

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 Medical Physics Zone was busy, especially towards the end of the first week and at the start of the second week in terms of live chats, though few new questions were submitted outside of the chats in the second week.

Number of page views in the 3 weeks surrounding the event

Zone page	Page views
Total zone	28,016
ASK page	2,349
CHAT page	2,073
VOTE page	1,302
Leila Nichol	1,341
Jim O Doherty	904
Frank Soboczenski	765
Dhvanil Karia	645
Charlotte Kemp	682

Key figures from I'm a Scientist March 2013 for the zone, the average of all 11 zones, and the whole event

	Zone	Zones average	Whole event
Registered students	538	339	3,731
% of active students (used ASK, CHAT, VOTE or commented)	91%	89%	-
Questions asked	1,737	846	9,307
Questions approved	473	356	3,921
Answers given	1,258	669	7,357
Comments	264	109	1,198
Votes	445	296	3,255
Live chats	20	16	179
Lines of live chat	5,869	5,088	55,971
Schools	5	9	97

**Popular topics**

Students were curious about medical physics as a job, asking practical questions about how long you have to study for it, the pay etc. Many other questions were generic science questions, outside of the zone area. In the live chats there were many questions on animal testing and whether it is appropriate for medicines versus cosmetics, possibly relating to the recent EU ruling barring cosmetics testing on animals.

There were lots of career focussed questions outside of the live chats along with a number of personal preference questions on music, animals and food. Students frequently asked robot questions aimed at Dhvanil in response to his mention of making robots in his profile. Some of the more complex questions covered the nature of radiotherapy and its efficacy, and there were several personal stories about cancer, such as students mentioning relatives having had the disease. Other popular topics included accidents at work, whether scientists had saved lives and if they were about to cure cancer.

**Sample questions**

[What does medical physics involve?](#)

[What precautions do you use while experimenting with radioactive substances?](#)

[Can radiotherapy become more advanced to make it more effective?](#)

[Will it be ever possible to use nuclear power stations waste \(radiation in particular\) to cure people?](#)



## Scientist winner: Leila Nichol

Leila's plans for the prize money: *"I'd like to raise awareness of science careers within healthcare. I was lucky enough to discover Medical Physics when I was at school, but a lot of people aren't aware it exists. So I'm going to look into creating information sheets, posters, a blog or website, maybe arrange some school visits, and try to collaborate with the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) or STEMNET. It's an interesting and rewarding career and more people should know about it."*



## Student winner: darkopdisguised

For submitting lots of good questions, darkopdisguised will receive a £20 WHSmith 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...

*"I've really enjoyed this experience, I've found it very interesting learning about the field of medical physics and the varied work of the scientists who've taken part. It has definitely made me consider medical physics as a career option!"* – physicsfan, student

*"My favourite part was taking part in the live chats – they definitely get the adrenaline pumping for those 30 minutes trying to answer as many questions as possible and keep my typing up to speed. It was great chatting to so many enthusiastic pupils who were interested in our careers, training, opinions and advice."* – Leila Nichol, scientist

*"I now want a career in science, you have opened my eyes to the world of science"* – alicevescott, student

*"@leila I had a vague idea about the medical physics but not as much as I do thanks to all the answers to the questions you have given us thanks"* – kellierotherapy1, student

*"Thank you all scientists, very interesting conversation, carry on being awesome!"* – elliebellie, student