Name _____ Date _____

Science Mastery

Scientist in the Spotlight



Nathasia Muwanigwa

Neurobiology PhD Candidate

Nathasia Muwanigwa is a PhD candidate in neurobiology and Parkinson's disease at the University of Luxembourg. Neurobiology is the study of the cells of the nervous system and their function. Her research involves trying to understand **Parkinson's disease** at a cellular or molecular level in the brain. She has always been fascinated by the brain and thinks that it is the most interesting organ in the human body. Nathasia has even grown "mini brains" from human stem cells!

Every day at work is different for her. She does check her email regularly and that is the first thing she does every morning. At some point in the day, Nathasia visits her mini brains to check on their growth and feed them if necessary. She always makes sure that she has a good break during work to relax and have a good meal. Recently, Nathasia was interviewed for a podcast to discuss her cutting edge research.

Being from Zimbabwe, a country with a complicated economy that has affected the way people live, has helped Nathasia to approach her research from a unique viewpoint. Her culture and upbringing have made her more resilient and she can always come up with creative ways of making ends meet. She applies the same mindset to her day to day research and approaches every **roadblock** as a challenge rather than a setback.

Being able to work on a research project that she is genuinely interested in and performing the various exciting experiments is one of the best things about her work. However, work can get quite overwhelming at times as there is so much to do. But, Nathasia says that this gives her an opportunity to improve on her time management skills.

Nathasia's advice to upcoming scientists is to remain **curious**. A willingness to learn while taking genuine interest in one's work makes a good scientist. She also emphasises that science is not always about numbers and equations. It also has a drop of curiosity that she enjoys. Approaching one's work without any **bias**, accepting when one is wrong and enjoying what one does makes the journey of research and science an enjoyable one.

Activity

Use the scientist's profile to answer the following questions:

1. What is the scientist's job?

2. Briefly describe what the scientist does in a typical day.

3. What skills do they need for this job?

4. What do you think is the most interesting part of their job?

5. Describe how this job links with the science you have learned in this unit

6. State the definition of any words in **bold**.