

**Reading the interviews with Elaine Fuchs and Staci Simonich, are there any aspects of their work or careers that stand out to you? Does Fuchs demonstrate qualities that account for her success in working with stem cells? What are some important lessons to be learned from reading about Simonich's satisfying career trajectory.**

While reading about Fuchs' career accomplishments in the research of epithelial cells and stem cells, it was easy to notice her obvious passion for the work she conducted. Along with researching, Fuchs also traveled to 11 different places in the world during graduate school, which contributed to her appreciation for various cultures. This appreciation may have sprung from her passion for researching sweat gland stem cells in order to find a way to create engrafted skin that can create sweat glands for burn patients. Traveling to different places in the world may have exposed Fuchs to the lifestyles and difficulties people all over the world may face. The way Fuchs is helping burn victims revert to regulating internal body temperatures by researching treatments of epidermal cell cultures for skin repair is intriguing to me.

Fuchs, in my opinion, does demonstrate qualities that account for her success in her research and work conducted because of the number of different institutions and mentors she learned from. Having experiences from numerous universities such as fellowships, jobs, and education is what broadened her perspective and curiosity about different aspects of stem cells and epidermis research.

One aspect of Simonich's career journey that intrigued me is its 'simplicity'. Usually, when one reads about the lives of accomplished scientists who run their own laboratory, it is easy to believe in the complications of graduate school and the difficulty of being able to

maintain the interest of others based on your research. Simonich was able to stem her career from an interest she was passionate about. Her story was interesting to me because of the way in which she was able to understand her passions and what she aimed to do with her career through her side job. She did not have to test whether or not she wanted to do research in environmental chemistry as a career, but just followed the way she felt about learning about the environment.

Towards the end of her interview, she explained how she was able to merge the idea of having a family with her lab work. Although those two aspects of life may not connect for all scientists, she found what worked for her, and kept feeling her life's work through her idea of the type of family of mentors and mentees she wanted in her personal laboratory. Simonich is now a successful scientist and did not plan her life out step by step, because she was able to trust her feelings about the work she conducted. Every experience she had in regard to her work contributed to the decisions she made for her career. A lesson that can be learned here is that being able to work in a career you are genuinely passionate about means that you will only ever be encouraged to do your best for yourself and others in your field as well.