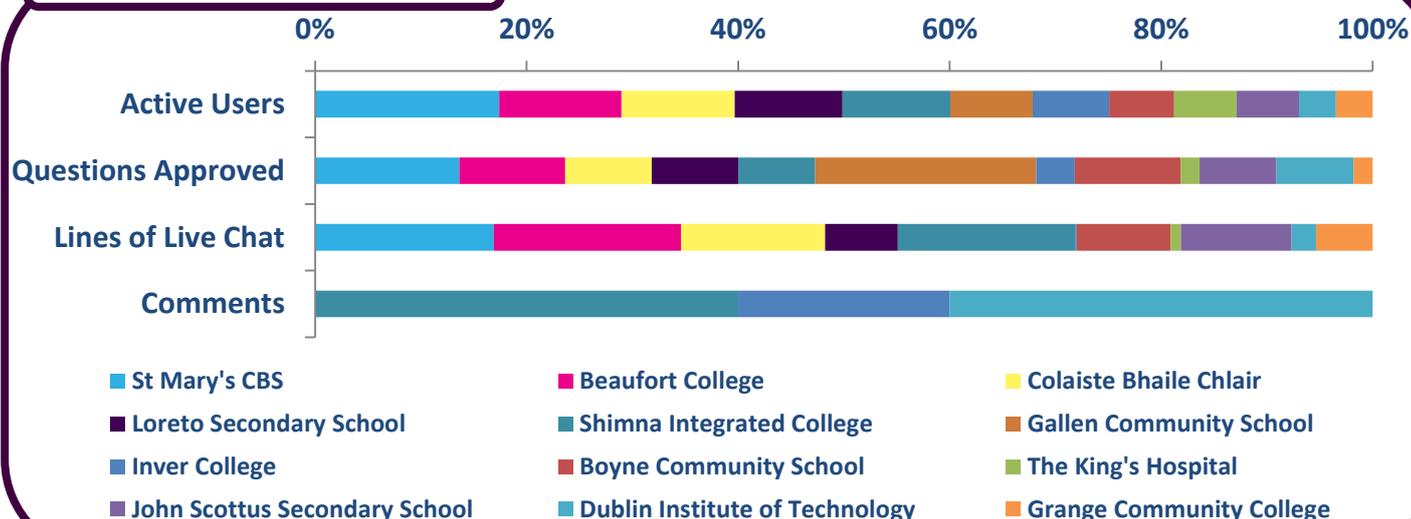


## November 2015

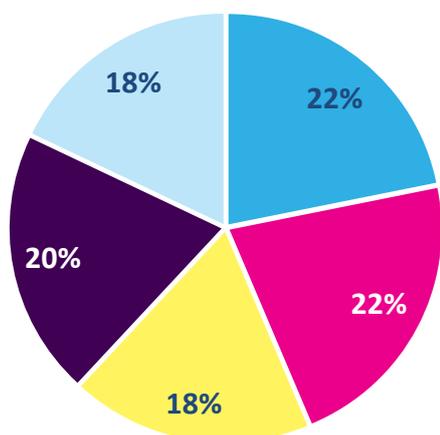
The Nanoscience Zone was funded by the Science Foundation Ireland's Discover programme and involved five scientists whose research involved science done at the nanoscale. For example, Anil researched tiny transistors and Micki is using nanotechnology to develop new tests for infectious diseases. The students were aged between 12 and 19 and discussion in live chats was busy, especially in the many where 3 or 4 scientists attended. Overall, the zone was quiet in ASK, and most questions from students asked generally about working as a scientist, rather than the theme of nanoscience. In ASK there was a very even spread of answers from the scientists, while in the live chats Anil and Claire contributed the most.

### School data at a glance

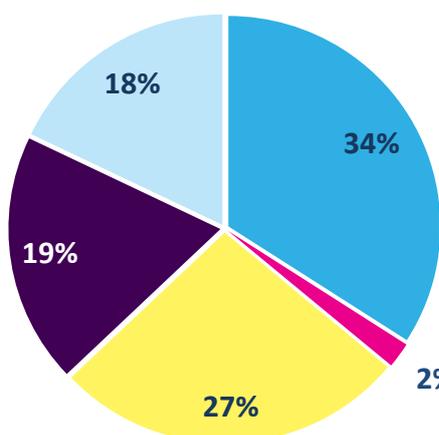


### Scientist activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of Live chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Claire O'Connell	735	Winner
Leona Mc Girr	695	2nd
Anil Jain	695	3rd
Micki Mitchell	640	4th
Aisling Kerr	516	5th

## Key figures from the Nanoscience Zone and the averages of the November zones

PAGE VIEWS	NANOSCIENCE ZONE	NOV '15 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	17,419	21,241
ASK page	1,356	1,860
CHAT page	1,675	2,420
VOTE page	1,402	1,433

	NANOSCIENCE ZONE	NOV '15 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS IRELAND AVERAGE
Schools	12	12	11
Students logged in	432	409	355
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	89%	91%	84%
Questions asked	641	746	649
Questions approved	110	192	250
Answers given	307	447	533
Comments	9	35	63
Votes	324	326	280
Live chats	15	17	15
Lines of live chat	3,458	2,551	3,926
Average lines per live chat	231	226	266

### Popular topics

Overall, questions in the Zone related to the lives of the scientists and their careers, rather than specifics of their research or the theme of nanoscience.

