

School of Medicine Science Communications Internship

Science Communications Internship Overview

Scientific communications play an important role in biomedical research, bringing information about cutting-edge research to a larger audience. The School of Medicine Science Communications Internship is an excellent opportunity for graduate students with strong writing abilities to further develop their skills and produce a portfolio of published work with their byline.

Learning Objectives

- The internship is looking for candidates who are comfortable reading primary scientific literature and will teach them how to translate technical information into readily accessible articles for web publication.
- Interns will learn to interview, write and edit articles in a journalistic style following Associated Press guidelines. May also involve taking photographs of various labs.
- Interns will learn to complete assignments on deadline.
- Interns will gain exposure to different areas of scientific strength across OHSU and interact with a variety of principal investigators and labs.
- Interns will learn to work collaboratively with professional writers, scientists and relevant stakeholders.

Relevant Skills

- Strong writing skills (required)
- Scientific writing for a lay audience
- Project management
- Complete assignments on a publication deadline
- Collaborative work with editors, stakeholders and interview subjects

Project Personnel

- Intern Supervisor: Rachel Shafer, Senior Communications Specialist, School of Medicine
- Project Stakeholder: Mary Heinricher, Associate Dean for Basic Research, School of Medicine

Potential Projects

- **School of Medicine Paper of the Month:** Each month, Mary Heinricher, Associate Dean for Basic Research, selects a recently published study to be honored as the School of Medicine Paper of the Month. Interns will rotate writing the Paper of the Month article, creating a written product that summarizes and highlights the importance of the research. Articles are published on the school's public website and shared in a number of internal and external channels. To complete this assignment, interns will work with Rachel Shafer and the PI/authors of the highlighted paper.
- **Interns may pitch and develop additional projects at the discretion of their internship supervisor.**

Application Requirements

- Letter of intent, outlining interest in the internship, qualifications and preliminary goals.
- Letter from applicant's PI indicating their support, acknowledging that the student fits the necessary requirements and can devote dedicated time to the internship.
- Resume or CV
- Writing sample, preferably one written for a non-scientific publication

Internship Overview

- Internships will begin in October of 2018 and run through July 2019 or agreed upon end date.
- Two interns will be chosen for each academic year.
- Interns will rotate writing the School of Medicine Paper of the Month article.

Internship Timeline

- Internships will be announced in July, with an application deadline of September 28th.
- Rachel Shafer and Jackie Wirz will review applicants. Two applicants will be chosen and notified in early October.
- Successfully matched interns and Rachel Shafer will work collaboratively to create an editorial calendar, which will include clear assignments and deadlines
- The editorial calendar will be submitted to the CPDC within one month of the internship start date.
- The internship will conclude at the end of July, 2019, unless an alternative date has been agreed upon.
- Following review of the internship experience, Rachel Shafer, Jackie Wirz and Allison Fryer will issue a statement of completion and a letter of recommendation for the intern.