

## Indium 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 Indium Zone was busy, with a fairly constant influx of questions and waves of questions submitted after each chat. Scientist Samaneh didn't take part at all, but the other four scientists all got involved and engaged well with the students.

### Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

| Zone page       | Page views |
|-----------------|------------|
| Total zone      | 22,410     |
| ASK page        | 2,549      |
| CHAT page       | 1,421      |
| VOTE page       | 1,213      |
| Steve Gardner   | 943        |
| Samaneh Maysami | 575        |
| Jess Bean       | 1,116      |
| Colin Dick      | 797        |
| Christina Pagel | 861        |

### 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                                      | 403   | 372           | 6,697       |
| % of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented) | 84%   | 83%           | -           |
| Questions asked  | 1,647 | 963           | 17,337      |
| Questions approved                                       | 490   | 309           | 5,558       |
| Answers given  | 619   | 533           | 9,597       |
| Comments   | 149   | 73            | 1,306       |
| Votes  | 291   | 276           | 4,962       |
| Live chats   | 13    | 13            | 240         |
| Lines of live chat                                       | 4,859 | 4,735         | 85,225      |
| Schools  | 8     | 8             | 138         |

### **Popular topics**

In the live chats one of the main themes was religion – whether someone can be active in their religion and still be a successful scientist, whether the scientists believe in the big bang and/or God, and if the scientists work with any deeply religious people. Another major theme was what the world would be like with or without science in the distant future. Little was asked about the specialities of each scientist.

In the questions, many seemed to relate to Steve's research on the cornea. Quite a few students asked about colour blindness, how the eye works, and why student's pets had different coloured eyes. The question '[Is it true that people may see different colours, such as your blue could be different to mine?](#)' and other similar questions were popular. Initially there were lots of questions about the scientists' education, and there also seemed to be a large concern as to whether the scientists' research will benefit or harm the environment, and whether the scientists support animal testing or not.

### **Sample questions**

[How does earwax effect your balance?](#)

[How can someone be allergic to something later on in their life?](#)

[What is the least common illness or disease cause from our body disorders or bacteria?](#)

[How long on average does it take you to build and make new wings for a car?](#)

[Why do we sometimes get a stitch if we run without a warm up?](#)

[Do you think that robots performing surgery is a good idea if so why?](#)

[How do cameras capture images and store them?](#)



## Scientist winner: Jess Bean

Jess's plans for the prize money: "I'd like to donate the money to a charity that promotes science in schools in the South-West, so that more people can talk to scientists face-to-face!" [Read Jess's thank you message here.](#)



## Student winner: spacenut1982

For some great questions and comments and engaging really well with the scientists and their answers, **spacenut1982** 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...

*"your all great scientists and I had a great time chatting - I have a lot more questions and would love you to come to our school, that will be great, Many Thanks. Lauren" – jo12345, student*

*"It has been such an enjoyable experience, and it's been so much fun to chat to students about such a broad range of science subjects! I got so many interesting questions both about my work and completely new subjects that I had never learnt about before!" – Jess Bean, scientist*

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

*"we enjoyed this chat it was very egicational" – mc94134, student*

*"THANK YOU GUYS FOR CHATTING WITH US WE ARE GREATFULL" – ab34631, student*

*"It's really exciting to know that young people are still interested in science and it's great that things like this can help more people enjoy and get into science." – scientist*