



April | Reg Mitchell, Chemist

What do you do?

I was a professor of chemistry.

Why is it important?

I prepare students to understand some of the science behind things relevant to their daily lives and which they will be called upon to make decisions about. I also trained future lab scientists.

What does your research involve?

My research involved making new molecules that would change properties when subjected to light – such molecules have potential uses as switches in future computer circuits, which are much smaller than today's chips.

What got you into the field of science?

Doing chemistry experiments with my home set when I was 12.

Did you ever want to be something else?

No, but probably would have headed in to mathematics if I had not been fascinated by chemistry.

What do you like most about your work?

Its different every day – always new challenges. You constantly are learning.

What are three achievements/findings/other things in your life you are proudest of?

Dr Zonk has exposed kids to the fun of chemistry – that chemistry is NOT ALL ABOUT TOXINS.

My research has established an experimental method to measure aromaticity—a topic most have heard of but one which is not well quantized.

Chemistry profs can be fun.

What was your first summer job?

Serving behind counter in a pharmacy.

What's your favourite colour?

Red and Pink.

What are your favorite things to do when you aren't working?

Watch TV.

What 5 words would you use to describe yourself?

Extrovert; Showman; Outragious; Honest; Dedicated.

What advice do you have for a young person wanting to pursue a career in your field?

Work hard to understand it – be outspoken about your ideas—never fear telling the truth.

