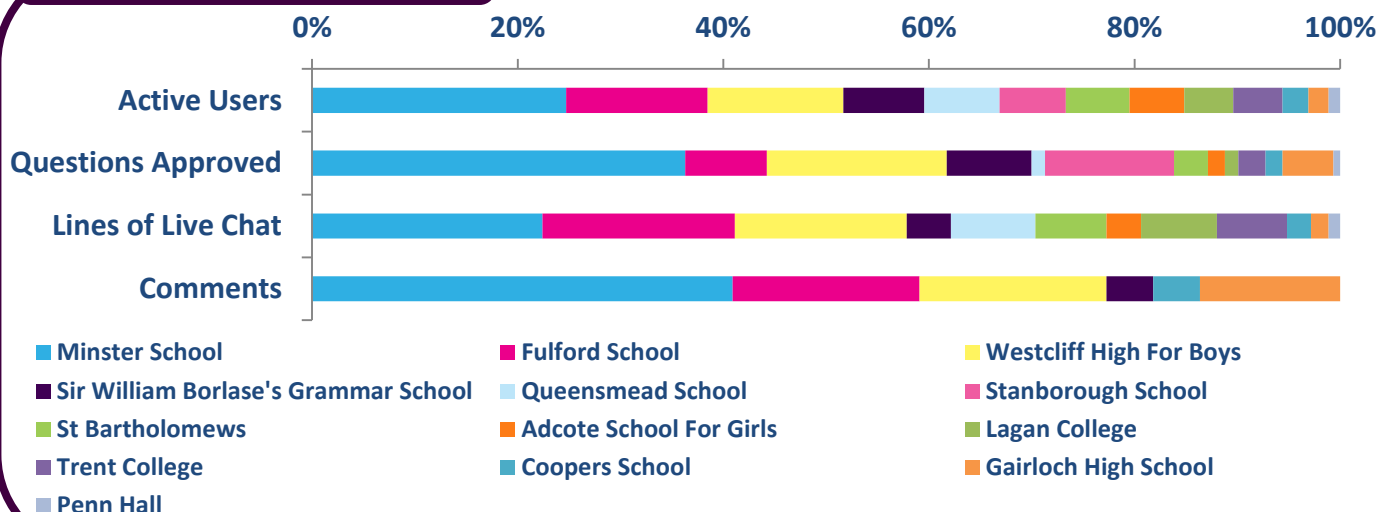


June 2015

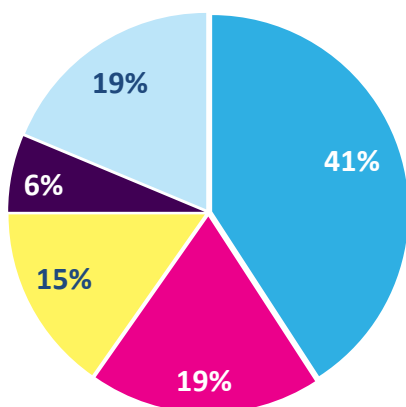
The Hormones Zone was a themed zone part-funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Society for Endocrinology and four of the participating scientists (Saffron, Partha, Craig and Amy) were members of the Society. The zone was very focused on its theme and there was a relatively high number of answers from the scientists (816), resulting in each question receiving two answers on average. Popular topics in the zone were sperm, muscle and diabetes. It was notable that Laura attended all but one live chat, sometimes as the only scientist present, and she dealt very well with some very busy situations.

School data at a glance

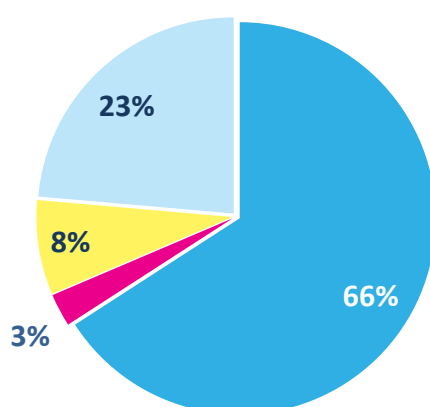


Scientist activity

Answers



Lines of Live chat



| Scientist | Profile views | Position |
|-------------------|---------------|----------|
| Laura Wales | 1,095 | Winner |
| Craig Doig | 838 | 2nd |
| Saffron Whitehead | 732 | 3rd |
| Partha Kar | 601 | 4th |
| Amy Cameron | 564 | 5th |

