



Dr. Debora B. Foster



Date of birth: November 28

Awards:

2012 – Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for the Advancement of Science

2001 - Excellence in Teaching Award, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Ryerson

Current research interests: Understanding the molecular basis of pathogenesis of diarrheagenic *E. coli*, exploring how the microenvironment of the gastrointestinal tract modulates the virulence program of these pathogens.

Hobbies: spending time with family and friends, listening to music, particularly classic rock, blues and jazz, biking, swimming, triathlons, traveling to exotic destinations.

My best investment was... **my Infiniti G37XS sport coupe.**

My biggest motivation is... **doing something that makes a real difference.**

A good work day begins with... **morning music that sparkles.**

If I wasn't a scientist, I would be... **a blues artist (if only I had that talent!).**

The most important thing I learned from my students is... **seeing the world as full of possibilities.**

My favorite quote is... **"anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new." -A. Einstein**

I am waiting for the day when... **personalized medicine is a reality.**

My favorite musician is... **my son.**

My motto is... **be passionate about what you do.**

The secrets for being a successful scientist are... **curiosity, perseverance and thinking outside the box.**

What I look for first in a publication is... **the abstract (and then the figures!).**

When I'm frustrated, I... **get off the Gardiner.**

Looking back over my career, I... **consider myself lucky to have found such a fulfilling one.**

If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be... **Edward Jenner, Frederick Sanger and Charles Darwin.**

The most significant scientific advance of the last hundred years is... **decoding the human genome (close second: antibiotics).**

The most important thing I learned from my parents is... **the value of integrity.**