

Monica Wielgos-Bonvallet

Born: Illinois

Currently: New York University Langone Medical Center, New York, New York



When I was 6, my mom bought me *The Way Things Work*. There was a chapter on atoms that really fascinated me – I couldn't envision these atoms in my head and I just wanted a simple picture of them, but my mom said we couldn't see them because they make up everything. That started my love of science.

Today, I work in precision medicine – trying to improve the efficacy of FDA-approved therapies for ovarian cancer. My mom often gets calls from her friends because their husband, or their sister, or someone they know is diagnosed with cancer. They're hoping I can help them find the best path forward for their treatment. But in a way, my mom's friends are helping me too because they keep me connected to the real people I'm trying to help.