

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

## Pav Jheeta



I am an **Associate Practitioner and Project Co-ordinator in Microbiology at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, Birmingham City Hospital**. I am also responsible for the machinery, equipment assays, training, stock and co-ordination.



**My first task when I arrive is...** to put the **kettle** on and make a strong coffee. My office door is then propped open and I am ready to begin with the day. While my **coffee** is cooling, I switch my computer on and begin working through my to-do list.

**One of the biggest challenges I face is...** ensuring all benches are covered, especially if a member of staff from the medical laboratory assistant team has called in to advise that they will not be present. Co-ordinating the work while meeting the UKAS ISO standard 15189 in a busy short-staffed environment can be very challenging.

**My favourite thing about my job is...** being part of a skill-mixed team in a proactive and motivated laboratory. We have many opportunities in the laboratory where management are keen to support and encourage.

**The thing that makes my job unique is...** the variety of tasks and responsibilities. Being the first Microbiology Associate Practitioner and Project Co-ordinator in my laboratory has allowed me to adapt my role to the needs and the requirements of the laboratory and the management.

**My route into the role involved...** joining the laboratory as a Medical Laboratory Assistant while deciding on my future career path. I then completed the Support



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Work portfolios, LEAN Six Sigma training and worked close with the laboratory for opportunities and work of interest. This allowed me to apply for the role of an Associate Practitioner.



**My typical lunch is...** cereal or **avocado** on toast. I am quite active and participate in a lot of personal training and **boxing**, therefore my diet is quite restricted.



**My job fits into the wider healthcare context...** by providing a service to my laboratory, using my LEAN Six Sigma skills, project management skills and STEM/IBMS outreach work. This, in return, enhances the recognition and defines the working processes.

**If I get a few spare minutes then I...** make a point of checking that the Medical Laboratory Assistants are alright. I try and do this regularly through the day, and they know the door is always open.



**I feel like I've had a good day when...** all the lab stock has been ordered, the staff are in control and are not feeling under pressure and when another task on the UKAS **checklist** is ticked off. **IBMS**