

# **Summer E. Allen, PhD**

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## **Professional Experience**

### **Science Writer, Editor, Educator, Consultant (freelance), April 2012-present**

- Research, report, and write news articles, explainers, and features for a variety of media outlets, including the Washington Post, Psyche, Mindful, Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News, IEEE Pulse, and Greater Good magazine.
- Research, write, and edit popular science articles, blog posts, grant reports, literature reviews, research summaries, scientific manuscripts, and white papers for companies, universities, philanthropic organizations, and scientific organizations. Perform literature searches, synthesize scientific studies and policy papers, and interview experts.
- Current and former clients include: the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Psychological Association, the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory, Alzheimer's Association, Brown University, Cardinal Health, Einhorn Collaborative, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, iTriage, John Templeton Foundation, Portland State University, the Society for Neuroscience, the Schizophrenia Research Forum, and the Pain Research Forum.
- Collated and analyzed data, made graphs, wrote sections, and edited materials for a successfully funded NIH grant application for the Brown University Neuroscience Graduate Program.
- Researched and wrote chapters for OpenStax *Biology* and *Microbiology*, peer-reviewed, open-access college textbooks.
- Taught neuroscience courses for Brown University's Precollege Program.

### **Communications Specialist, Portland State University, September 2019-present (14 hours/week)**

- Interview faculty experts, administrators, students, and alumni about a variety of topics, including new scientific studies.
- Write news articles, reported features, profiles, Q&As, and blog posts for the PSU website and magazine.
- Coordinate communication strategy with stakeholders across campus.

### **Research and Writing Fellow, Greater Good Science Center, UC Berkeley (remotely from Portland), April 2017-January 2019**

- Tracked new scientific research, interviewed sources, pitched story ideas, and wrote feature articles for Greater Good magazine.
- Performed literature searches using Google Scholar and PubMed, curated hundreds of scientific studies and review articles, synthesized findings, and wrote five 35- to 80-page white papers geared toward a general audience.

**Graduate and Postdoctoral Researcher, Neuroscience Department, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA, Aug. 2005-June 2014**

- Performed studies on calcium channel genes involved in neuronal communication, epilepsy, migraine, and chronic pain in the lab of Dr. Diane Lipscombe; presented findings at seminars and international conferences.
- Wrote and presented about science in diverse formats, including: book chapters, grant applications, conference abstracts, posters, teaching materials and lectures, oral seminars, scientific manuscripts, review articles, and a 168-page dissertation.
- Wrote two funded grants: (1) an interdisciplinary grant from the Brown Institute for Brain Science and (2) a National Institutes of Health grant, which was funded on first submission and supported my studies for two years (a total of \$60,511).
- Supervised and mentored undergraduate and graduate students; taught experimental design, laboratory techniques, and data analysis; monitored progress on projects; helped students develop public speaking and writing skills.
- Assisted Senior Editor for the neuroscience journal *Brain Research*; evaluated manuscript quality, found and assigned reviewers, assessed reviews, and assisted with publication decisions.
- Appointed as Graduate Student Representative: planned graduate student recruitment weekends; served on admissions committee; acted as liaison between students and faculty.

**Intern Reporter, Rhode Island Public Radio, Providence, RI, USA, Sept. 2012-Dec. 2012**

- Performed research, contacted and interviewed sources, wrote and voiced news stories, produced and edited audio, and published web content under strict deadlines.

**Research Assistant, Oregon National Primate Research Center, Oregon Health and Science University, Beaverton, OR, 2000-2005 (summer and winter breaks)**

- Performed experiments on the neurobiology of obesity.
- Presented findings in seminars and poster presentations.
- Co-authored four scientific journal articles.

## **Education**

- PhD, neuroscience, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA, 2012
- BA, biology, cum laude, Carleton College, Northfield, MN, USA, 2005

## **Professional Memberships**

- Member of the National Association of Science Writers