

Diana H. Li, Ph.D.

dhli816@gmail.com · <https://www.dianahli.com>



SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- 10 years of experience in scientific research, informal education, science communication, and outreach; 7 years of supervisory experience
- Visionary thinker, passionate about increasing access to STEM fields and leading public engagement with authentic science

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Biology, *Stanford University* April 2019
B.A. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, *Princeton University* June 2013

WORK EXPERIENCE

Associate Director of Education & Training Initiatives, *Columbia University Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute* 2023 - now

- Establish priorities, strategic direction, and vision of public programs related to mentored research, training, and education by leveraging expertise in academic and public engagement landscapes
- Oversee implementation, monitor progress, and make recommendations for public engagement programs targeting high school students, undergraduates, and adults, with a particular focus on the local community of Upper Manhattan and the South Bronx
- Collaborate with faculty, administrative teams, high-profile speakers to create and execute public events that align with dynamic goals of multiple stakeholders (including funders) and promote the research at the Institute
- Direct and lead initiatives that ensure scientists cultivate excellent science communication skills to engage public audiences and disseminate their research
- Supervise 1 full time and 4 part time staff members; recruit, hire, and manage a team of science educators, experts, and researchers

Senior Content Development Specialist, *Columbia University Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute* 2022 – 2023

- Created, developed, and implemented new, more accessible neuroscience workshop for teachers (participation of Title 1 schools doubled)
- Led high-school student research internship and year-round teacher professional development programs
- Supported and liaised with scientists (faculty, postdocs, graduate students, and staff) in their public engagement efforts by helping with content development, grant writing, public speaking, and fostering ideas for grassroots projects
- Managed a team of 4 part-time staff and collaborated with full-time staff and scientists to implement programs and elevate the Zuckerman Institute to a recognized name in community-minded public engagement

Public Programs Associate, *Columbia University Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute* 2019 – 2022

- Designed and implemented curricula (in-person and remote) for programs connecting high-school students and teachers to current neuroscience research at Columbia University
- Managed a team of 3 part-time staff & collaborated with full-time staff to implement public programs

Education Specialist, *Western Flyer Foundation* 2019

- Created, developed, and implemented six K-12 curricula for ship- and shore-based activities integrating scientific data collection, technology, art, and storytelling to explore local history and ecology along the Pacific coastline

Program Coordinator & Educator, *Squids4Kids* 2013 – 2019

- Created and delivered inquiry-based activities to increase ocean awareness and scientific literacy
- Performed interactive squid dissections tailored to event attendees spanning from young children to adults (up to 300,000 attendees)
- Coordinated local and national events with universities, K-12 schools, aquariums, museums, and STEM expos
- Trained and supervised new volunteers on content, event prep, and shipping squids to classrooms across the US

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Outreach Chair, *Hopkins Marine Station Graduate Student Organization* 2015 – 2017

- Planned, proposed, and executed 2017 Open House at Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station (1,800 attendees)
- Managed content development for 15 booths to showcase different areas of research
- Budgeted and procured merchandise and supplies, set and enforced internal deadlines for 65 volunteers
- Trained new leadership team to keep Open House an annual tradition (1,600 attendees at 2018 event)

COMMUNICATION AND WRITING EXPERIENCE

Invited speaker, *Science Friday* ([transcripts](#)), *Secret Science Club*, *Caveat NYC (VERSUS; Facts Machine)*, *Skype A Scientist*, *Story Collider*

Panelist, *science communication & outreach career panels* (*Columbia & Stanford Universities; scientific conferences*)

Science blogger, *High Tidings* (*founder, editor, and writer*), *The Dish on Science* (*editor and writer*)

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

Stanford University Travel Grant (\$920 & 1,000) 2019; 2016
Best Student Presentation, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Conference 2018
Conchologists of America Academic Grant (\$2,290) 2017
Dr. Earl H. Myers & Ethel M. Myers Oceanographic & Marine Biology Trust Grant (\$2,000) 2017
Eugene C. and Aileen E. Haderlie Memorial Award Research Grant (\$2,000) 2015
Best Laboratory-based Senior Thesis, Princeton University 2013
Princeton University Senior Thesis Grant (\$6,000) 2012