone page	Page views
Total zone	18,212
ASK page	1,157
CHAT page	2,387
VOTE page	702
Bimpe Okosun	845
Keith Siew	1,238
Heather Eyre	972
Elaine Marshall	849
Derek Ball	860

Key figures from I'm a Scientist June 2013 for the zone, the average of all 18 zones, and the whole event

	Zone	Zones average	Whole event
Registered students	290	372	6,697
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	91%	83%	-
Questions asked	771	963	17,337
Questions approved	313	309	5,558
Answers given	300	533	9,597
Comments	41	73	1,306
Votes	168	276	4,962
Live chats	14	13	240
Lines of live chat	3,319	4,735	85,225
Schools	8	8	138

Popular topics

In the live chats students often asked questions relating to Heather's and Keith's research. Topics covered included the kidneys and kidney disease, diabetes, animal testing, and hormones generally.

Similar topics came up in the questions, with lots on the kidneys and animal testing, again closely relating to the zone theme and scientists' research areas. There were a lot of questions initially on bees and fat, aimed at Derek and Bimpe.

Sample questions

[What is more nutritious human breast milk or cow milk?](#)

[Do you think there are hormones that still haven't been discovered?](#)

[How long does adrenalin released from the glands take to reach the brain?](#)

[What would happen if there was no water in our bodies and what would we look like?](#)

[What chemicals cause endocrine disruption?](#)

[What is more severe type one or two diabetes?](#)

[Which species of animal has the most efficient kidneys?](#)

[What's your favourite paradox?](#)

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)

achievement⁷ animal¹⁰ animal testing¹⁰ body¹² cancer³
career⁷ cell³ chemistry³ cloning⁴ diabetes⁴ discovery⁵ disease¹⁸ DNA³
education⁵ environment³ evolution⁵ experiment¹⁷ favourite⁴ future⁴ gender⁵ gene¹² growing
up⁶ hormone⁴⁴ how science works⁴ human⁹ hydration⁴ inheritance⁴ issues³ kidney²⁸
medicine⁴ neuroscience⁵ nutrition⁵ personal¹² philosophy¹⁰
physics⁴ pollution³ preference⁵ psychology⁷ quirky⁶ reproduction⁴ research¹⁰ sport⁶ universe⁶ work
routine³

Keywords from live chats in the zone (the size of the word represents its popularity)



Examples of good engagement

Keith and Heather were the most active participants, answering nearly all of their submitted questions by the end of the event. Both attended chats regularly, and Keith was the sole attendee for the first few chats early in the event. Both scientists tended to write thoughtful and lengthy answers, and they were willing to give almost any topic a go. Both put in a big effort towards the end of the second week to clear unanswered submitted questions.

The scientists handled the animal testing questions well, and honestly: *[‘If you have done, how many animals have you tested on and what animals were they?’](#)* *[‘Do you think it’s right to test on animals and if you couldn’t use animals would you be able to continue your work?’](#)*

The scientists often came up with good answers even when asked about science outside of their specialities: *[‘Is it possible to set off a nuclear bomb in space?’](#)* *[‘Why do people get brain freeze?’](#)*

Scientist winner: Keith Siew

Keith's plans for the prize money: "I'm hoping to use the money in collaboration with The Physiological Society to develop a model to demonstrate how the processes of the kidney work which allow it to filter blood, reabsorb vital solutes (e.g. salt, glucose, etc) and regulate the water content to produce concentrated urine. Hopefully when it's complete we'll roll it out to school nationwide and I'll get to demo a few myself in person!" [Read Keith's thank you message here.](#)



Student winner: kelan

For asking lots of good questions, **kelan** will receive a £20 WH Smith voucher and a certificate.

Feedback

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

"thanks guys! will be asking more question. Especially about the diabetes project!" – lgs11greeb, student

"The most rewarding aspect for me was when a couple of students told me that they now thought science was cool and that they wanted to become a scientist when they left school! That meant a lot to me!" – Keith Siew, scientist

"Thank you all you scientists you have inspired me a lot!" – spoderman1, student

"Please can we keep going for 5 more minutes? Keith is doing a great job!!" – jsparon2, student

"On behalf of my students at Sirius Academy, I'd just like to thank you personally for your time. They have been excited and enthusiastic about the whole project. Thanks again." – cheryl4781, teacher

"We have learned so much thank you <3" – mazzasayshowjumper, student