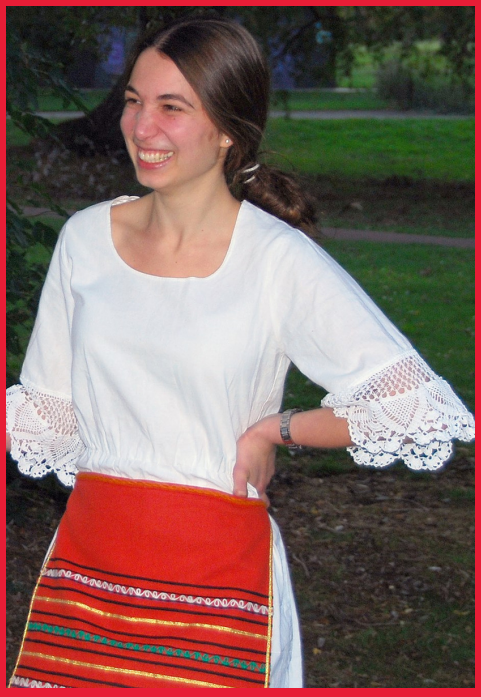
EMILIA DIMITROVA PHD

FLY'S LEGS & THE LOVE FOR SCIENCE



Cooking for the long days in the lab

Eggs with tomatoes, Emilia's style.

Her student recipe for the hard days - simple but effective:

1. Fry some garlic with a tiny bit of olive oil.
2. Poor one chopped tomatoes can in the pan.
3. Add some cheese (she uses feta and/or mild cheddar), pepper and oregano.
4. Crack two eggs on top and cook until they become hard (turn them at some point).

If you are feeling generous, you can add chopped mushrooms with the garlic and finish with the dish with some fresh basil.

A take on Science, the Universe and Life

"I hate how commercialised science (especially life sciences) has become. A motivation for a scientist should be not the impact factor of a journal their work will be published in but the science itself.
What keeps me going? I don't know... I love what I'm doing. I love the freedom, the open questions, the excitement of seeing my experiment to work, the interaction with amazing scientists from which I learn everyday. I also like taking care of my cells (even on weekends, but only when they behave!)."

@emmy_dimitrova

AN ORIGIN STORY

Emilia is from Sofia, Bulgaria. She enrolled in a high-school with a biology major with the idea that she'll become a zoologist. The entrance exam to the school was on Zoology and she loves animals, so even if not quite sure at that point what zoologists really do, she knew she wanted to become one. At school, while most of her classmates were planning to study medicine, she became increasingly excited about cells, what's inside them and how they function.
She then moved to Germany to study Biochemistry and Cell Biology. This is where she realised - what she really wanted to be is a scientist. In her final year, she elected a course on epigenetics. That was the first time she learned how complex and tightly regulated gene expression is. This course inspired her to continue in science and do a PhD. And she did just that, by moving to Cambridge. There she studied how a group of proteins regulates the correct expression of genes during the development of the organism.
Now Emilia is a PostDoc in the University of Oxford where she continues studying the molecular mechanisms of transcriptional regulation.

FUN FACT: The proteins Emilia used to study are called polycomb. This comes from the fact that in flies (where they were first identified) mutations in the genes encoding these proteins cause a 'hairy' leg phenotype. Truth is the male fly legs just have extra combs, they are not exactly hairs, but they sure look like it! (pic from WikimediaCommons)

THE MAKING OF A SCIENTIST

FROM: Sofia, Bulgaria
National High School of Science and Math

THEN: Bremen, Germany
BSc at Jacobs University

AFTER: Cambridge, UK
PhD at Babraham Institute, University Cambridge

NOW: Oxford, UK
Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford

BEYOND SCIENCE

Emilia has dance in her blood - anything from ballet to traditional folklore dancing, especially from the Balkan region.