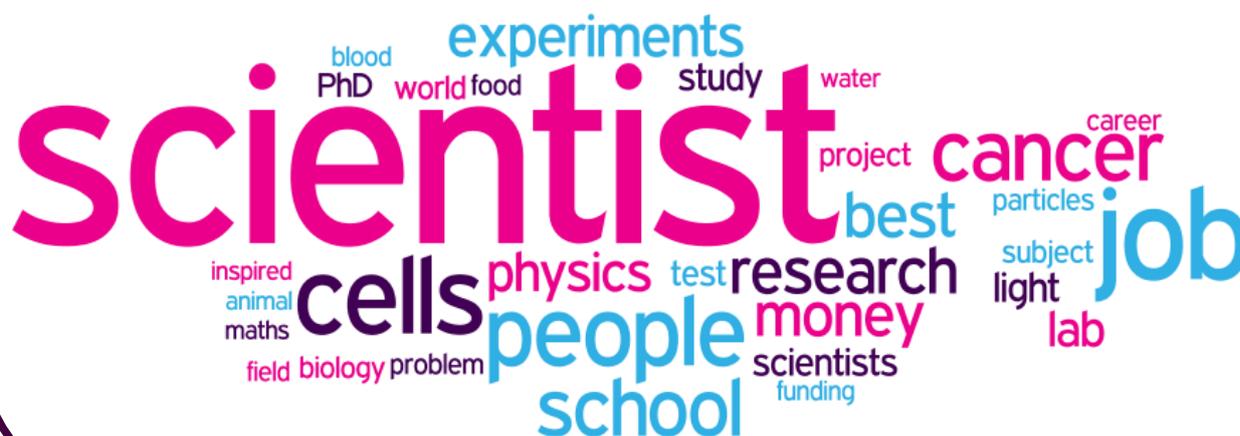
In the answers to these questions scientists got to talk about their research leading to discussion of lasers, cancer and future uses of their findings.

Questions about the working conditions of the scientists were common in ASK and live chats, as well as advice on education and careers, and their likes and dislikes.

There were also some general science questions, for example about nuclear weapons and the formation of the universe.



Keywords from live chats in the zone, size of the word represents its popularity





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

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

favourite

experiment  
subject

career  
difficulty  
school

accident

money  
achievement

laser

result

time

cancer cure

injury

future

education

nanoscience

particle

diagnose

universe

### Example Questions (click for links)

“When you die what would you like to be remembered for?”

“What do you think you’ll be doing in 10 years’ time?”

“Were there any challenges in becoming the scientist you are now?”

“What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given?”

“Do you think that the teacher you have can affect your views of science?”

“Have you met anyone important or interesting in the last while?”

“Do you think your work can get young people into science?”

“What advice would you give someone if they were thinking about becoming a scientist?”

“During your career have you ever had days where you wish you didn't go into a science?”

“What would you like to achieve during your lifetime?”

“Are you happy with your current achievements?”

“What was it that initially interested you in your particular field or have you always known what type of science you wanted to do?”

“When you start an experiment how long or how many times does it take to get a result?”

“What was the most interesting material you've worked with and what was its reaction?”

“Ireland is said to become one of the new science hubs in Europe - what development is taking place at the moment?”

“In your job would you say you do the same thing every day or does it change?”

## Examples of good engagement

The live chats were often engaging and the students enjoyed probing the scientist's ideas and motivations, whilst the scientists were very good at showing their human sides. In the example below Claire responded well by asking the opinion of the student:

*"Why do you think that animated videos are the best thing you can make with the money?"* – **Student**

*"That is a really good question. That was the first thing that popped into my head as I thought it might help people understand really complicated topics... However I am thinking about changing that to something more hands on for students to come try some science here with me at BDI. Would that be better?"* – **Claire, scientist**

*"I think that experiencing science is way more interesting than just watching it"* – **Student**

Claire later changed her idea for the prize money during the event. The scientists were also honest about their working habits and personalities, as Anil was here:

*"During periods when you have no good results, how do you keep yourself motivated?"* – **Student**

*"If things are not working at all then I skip work and try to concentrate on something else. Sleeping over it helps a ton. But most of the time it's because I have been careless rather than the thing not working."* – **Anil, scientist**

Micki often used less serious questions as opportunities to show her sense of humour:

*"How are gingers formed?"* – **Student**

*"When awesomeness reaches critical mass, a ginger forms spontaneously."* – **Micki, scientist**

## Scientist winner: Claire O'Connell

Claire's plans for the prize money: *"I have done some thinking and definitely I would love to organise some demonstrations for you guys to come and visit me in the BDI and show you some real life nanoscience I do here."* Read Claire's [thank you message](#).



## Student winner: Adalina

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 Scientists for answering all of our questions and for helping us out. It was much appreciated."* – Student



Claire O'Connell  
@clo\_con

First elimination day on I'm a Scientist ! Its been great talking to students in #Nanoscience zone. Getting nervous!