

Heather Doran

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I am a creative, dynamic and personable individual with a passion for science communication and engagement. In my current role, at the University of Aberdeen, I have developed a strong, transferable skill set in bringing together academic researchers and members of the public using various formats and by creating and delivering training. My innovative and proactive approach has successfully resulted in increased understanding, inclusion and recognition of public engagement amongst researchers and staff. I have a particular interest in the use of social networks for the communication of science and was awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship in recognition of this.

Employment

University of Aberdeen, Project Officer Public Engagement with Research **October 2012 - Present**

I develop, create and coordinate initiatives designed to support and embed quality public engagement with research across the University. This includes delivery of engagement events and press releases, training for researchers regarding translation of their work for public audiences and submission of grant applications.

Abu Dhabi Science Festival, Team Leader **October 2012 and November 2013**

I trained local science communicators to deliver science workshops to primary age school groups in Abu Dhabi.

Procter & Gamble, Surrey, Scientist/Project Manager **June 08-July 09**

Based in the Oral Care department in Product Development (R&D). I project managed new toothpaste products from idea to the market across Europe and Russia. My responsibilities included translation of scientific information to marketing and consumers and claims support for all advertising, pack and press text.

Procter & Gamble, Surrey, Placement Intern **June 06-July 07**

Based in the Microbiology department in Product Development (R&D). I undertook a lab based project to determine new methods to research the possible benefits of anti-oxidants.

Education

2009 – 2012 **PhD Medical Sciences (molecular biology and pharmacology), University of Aberdeen**

My PhD focused on understanding the molecular and pharmacological mechanisms behind a particular subset of breast cancer.

July-August 2011 **PhD placement at the University of Indiana**

2004 - 2008 **BSc (Hons) 2:1 Molecular Biology and Biochemistry with Industrial Placement, Durham University**

2002 – 2004 **Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, Clitheroe**
A-levels: Biology (A), Chemistry (B), English Language and Literature (B)

1998 – 2002 **Ivy Bank High School, Burnley (10 GCSE A*-B)**

Experience

- Led and developed training for scientific researchers in the communication of science. This includes training on the creation of workshops for children and schools audiences, how to present research work to an adult audience, written communication of research and how to present research online. This has included organisation and facilitation of innovative training programmes such as Bright Club, where researchers translate their work into comedy.

- Local Bid and Organising Committee co-ordinator for the Public Communication of Science and Technology Conference 2020.
- Local lead for the New Understanding of Communication, Learning and Engagement in Universities and Scientific Institutions (NUCLEUS) EU project. I planned a series of Field Trips to investigate the barriers and opportunities of Responsible Research and Innovation in Europe, South Africa and China.
- Grant lead 'Out and About with Science', a series of public engagement activities around Aberdeen and Inverness linking underserved audiences with science. Launched and present the weekly 'Talking Science' radio show on SHMU FM (2014-)
- Grant co-investigator Scottish Universities Insight Institute: Gathering together publics, practitioners, policies and perspectives (2014-15)
- Developed teaching materials for the University of Aberdeen undergraduate course on Science and Society including the value of social media in science communication.
- Project lead for the production of a series of events across Aberdeen City for National Science and Engineering Week from 2013 - present. Reaching over 2000 members of the public each year.
- Presented many science communication shows such as: How to explain your universe from your kitchen (Orkney Science Festival 2014), Marvelous Magnets (Abu Dhabi Science Festival 2013), Colour Investigations (Abu Dhabi Science Festival 2012), Car Boot Science (Techfest 2011/10).
- Official Blogger for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Experimental Biology Conference (San Diego, 2011)

Other

March 2011 – September 2012 Au Science Magazine: Chief Editor and Founding Member

I led the team of undergraduate and postgraduate students that produced Au Science Magazine three times a year. I also managed the relationship with the corporate sponsors, organised the website and content, social media strategy, contributed article content, edited articles and set themes for the magazine. Au is distributed in Aberdeen and has been featured on the Scientific American website and is read around the globe online (<http://ausm.org.uk>).

Awards & Associations

- Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts
- Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship 2015
- British Science Association North East Scotland Branch Chair 2015 - 2017
- British Science Association North East Scotland Branch Secretary 2012-2015
- Millie's Trust Charity Trustee 2012 - Present
- STEM Ambassador 2011-Present

Publications

Doran H. 2016 Connecting scientists and the public in online dialogues about science. Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship. URL <https://www.wcmt.org.uk/fellows/reports/connecting-scientists-and-public-online-dialogues-about-science>

Doran H and Skeldon K, 2015, Are doctoral candidates switched on to the impact of social media? UKCGE, 2nd International Conference on Developments in Doctoral Education and Training Conference Proceedings, Pg 93, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwEZ7OLVPc18Y2ptN0RYSFImZ3M/view>

Doran H, 2015, [Planning your online engagement strategy? Don't go it alone. Well-chosen partnerships can maximise reach and impact.](http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2015/07/30/online-engagement-strategy-dont-go-it-alone/) London School of Economics Impact Blog, URL: <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2015/07/30/online-engagement-strategy-dont-go-it-alone/>