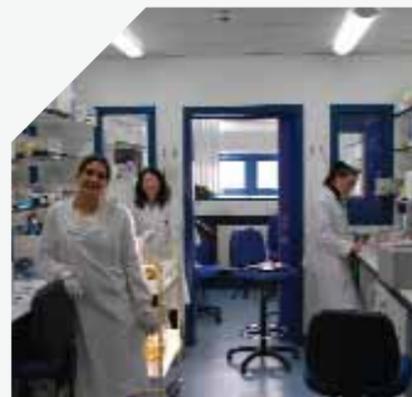


Dr Emma Compton

Postdoctoral Research Assistant,
Division of Molecular Microbiology,
College of Life Sciences



**Take every opportunity that's available –
talk to people about what else is out there!**



I did my first degree in Biochemistry at the University of Bristol as I was interested in the complexity of life and really enjoyed how Chemistry applies to Biology. Following my degree I stayed in Bristol for my PhD; I really enjoyed Science and knew a PhD could be useful in the future, but I wasn't sure what I wanted to do in the end. I remained in Bristol for a postdoc, changing subject to an up-and-coming field working with membrane proteins, as I felt there wouldn't be as many opportunities in my current field. For my second postdoc, I moved with my husband to the National Institutes of Health in America as finding jobs for both of us in science in the same place in the UK was difficult.

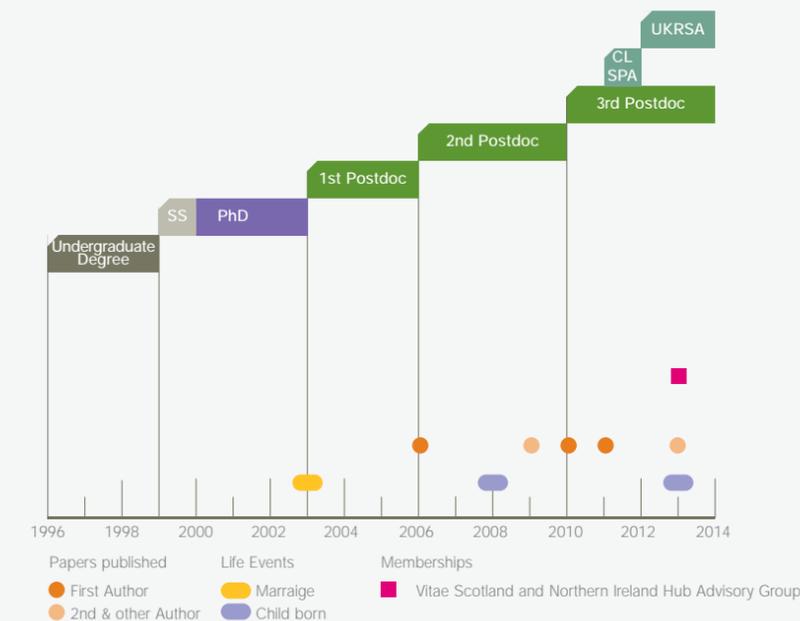
When I moved to Dundee I decided to take as many opportunities as possible. Everyone assumed I would be a PI and it took me a long time to realise that it wasn't what I wanted to do, but that this didn't make me a failure. I became

the Co-Chair of the Postdoc Association through which I met many people with different experiences within and around science that helped me decide what I want to do with my career, which is to move into Staff Development. Being Co-Chair of the Postdoc Association has also led on to my being involved with the UK Research Staff Association and Vitae. I'd like to make a real impact, to help provide support for PhD students and Postdocs so they can make the most of their time in academia and are aware of all the possibilities.

A Day in my Life

I spend most of my time in the lab doing experiments, either my own or supervising students. The rest of my time is at a computer reading papers, analysing results or writing results up into a paper. It's not a 9 to 5 job, some days can be very long and I often work at home in the evenings or on weekends. I am mostly in

charge of my own time though which allows me the flexibility to spend time with my family and to be involved in the College of Life Sciences Postdoctoral Association and the UK Research Staff Association.



Undergraduate Degree
University of Bristol
BSc (Hons) Biochemistry: 2:1

Summer Studentship
University College London, London
Professor Dame Janet Thornton
Computational prediction methods for enzyme activity

PhD
Department of Biochemistry, University of Bristol and Long Ashton Research Centre, Bristol
Professor Tony Clarke and Professor Peter Shewry
CASE studentship. Design of novel serine protease inhibitors

Postdoctoral Positions
1 Department of Biochemistry, University of Bristol
Professor Paula Booth
Refolding and dynamics of membrane proteins in artificial lipid systems

2 Membrane Transport Biophysics Unit, NINDS, NIH, Maryland, USA
Joseph Mindell, MD PhD
Structure/function studies on a glutamate transporter homologue

3 Division of Molecular Microbiology, Dundee
Dr Arnaud Javelle
Structure/function analysis of dicarboxylate transporter homologues

CLSPA: Co-Chair, College of Life Sciences Postdoctoral Association

UKRSA: UK Research Staff Association, Scotland and Northern Ireland representative