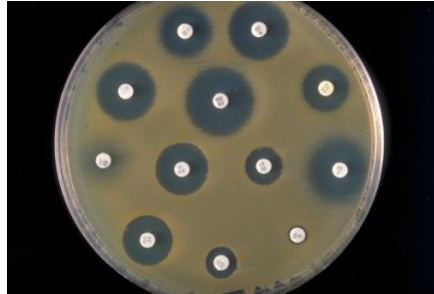


## MicroCareers Portrait Gallery

### Chiefs:

Karen Steward, Patricia Bernal, Juan Luis Ramos, Ken Timmis



*Kirby-Bauer disk diffusion assay showing zones of inhibition around antibiotic-impregnated disks on agar. The diameter of each clear zone reflects the susceptibility of the tested bacterial isolate to the corresponding antibiotic*

An hour is a long time, no? Well, not when we are enjoying ourselves, of course, but it is when we are doing things we do not enjoy, or are bored, or waiting for something to happen, like an important reaction on social media or sitting in a waiting room. In adulthood, we are employed on average for 40 years often for 8 hours per day, 5 days a week for 48 weeks of the year, *some 80,000h or more*, or about half of the hours we are awake during these days. This is a lot of hours, so it is really important that we enjoy them as much as possible. Whereas in theory we are free to choose what we do outside of our working day, our activities during the working day are determined by the nature of the job.

*Choosing a career is thus one of our most important decisions in life.* We all want a job that is interesting, stimulating and satisfying, and usually other things as well that vary among individuals and that are also important to us. The problem is that humans are incredibly diverse in what interests, pleases and satisfies, and careers are incredibly diverse in what they involve, so finding the right match is not easy.

School Career Officers, our teachers, parents, family and friends can all advise us but they face the same difficulty, and importantly they are not us and cannot know what we really will find ideal. They will often consider people as a whole - the average person, rather than an individual with a unique personality - and the employment market only in broad terms. This 'one hat fits all' approach is inevitable because School Career Officers and teachers are busy people, and family and friends do not usually have wide knowledge of career opportunities. *Finding something that best fits our own unique person requires that we ourselves do some homework to discover more about the wealth of career opportunities available and consider how they might match us personally.*

Microbiology is not only a fascinating topic to study and experience, but has applications in a dizzying range of endeavours and activities, ranging from medicine to agriculture to food to environmental protection, and to many, many others; it is even relevant to finance and politics. As a consequence, there are many career paths in which knowledge of microbiology is either essential or helpful. *Could one of these be for you?* If so, you'll want to know what is available, what it might be like, and how you can enter the path. In order to help you consider different career options that do or can involve microbiology, we have recruited vignettes of personal career experiences from people who are/training to be in the different career tracks. *Let's see what it is like to follow a career in which knowledge of microbiology is either essential or very useful.*

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## A child-centric microbiology education framework