| PAGE VIEWS | HORMONES ZONE | JUNE '15 ZONES AVERAGE |
|------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Total zone | 21,510 | 23,412 |
| ASK page | 1,665 | 1,818 |
| CHAT page | 2,417 | 2,946 |
| VOTE page | 1,120 | 1,587 |

| | HORMONES ZONE | JUNE '15 ZONES AVERAGE | IAS 2012-15 AVERAGE |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Students | 408 | 411 | 342 |
| % of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE | 88% | 91% | 85% |
| Questions asked | 670 | 805 | 702 |
| Questions approved | 303 | 358 | 302 |
| Answers given | 816 | 578 | 555 |
| Comments | 50 | 57 | 79 |
| Votes | 296 | 330 | 273 |
| Lines of live chat | 3,635 | 5,928 | 4,784 |
| Live chats | 18 | 18 | 14 |
| Average lines of live chat | 202 | 328 | 338 |
| Schools | 13 | 12 | 9 |

Popular topics

Many of the questions in ASK concerned hormones. Questions ranged from personal questions, often relating to puberty and development, such as “why do men /boys get so sweaty whilst going through hormones” to more specific questions such as “What does the Pituitary gland control?”

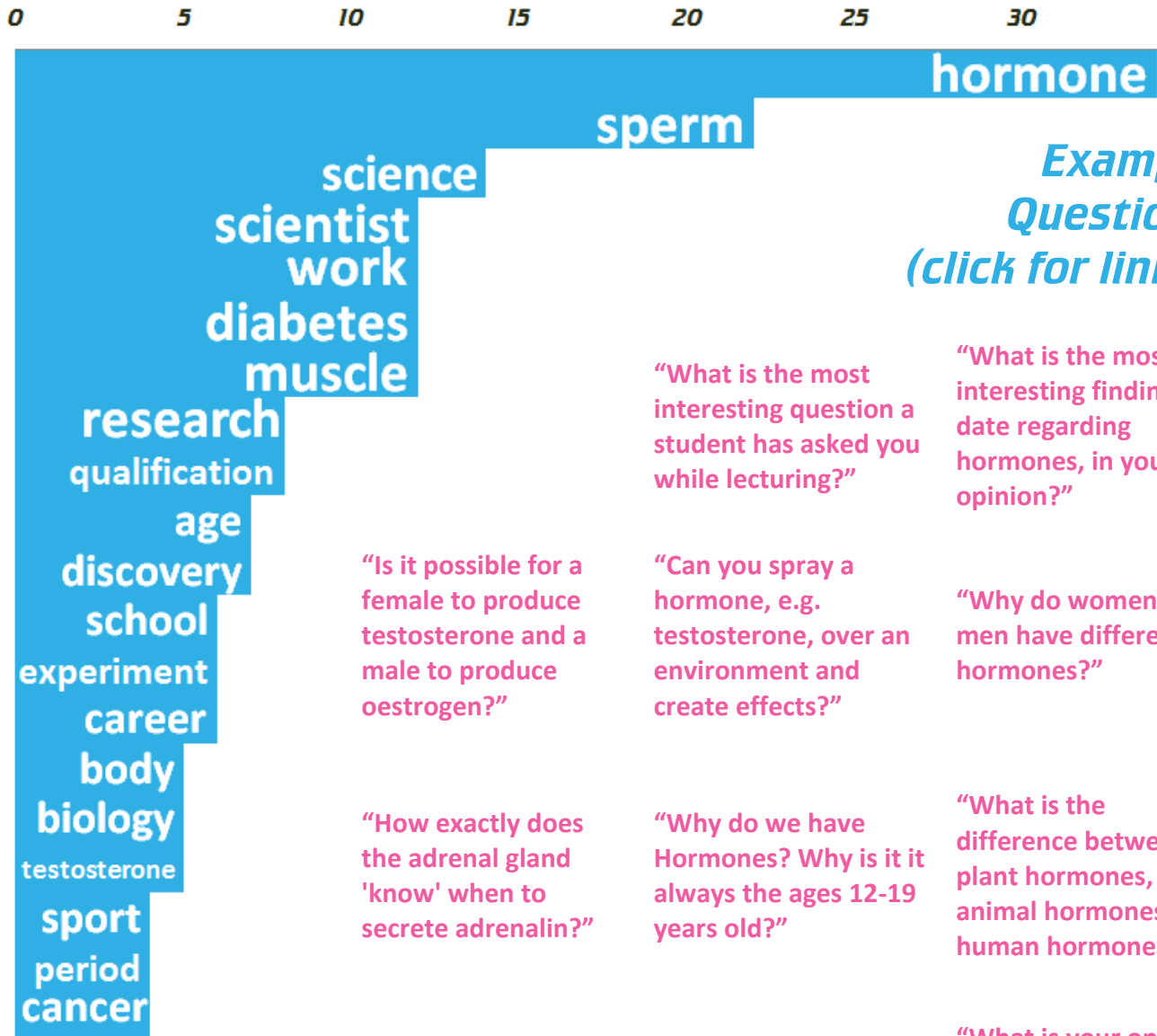
There was a lot of interest in Laura’s work on male fertility and sperm. Despite the potential for immature comments, many of the students were curious and serious in their engagement with this topic.

