

#### Academic profile

#### Degree

**Bsc Biochemisry 2:1** 

#### Post grad

PhD in genomic profiling of haematological malignancies

## Qualification/achievement you are most proud of

My PhD

Subjects you enjoyed at school

Science, History, Languages

## What inspired you?

From as early as I can remember I knew I wanted to work in science or medicine in some capacity. At college, when I first learnt about genetics, inheritance and disease I realised I'd found a subject I really loved and wanted to have a career in. I am now 20 years on and I have lost people I love to cancer- this is a constant motivator to keep going and hopefully help find a cure.

# DR HELEN PARKER

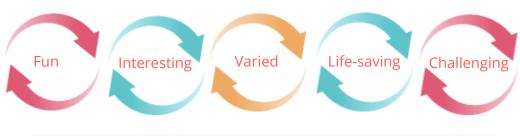
#### SENIOR POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW CANCER RESEARCH SCIENTIST

"I love that the work I do might save or improve the lives of people suffering from cancer"

#### **Career Summary**

After completing my A-levels in biology, chemistry and psychology, I did a BSc in biochemistry. Then I worked as a research technician for 6 years in the Leukaemia Research Cytogenetics Group. Whilst there I studied for my PhD, looking at the genomic profiles of patients with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. I then got a position as a postdoctoral research fellow in the University of Southampton's Cancer Genomics Group and have been there ever since (12 years!). I work on the identification of genomic defects in patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia- they can help us chose the most appropriate treatments and identify patients who are less likely to do well. I get to develop and use cutting edge technologies in my work. I also teach, present, publish my work and get to travel.

### Describe your job



**Did you know .....** If you stretched out all the DNA from inside all of your cells, it would be 67 billion miles long!

### Top tip

You spend most of your life at work so choose a career doing something you really love

#### Best thing about my job

I love going into schools and LifeLab to meet with young people and try to inspire them to think about careers in science

#### Find out more

 <u>https://www.facebo</u> ok.com/cancergeno <u>micsgroup/?</u> epa=SEARCH\_BOX

