

## Current Position

Freelance Writer and Editor at [www.ilanajwriter.com](http://www.ilanajwriter.com) April 2016-Present

- Focusing on medical writing, natural health, and agriculture.
- Therapeutic areas: infectious diseases; immunology & allergy; asthma & COPD.

## Education

Ph.D. Chemical Biology, Harvard University. April 2015.

B.S. Plant Sciences, Cornell University. *Magna cum laude*, January 2008.

## Professional Experience

Research Associate - Harvard School of Public Health April-July 2015

Ph.D. Candidate - Marti Laboratory, Immunology and Infectious Diseases August 2009-March 2015

- Designed, conducted, analyzed, and published original research into malaria transmission.
- Major accomplishments:
- Co-authored five articles in *Cell Host & Microbe*, *Nature Protocols*, and others. Assisted with grant writing and manuscript editing.
  - Led a collaboration between University of South Florida and Harvard laboratories to carry out a genetic screen in malaria. Identified a previously unknown malaria enzyme.
  - Co-discovered a quorum sensing-like phenomenon in malaria cells.
  - Collaborated with Genzyme Corporation scientists to carry out preclinical experiments for a potential drug lead that inhibits a malaria enzyme.

Intern - Native Seeds/SEARCH, Tucson, AZ December 2008-May 2009

- Planned and conducted a project focused on safeguarding crop genetic diversity on farms. Assisted with farmer education and public outreach events.

Technician - Sorrells Laboratory, Cornell University January-May 2008

Research Assistant - Saha Laboratory, Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation. June-August 2005

- Performed grain genetics research. Co-authored an article in *Field Crops Research*.

Research Assistant - Arnot Forest, Cornell University June-December 2006

- Conducted research on farmland ecology. Co-authored an article in a trade magazine for farmers. Planned and taught ecology lessons for visiting high school students.

## Presentations, Teaching, and Outreach

### Scientific Meeting Presentations

- First Place Oral Presentation Award at ParaINsites 2014, Boston, MA.
- Oral presentation at Molecular Parasitology Meeting 2014, Woods Hole, MA.
- Oral presentation at Konstanz Chemical Biology Retreat 2013, Konstanz, Germany.

Outreach Presenter - USA Science and Engineering Festival, Washington, DC 2012 and 2014

- Planned and presented microbiology activities for grades K-7 with Harvard MSI.

Teaching Fellow - Molecules of Life course, Harvard University September-December 2010

- Taught an undergraduate biochemistry class section. Wrote exam and homework problems; contributed to planning class sessions.

Bioremediation Project, Rochester, NY June-August 2003

- Led a citizen science project testing a method to bioremediate lead-contaminated soil in inner-city Rochester, NY. Co-authored a chapter in an environmental science book.