Jill A. Sakai

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Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Neuroscience Training Program
Ph.D., Neuroscience, expected December 2006
Advisor: Mary Halloran, Ph.D.

University of Rochester, Rochester, New York
B.S., Biological Sciences with concentration in Neuroscience, May 1999

Writing Experience

AAAS Mass Media Fellow, Richmond Times-Dispatch science reporting intern
Richmond, Virginia, June-August 2006

Student, Santa Fe Science Writing Workshop
Santa Fe, New Mexico, May 2006

Independent Contractor, Clinical Care Options, LLC; continuing medical education
February 2006-present

Independent Contractor for Emma Hitt, Ph.D., freelance medical writer
November 2005-March 2006

Writer for HHMI "Ask a Scientist" web-based science education program
October 2005-present

Research Experience

HHMI Predoctoral Fellow, Laboratory of Mary Halloran, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Neuroscience Training Program, September 2000-present
Axon guidance functions of Semaphorin3D during zebrafish nervous system development

Biologist, Laboratory of Steve Jacobson, Ph.D.
Neuroimmunology Branch, NINDS, NIH, September 1999-July 2000
Spontaneous proliferation of lymphocytes in patients with Human T-cell Lymphotropic Virus-I

Summer Student Fellow, Laboratory of Mark Hahn, Ph.D.
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, June-September 1999
Characterization of the lamprey aryl hydrocarbon receptor

Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Laboratory of David Holtzman, Ph.D.
University of Rochester, September 1997-May 1999
Proliferation in the regenerating vomeronasal epithelium in garter snakes following nerve lesion

Summer Undergraduate Researcher, Laboratory of Esther Gardner, Ph.D.
New York University School of Medicine, June-August 1998
Changes in rhesus macaque hand grip shape during a prehension task

Summer Undergraduate Researcher, Laboratory of Ellengene Peterson, Ph.D.
Ohio University, June-August 1997
Identification of brain areas involved in vestibular and visual sensory integration in turtle

Mentoring and Teaching Experience

Mentor for Eagle Middle School science mentoring program
Madison, Wisconsin, January-April 2005

Mentor for Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowship recipient senior honors thesis
UW-Madison, January 2003-May 2005

Instructor, PEOPLE precollege enrichment program, week-long biomedical health unit
UW-Madison, June 2001, June of 2003-2005

Community and local school outreach programs
Madison, Wisconsin, October 2001-present

Laboratory Teaching Assistant, Neurobiology Lab
University of Rochester, January-May 1999

Workshop Leader, Organic Chemistry
University of Rochester, August-December 1997

Teaching Assistant, Human Genetics and Evolution
University of Rochester, August-December 1996

Professional Affiliation

National Association of Science Writers

Academic Honors

HHMI Predoctoral Fellowship, 2001-present
NSF Predoctoral Fellowship (declined), 2001
UW-Madison Graduate School University Fellowship, 2000
Phi Beta Kappa, Iota Chapter, inducted May 1999
Graduated Magna cum Laude with Distinction in Research, May 1999
Golden Key National Honor Society, 1998
Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, 1998

Academic Publications

- **Sakai, J.A.** and M.C. Halloran. 2006. Semaphorin3D guides laterality of retinal ganglion cell projections in zebrafish. *Development* 133(6): 1035-1044.

- **Sakai, J.A.**, M. Nagai, M.B. Brennan, C.A. Mora, and S. Jacobson. 2001. In vitro spontaneous lymphoproliferation in patients with human T-cell lymphotropic virus type I-associated neurologic disease: predominant expansion of CD8+ cells. *Blood* 98(5): 1506-1511.

- Nagai, M., M.B. Brennan, **J.A. Sakai**, C.A. Mora, and S. Jacobson. 2001. CD8+ T cells are an in vivo reservoir for human T-cell lymphotropic virus type I. *Blood* 98(6): 1858-1861.

- Debowy, D.J., K.S. Babu, E.H. Hu, M. Natiello, S. Reitzen, M. Chu, **J. Sakai**, and E.P. Gardner. 2001. New applications of digital video technology for neurophysiological studies of hand function. In R.J. Nelson (ed.), *The Somatosensory System: Deciphering the Brain's Own Body Image*, CRC Press LLC: Boca Raton, FL.