

Background:

Working as a full time medical scientist in Ireland I have felt first-hand the frustrations of a 'glass ceiling' on our professional and the limitations the traditional roles bring in what is an ever changing and evolving health service. A number of years ago I started researching the laboratory findings of Infectious Mononucleosis (IM) to better understand the investigation of this disease and raise awareness to the potential benefit the scientist could bring in its diagnosis.

Methods:

The collection, analysis, and presentation of the laboratory data around the investigation of Infectious Mononucleosis in the Haematology department of the Mercy University Hospital, Cork.

Results:

The presentation of two case studies to inform, educate and highlight the value of laboratory data in disease detection, showcasing the value of Irish Medical scientists in the diagnosis of this disease.

Conclusion:

The value of studying laboratory data to better understand the testing of disease(s) is elucidated by presenting two original cases of IM that were diagnosed based upon the laboratory findings under the direction of the investigating scientists. I will also discuss the overarching purpose of my research work going forward.