

# MELANOMA RESEARCH WITH PROFESSOR MARIANNE BERWICK

## TALKING POINTS

### KNOWLEDGE:

1. What is melanoma? How many people are diagnosed with the condition every day in the US? What is the five-year survival rate if melanoma is detected early?
2. Can you list some of the risk factors for melanoma?

### COMPREHENSION:

3. Why is Marianne working to identify the links between genetic factors, lifestyle and behaviours in those with melanoma?

### APPLICATION:

5. How might the findings from Marianne's studies lead to improved patient outcomes? Consider recommendations as well as the development of treatments.

### ANALYSIS:

6. What do you make of the finding that specific genes play a part in the development of melanoma? How might this affect recommendations for some individuals over others?

### SYNTHESIS:

7. What do you think about a world where individuals are aware of their risk factors for specific types of cancer from an early age? Would this be beneficial? How might this be problematic?

### EVALUATION:

8. Consider Marianne's atypical pathway into cancer research. In what ways do you think she might have benefited from moving to India and Nigeria for several years? How might her studies in liberal arts have shaped her viewpoint in ways that have benefited her cancer research?

## ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

- Pick one of Marianne's three projects that are discussed in the article. Design a poster that contains the key aims, approach and results – include pictures if you think they are necessary.
- Imagine you are interviewing Professor Marianne Berwick for the school paper. Write a list of 10 questions you would like to ask – some focused on her career, but others focused on her background and life outside of academia.

## MORE RESOURCES

Cancer Research UK has loads of fun and educational activities on its website, including hands-on science worksheets that will help you understand more about the science behind cancer:

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/children-and-young-people/get-involved/science-activities-for-children-at-home>

The Teenage Cancer Trust has a page dedicated to education resources, such as 'What is cancer?', 'Sun Safety' and 'Personal Relationships':

<https://www.teenagecancertrust.org/about-us/what-we-do/cancer-awareness>

Cancer Pathways is a cancer risk reduction programme that empowers teens to change their trajectory:

<https://cancerpathways.org/programs/cancer-happens/>

Teen Cancer America lists organisations that provide education resources or offer support, or both. For example, *Elephants and Tea* is a magazine written for and by teens affected by cancer:

<https://teencanceramerica.org/news-resources/resources/>