

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA 2013 - 2019
Ph.D. in Neuroscience

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA 2008 - 2012
A.B. *cum laude* with high honors in Neurobiology

SCIENCE WRITING AND COMMUNICATION EXPERIENCE

Freelance Science Journalist | *Sima Science Communications LLC* June 2019 - present

- Pitching, writing, fact-checking, and editing articles covering the life, health, and environmental sciences
- Have written news and features stories for publications including The New York Times, Scientific American, National Geographic, Discover Magazine, New Scientist, and Eos

Fact Checker | *Vox* November 2021 - present

- Fact-checking and researching for episodes of Vox's "Unexplainable" science podcast, "Land of the Giants" technology podcast, and "Today, Explained" daily news podcast

Communications Specialist | *International Arts + Mind Lab* May 2019 - present

- Supporting blog, social media, and organization-wide communications strategy, including with partners at Google Arts and Culture, One Mind, and the Aspen Institute
- Editing, writing, and fact-checking blog posts for a multidisciplinary neuroaesthetics initiative

Research Consultant | *National Geographic's "Brain Games: On the Road"* October 2020 - July 2021

Researcher | *National Geographic's "Brain Games: On the Road"* July 2020 - October 2020

- Researching, fact-checking, and writing science explainers for over 150 games on gameshow
- Brainstorming and providing feedback for games during twice weekly pitch meetings

President and Co-Founder | *Johns Hopkins Science Policy Group* November 2016 - June 2018

- Organized biomedical researchers in science advocacy, communication, and policy projects
- Prepared policy primers for advocacy events where >200 researchers wrote and called their representatives in Congress about issues including healthcare reform and science funding

Contributing Writer | *Johns Hopkins Medicine Biomedical Odyssey Blog* September 2015 - June 2016

Chair of Communications Committee | *Project Bridge* August 2013 - June 2017

SCIENCE WRITING AND COMMUNICATIONS HONORS (SELECTED)

Excellence in Craft Award Winner, Outdoor Writers Association of America, 3rd Place Newspaper 2022

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute **Ocean Science Journalism Fellowship** 2022

Falling Walls Foundation **Berlin Science Week Research Grant** 2021

ProPublica/Online News Association (ONA) **Diversity Mentorship Program** 2021

Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship for Online News Association (ONA) conference 2021

Phillip L. Graham Diversity Fund Fellowship for Investigative Reporters & Editors conference 2021

Solutions Journalism Network mentorship program, Winona LaDuke cohort 2021

SciShortform **Best Shortform Science Writing, "Top Pick" Short Short (<600 words)** 2021

Poynter's NewsU scholarship program from Disabled Writers 2020

National Science Policy Network **Professional Development Fund Awardee** 2020

AAAS Mass Media Fellowship Finalist 2020

International Neuroethics Society **Student/Postdoc Essay Contest Finalist** 2018

RehabMart Scholarship Winner, one of eight selected out of over 1,400 essay submissions 2018

Graduate Student Association's **Student Group Leader of the Year** 2018

Baltimore Science Slam Winner, "Most Creative Talk" by audience vote for talk on research 2016

SCIENCE COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

The Company of Biologists Creative Science Writing Workshop	June 2022
Solution Hack for Journalists: Deforestation, one of 25 journalists selected from >200 apps	February 2022
Knight Science Journalism@MIT Fact-Checking Workshop	June 2021
Institute for Journalism & Natural Resources Institute on the Great Lakes	May 2021
How to Make a Science Video, taught by Tien Nguyen and Helen Thompson for DCSWA	April 2021
Poynter ACES Certificate in Editing	January 2021
Writing the Science Essay Workshop, taught by Sabrina Imbler at Catapult	December 2020
Santa Fe Science Writing Workshop, taught by Robert Lee Hotz (Wall Street Journal)	May 2018
Duke Science and Policy Communication Workshop	June 2018

SCIENTIFIC EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant <i>Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine</i>	2015 - 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Uncovered novel brain circuit connecting the cerebellum and the auditory system using electrode recordings and optogenetics in mice	
Visiting Scientist <i>Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology</i>	2012 - 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Characterized anatomy of neuropeptidergic neurons involved in appetitive memory of fruit flies	
Undergraduate Research Assistant <i>Harvard Medical School</i>	2008 - 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducted honors thesis research on effects of neuropsychiatric compounds on fruit fly aggression and social defeat behavior	

RESEARCH AWARDS AND HONORS (SELECTED)

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention	2014, 2015
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Graduate Study Scholarship	2012 - 2013
Alex Booth Fund Fellowship	2012 - 2013
Harvard College Program for Research in Science and Engineering Fellow	2011
Mary Gordon Roberts Summer Mind, Brain, and Behavior Fellowship	2011
Herchel-Smith Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship	2010
Harvard College Research Program Scholarship	2009 - 2010

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Sima RJ, Kodama T, Fujita H, Ehrenberg M, du Lac S (in preparation). The cerebellar vermis robustly modulates neural activity in the inferior colliculus.

Golden T, Sima RJ, Roebuck G, Gupta S, Magsamen S (2022). Generating youth dialogue through the literary arts: A citywide youth health collaboration in the US. *Journal of Community Psychology*.

Ryu J, Vincent P, Ziogas N, Xu L, Sadeghpour S, Curtin J, Stewart N, Sima RJ, du Lac S, Glowatzki E, Koliatsos VE (2019). Optogenetically transduced human ES cell-derived neural progenitors and their neuronal progenies: phenotypic characterization and responses to optical stimulation. *PLoS ONE* 14(11): e0224846

Yamagata N, Ichinose T, Aso Y, Plaçais PY, Friedrich AB, Sima RJ, Preat T, Rubin GM, H Tanimoto. (2015). Distinct dopamine neurons mediate reward signals for short-and long-term memories. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(2), 578-583.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS (SELECTED)

D.C. Science Writers Association, President	2018 - present
National Science Writers Association, Awards Committee Member	2018 - present
Asian American Journalists Association, Member	2018 - present
Investigative Reporters & Editors, Member	2021 - present