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Assel is a molecular biologist and virologist. After completing her BSc in York, she worked at Nazarbayev University in a team which established biology laboratories. Later she went on to continue her studies in France. During her PhD in Strasbourg she worked in the laboratory, which won Nobel Prize in 2011 for major discoveries in innate immunity.

She is active in volunteering by writing a science communication blog in social media and translating research articles for Kazakhstani doctors during Covid-19 pandemic.

She will speak about her view as a scientist, citizen and parent on the differences of tackling the coronavirus epidemics in France and in Kazakhstan.