



CASE STUDY

ENTERPRISE + STEM

Associate Professor Francine Marques Medical Researcher

Francine Marques works as an Associate Professor and Medical Researcher at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

In this case, Francine walks students through a 'day in the life' of a scientist and tells us about the gifts STEM can give us, including being able to leave a legacy and solve problems to make the world a better place.

A curious mindset

For Francine, curiosity was always a part of growing up.

Her parents taught her that she could do anything, and she credits their support for helping her develop the confidence to know that she really could go and do anything she wanted.

As a child, Francine grew up visiting the hospital where her dad worked as a gynecologist and obstetrician.

See got to see patients after they had had babies. And although she didn't want to deliver babies like her dad, she was inspired to work 'behind the scenes' to help patients.

From a young age, Francine was told that she could do anything! So she decided to help people.

Case Authors

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Griffith University

The University of Tasmania

It was in her high school classroom that she fell in love with science and discovered what she wanted to do for a career.

Through studying genetics, she decided to become a geneticist and molecular biologist.

Making a difference through science

Today, Francine researchers high blood pressure.

She tells us that high blood pressure is a major risk factor for developing heart disease and stroke.

Did you know it affects one in every three adult Australians! That makes it a major issue that needs solving for the Australian population.

Daily, Francine strives to help improve people's health through her research.

Day in the life of a scientist

Francine's days are varied, and this is one of the things she loves about being a scientist.

No day is the same!

Some days, she meets with her team to talk about what they are doing, to discuss science, and to help them achieve their goals through mentoring.

Other days, Francine does a lot of networking.

She's a member of several committees.

By networking, she's able to drive impact for her team, patients, and the general public. Francine also spends time writing.

She also writes grants, papers, and analyses data.

Leaving a legacy

Six years ago, Francine was diagnosed with stage three ovarian cancer. She went from being a scientist helping patients to being a patient herself.

Being diagnosed with cancer, which had a poor prognosis, made her really think about her priorities and what she wanted to achieve.

Her diagnosis changed everything.

Francine spent time reflecting on what she wanted her legacy to be.

She spent time reflecting on what she wanted to leave behind and what 'good' she wanted to do in the world.

Francine reflects that a lot of people don't start to think about the legacy they want to leave behind until the end of their career.

**Studying science lets you
leave a legacy behind.**

Francine's primary values are fairness and accountability.

But, her cancer diagnosis prompted her to think hard about what she wanted to achieve and what her legacy would be if she wasn't around in a few years. She had to start working on her legacy now!

To figure out her legacy, Francine thought hard about her vision. What did she want to do? What impact did she want to have?

To help her craft her vision, Francine set very clear values. Francine's primary values are fairness and accountability. She aims to bring these values into every relationship she has and every activity.

Through her work in science, Francine also wanted to empower other people. She wanted to empower her team to become great scientists and/or to achieve their goals in life.

She wanted to empower her patients to have better and clear decision making about their health.

She sees part of her role as a scientist as enabling other people to achieve what they want to achieve.

Studying science

Francine believes that Australian scientists are exceptional and have lots of great ideas about how science can solve so many of the world's problems, including climate change through to cardiovascular disease, to Alzheimers, to recycling.

She identifies investment as one thing needed to help Australian scientists achieve their goals.

When studying STEM, Francine tells us that you can end



Through her work in science, Francine wanted to empower other people.

up having lots of career options because through studying the sciences you gain a large number of skills.

One of the important skills you learn from doing a science degree is problem solving.

Studying science opens lots of door to lots of possible careers.

Studying science also lets you leave a legacy behind.

Francine tells us that science gives you the opportunity to positively impact people's lives in so many areas.

Studying science and working in a university can also allow you a lot of freedom over what you do. Studying science, and now working as a scientist, has allowed Francine to set her mind on achieving a goal and working towards making the world a better place.

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