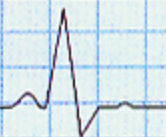




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Researcher Raps to Show Science Is Cool

Looks are often deceiving. That's the message Tyraine Ragsdale is hoping to send to young students.

With his drab, white lab coat, Ragsdale seems to fit the mold of the "stereotypical" boring scientist. Underneath that coat, however, is Grand Hank - a rapping, dancing performer who tries to get students excited about science. Ragsdale, a researcher at R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute in Spring House, Pennsylvania, says, his aim is to show kids that scientists are just as plain, or hip, as anyone else.

"The force that drives students away from science is that they don't think scientists are normal people," he said. "But when they see me, they say, 'Hey, this guy is cool. Maybe I can give science a try.'"