There were also questions about what inspired the scientists to follow their chosen career, what they like about their jobs and the qualifications required to be a scientist. General science questions, such as “how did we evolve from apes?” were rare in comparison to those about hormones.



Ask ?

Keywords of questions asked in the zone, length of bar represents frequency of use



Example Questions (click for links)

“What is the most interesting question a student has asked you while lecturing?”

“What is the most interesting finding to date regarding hormones, in your opinion?”

“Is it possible for a female to produce testosterone and a male to produce oestrogen?”

“Can you spray a hormone, e.g. testosterone, over an environment and create effects?”

“Why do women and men have different hormones?”

“How exactly does the adrenal gland 'know' when to secrete adrenalin?”

“Why do we have Hormones? Why is it it always the ages 12-19 years old?”

“What is the difference between plant hormones, animal hormones and human hormones?”

“How are diabetes and hormones linked?”

“Have you ever been shocked at how good a student’s paper was?”

“How many types of hormones are there?”

“What is your opinion on doping in sports and what do you think needs to be done to try and prevent it from happening?”

“Does hugging effect your hormones?”

“What qualifications do you need to become a scientist?”

“What is the function of glycogen?”

“Do hormones cause spots?”

Examples of good engagement

There was an excellent rapport between the scientists and the students in the live chats and there was some good discussion exploring ethical issues in scientific research:

“Is it ethical to make people pay to have babies?” – Student

“Great question. The NHS have a criteria that they offer couples the opportunity to have 1 child of their own. They wouldn’t pay for IVF treatment if they already had a child. In a way it is ethical because it’s giving people the chance of having one child. The NHS couldn’t cope with more.” – Laura, scientist

“Do you do any tests on the mice?” – Student

“Yes I do conduct animal research. It is all tightly controlled by Government legislation so you can not do anything you like. You have to get your studies approved and the welfare of the animals is of paramount importance.” – Amy, scientist

“Do you need to test your work on people or animals?” - Student

“If I’m doing any studies I use human sperm. I would speak to the guys and get them to fill in a consent form so they know exactly what research I’m doing. It’s very strict working with sperm, eggs and embryos.” – Laura, scientist

Scientist winner: Laura Wales

Laura’s plans for the prize money: *“I’d like to put the money towards a scheme/event to raise awareness of testicular cancer in Edinburgh. In terms of raising awareness of testicular, it’s really important for guys to know what to look for. There is a charity in Glasgow where people go out and about to raise awareness but I don’t know of any in Edinburgh. I think when it comes to genitals, people can sometimes feel a bit more shy about getting things checked out but at the end of the day, they are a normal part of our human anatomy and they need to be healthy and looked after”.* Read Laura’s [thank you message](#).



Student winner: ExtraCheekyNandos

For great engagement during the event, this student will receive a gift 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...

“Thank you for taking the time out of your job to answer our questions.” – Joel1231

Any chance I got, I was answering the questions on ASK (all 214 of them!) – on my journey to work, breaks, lunch, journey home, on the way to meet friends – any chance I got! – Laura Wales, scientist