

## **(INADVERTENTLY) DEVELOPING A PORTFOLIO CAREER: MY JOURNEY SO FAR....**

DAWN GEATHCHES

In 1987 I received my 'A' level results - three As and one B - but had unfortunately not been allocated a place at one of the five veterinary schools in the country. I took the clearing option to find another animal-related route. I found a zoology course, and away I went only to leave a few weeks later when I found out that the course involved cutting-up animals. This path was impossible for me because I had become vegetarian two years earlier - animal vivisection was an absolutely no-no.

During my year out of education I managed to get three short term jobs in a local hospital and applied to medical courses, humans being the next best thing to animals, and I didn't worry about cutting them up! I was fortunate enough to get a place. But then one day when staring down a microscope trying to decipher cells, I thought 'There must be more to life than this!' And left the course.

So began my wobbly and winding career that exposed me to a range of different environments, culminating in my current role as Knowledge Transfer Manager for Mathematical Sciences at Innovate UK KTN (Knowledge Transfer Network).

If I may, I would like to share my journey with you and how having a lack of single-mindedness can be both a blessing and a curse. Oh, and tell you about what Innovate UK KTN does of course, as well as my role in it and in the maths community!!