

### Women in Science 2023

International Day of Women and Girls in Science Day is February 11<sup>th</sup> 2023. This Day will mark full and equal access and participation of females in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fields. QuantuMDx will mark this by showcasing a number of female employees within these roles across different areas of the business. We would like you to answer the following questions regarding your career to date which give insight into your particular career path into a science related role – many thanks.

Name: Erin Younger

Q1. What is your current role in QuantuMDx and what was your career path into this role? (Include Qualifications).

My current role at QuantuMDx is Laboratory Coordinator. Before this I studied Biological Sciences BSc at Lancaster University, with QMDX was my first job in STEM after graduating. I started as Junior Lab Coordinator and progressed to where I am now.

Q2. Can you explain what a typical day would look like, what your role entails and what you enjoy about your current role?

There is no typical day in my role! Along with Stacy I do anything and everything needed to keep the labs running smoothly. One minute I will be updating SOPs, the next I will be running to the labs to figure out why a freezer is screaming at someone. It ranges from completing documentation and records to keep the labs compliant with our ISO accreditation, calibrating or fixing equipment, training and lab inductions, reagent and consumable stock management, to smaller aspects like laundry and waste clinical management. What I like most about my role is the varied nature, and the way my work feeds into helping several different teams and projects.

**Q3. Why do you think Women are under-represented in STEM disciplines?**

It's difficult to summarise all the reasons why women are under-represented in STEM, but each reason is an extension of the patriarchal society and men maintaining positions of power. Starting in childhood girls typically aren't pushed to do maths or science as much as boys, with the false belief that boys are better than girls at these subjects, leading to a disparity in confidence levels and involvement in STEM subjects. Although the culture of women in the workforce has dramatically changed in recent decades, there are still holdovers from the typical dynamic of women being resigned to homemaking and excluding them from positions of power. This is evident in STEM with men being more likely to be in high up positions, and lack of female representation in CEO and board of director positions. Even in STEM fields where there is more equal, or even higher, representation for women, this decreases as you look at higher up positions; this can create an intimidating and inaccessible environment for women to break into. Women are also much more likely than men to face harassment in STEM disciplines, particularly those which are especially male dominated.

**4. What do you enjoy about working in Science and what are your long term career goals?**

I enjoy being able to see how my work contributes to something tangible, and how as a company we are working towards tackling issues that will help save lives. I don't really have any long-term career goals at the moment, I'm happy in my current position and will wait and see what opportunities come my way.

**Q5. What advice would you give to a female considering a career in science and where would you seek out careers advice, who would you ask?**

My advice would be if you are interested in working in science, then absolutely do it. Even if you face discouragement or any other hurdles, it will be worth it, and you'll be helping to change the landscape of STEM representation. If you read a job description you are interested in but don't think you are qualified, apply anyway, you're more capable than you think and the worst that could happen is they say no.

Advisors at college or university are a great starting point for careers advice, make sure you make use of your academic advisor, and talk to as many woman as possible to see how they got where they are. Women in other positions in your current workplace are also a great resource.

Please tick box to confirm that you agree to your responses being published