

## Remembering Suzanne Duce



It was with great sadness and shock that we heard of the sudden passing of Suzanne Duce on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. Suzanne worked with us as Jalview and the Dundee Resource's first Outreach Officer from 2014 to 2023. Like others who worked with Suzanne, we soon came to realise that her indomitable spirit and amazing capacity to take on new ideas were a shining example of how we can all engage with and inspire others of all ages. Suzanne brought huge energy and enthusiasm to all her work and was an inspiration to everyone who was fortunate to interact with her.

Suzanne came to work on Jalview's training and outreach program as part time outreach officer with practically no knowledge of biomolecular sequence analysis. This was something we later realised was 'trademark Suzanne' but also gave her the perfect perspective from which to develop accessible and informative training materials for Jalview. Although we originally envisaged Suzanne would be focused on training university students and researchers, she soon embarked on a campaign to bring Jalview into schools. Together with the School of Life Science's public outreach team and a series of honours students, she developed Jalview's Schools workbook: a series of activities helping school children to understand how DNA, RNA and Proteins related to inherited diseases like sickle cell anaemia or how Jalview can help identify proteins from Dinosaurs.

Suzanne pioneered Jalview's outreach program. Not only through development of training materials, schools' activities, YouTube videos and hands-on courses, but also through her ability to engage with artists and arts practice. A regular at DJCAD events, she recruited several artists to work on Jalview-related projects, including Lucinda Wilson, who created the award winning Jalview Abacus, and Allison Meighan, who employed Jalview during the creation of several jewellery pieces. She also developed her own portfolio, engaging in collaborations to develop conceptual pieces that explored the career paths of women in research, and authoring books and comics focused on science communication and public health. Always on the lookout for new opportunities, she reached out to Jonathan Hale and found a way to bring his Royal Society funded schools Daffodil DNA sequencing project to Dundee and other Scottish Schools, with the help of University of Dundee colleagues.

Suzanne only worked part time with Jalview, but you wouldn't have guessed it. We would often hear from her during weekends or at odd points in the week when she'd been exploring new ideas or angles of approach. Always the self-starter, she took courses in podcasting, movie making, and animation, and was keen to exploit new technologies. In the late 2010s she began investigating augmented and immersive reality and learnt how to create web pages that allowed people to look at molecules in VR or floating in space on a desk using their phones. Suzanne's VR roadshow was supported by her winning funds as part of her first Stephen Fry Award, which allowed her to buy a headset to take in to schools. Her ability and drive to see 'the next big thing' led her to move on from Jalview to artificial intelligence, when she found a position with UoD Computing...

Whilst we dearly miss Suzanne, remembering her drive, love for life and enthusiasm will keep us going as we continue to build on her legacy. On behalf of all of Jalview and the Dundee Resource community, and anyone who has ever attended a training course or workshop, thank you Suzanne. You will not be forgotten.

## Some links and photos of Suzanne and some of her work

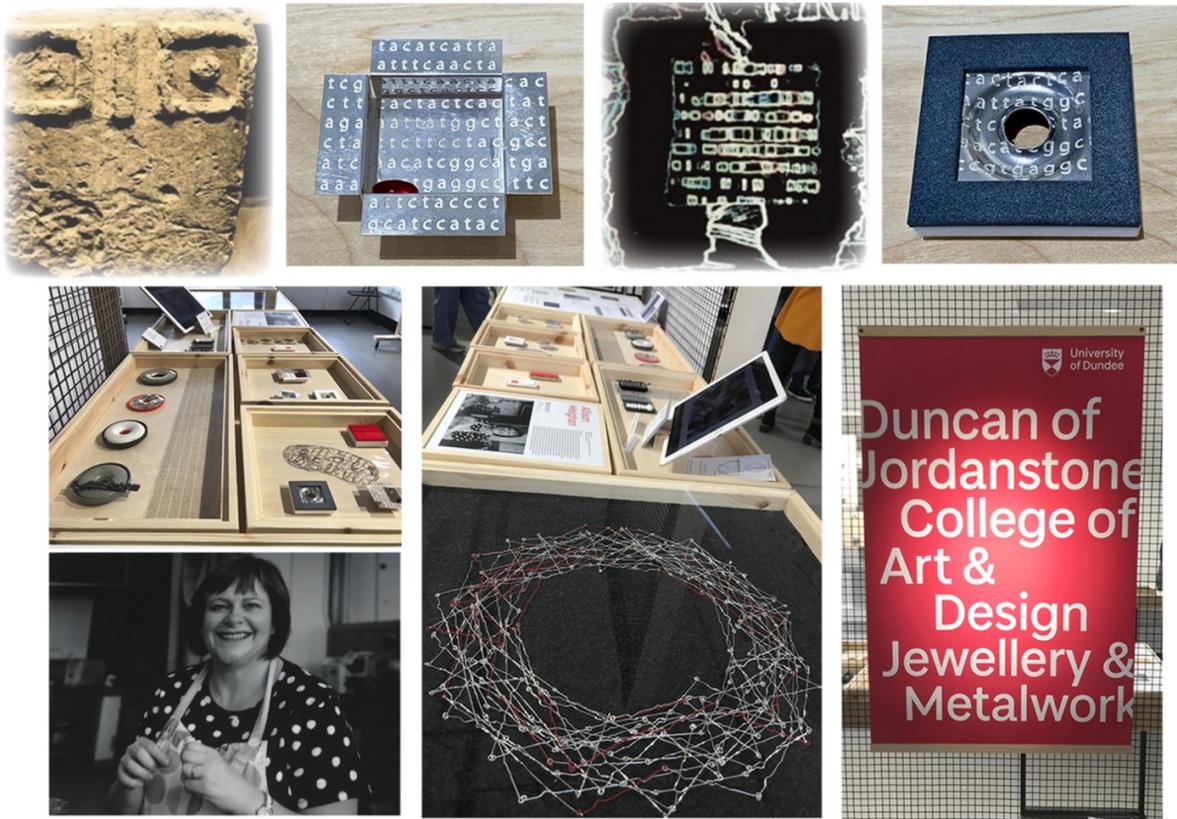
[The Jalview and Dundee Resource YouTube channel](#) is the central point for training videos that Suzanne developed during the time in [our group](#).

[Jalview Training Resources](#) – originally developed by Suzanne and used to help university and school students understand molecular biology, protein structure, genetic variation and evolution.

## Artwork developed in collaboration with Suzanne



Figure 1 The Jalview Abacus - Developed with artist Lucinda Wilson.



*Figure 2 Suzanne collaboration with artist Allison Meighan*

See the Jalview website for further details.

## Pictures of Suzanne from her time in the [Barton Group](#)



Figure 3 Suzanne getting to grips with video equipment



Figure 4 Suzanne with colleagues - Mungo Carstairs and James Abbott, preparing to present about the Dundee Daffodil Schools' DNA sequencing project



Figure 5 Suzanne on the stand at the Microbiology Society meeting Liverpool in 2016



Figure 6 Suzanne with Jalview banners she co-ordinated development of and used at multiple conferences