ABDULLAH IQBAL

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Education

Neuroscience MRes, University of Leeds **Jan. 2021 – Dec. 2021**
MRes Project – 6-month laboratory project – 'Can postnatal neurogenesis be modulated in spinal cord' – Techniques: slice cultures, immunofluorescence, calcium imaging, electrophysiology.

2:1 Hons, BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences, University of Sheffield **Oct. 2017 – July 2020**

2As and 1B, A-Levels, Clitheroe Royal Grammar Sixth Form **Sep. 2015 – July 2017**

8As, 3Bs and 2Cs, GCSEs, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School **Sep. 2010 – July 2015**

Skills

My Laboratory Skills

Microscopy: multiphoton microscopy, confocal microscopy, immunocytochemistry, immunohistochemistry, paraffin fixation, laser capture microdissection, chick embryo staining and cryopreservation.
RNA techniques: RT-qPCR, RNA extraction and gel electrophoresis.
Cell culture: cell culture of LUHMES, mouse stem cells and neurons, differentiation of LUHMES and mouse stem cells.
Miscellaneous: *Drosophila* maintenance and expansion, zebrafish and chick embryo manipulation, western blotting, drug potency experiments, ECG, nerve conduction velocity and aseptic techniques and cryotome usage.

My Technical Skills

Software skills: Image J, Fiji and Graphpad Prism 8.
Coding: Python (through completion of course by the University of Michigan and undertaking Advanced Data Analysis Module) and neuroinformatics (through participation in Neuromatch Academy – analysing EEG and behavourial data).

Laboratory Experience

Dissertation - Bateson Centre, University of Sheffield **Oct. 2019 – Jan. 2020**
Supervised by Dr Kyra Campbell – Sir Henry Dale Fellow

- Researched the role of thrombospondin and extracellular matrix protein in the migration of *Drosophila* posterior midgut as part of a laboratory-based research project.
- Delivered a presentation to 20 researchers and was congratulated on my content and performance, with one person describing the content as "scientifically accurate".
- Demonstrated interest in scientific enquiry, proficiency in scientific protocols and effective communication skills.

Intern – Sheffield Institute of Translational Neuroscience **June 2019 – Aug. 2019**
Supervised by Professor Stephen B. Wharton and Dr Hemant Mistry

- Supervised throughout the placement by Professor Stephen B. Wharton.
- Contributed to research on cholesterol dysregulation as an early contributor to neuronal dysfunction in Alzheimer's disease.
- Presented my findings to 100 researchers.

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Intern – Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine Institute, Keele University **March 2018 – April 2018**
Supervised by Dr Stuart Jenkins

- Reviewed literature on the role of NPR109A and niacin signalling in the development and maintenance of stem cells and neural cells.
- Analysed confocal fluorescent images using Image J.

Achievements/Positions of Responsibility

Freelance Science Writer – BBC Futures, Massive Science **September 2020 – Present**

- Worked on tight deadlines to produce articles on topics ranging from psychedelic drugs to neurons in the brain.
- Completed training on how to write and publicise an article successfully.
- Published a feature on smell and what it reveals about our health with BBC Futures.
- Published a feature about microglia, synaptic pruning and memory with Massive Science.

Educator - Neuroscience Outreach Network (NeurON) **July 2020 – Present**

- Created presentations for school children on nutrition and its effects on brain health.
- Networked on behalf of NeurON with senior figures such as Katy Stubbs, Public Engagement Manager at Alzheimer's Research UK and with figures from the Soil Association.
- Collaborated with a team of 12 people to research and produce reports on different topic areas and subsequently peer-reviewed these reports.

Science Communicator - British Neuroscience Association (BNA) **July 2020 – Present**

- Wrote an article titled 'Pesticides in Parkinson's Disease' that was selected for publication in the print edition of the BNA Bulletin.
- Founder and host of podcast called Brain Explained which is supported by the BNA.

Science Writer - Northwing Magazine **Feb. 2019 – Present**

- Read a wide range of academic publications and review papers to acquire material for articles.
- Generated an engaging, informative and easy-to-read article on the topics of cerebral organoids and the role of pesticides in neurodegenerative diseases.
- My published article was voted the most interesting to read compared to 50 others.

Tutoring – Action Tutoring and Somali Community Cultural Centre **October 2018 – February 2020**

- Taught Mathematics, English and Sciences to students ranging from the age of 6 to 16.
- Helped students improve their grades by an average of two levels.
- Tailored teaching methods to the needs of each individual student.
- Students described my teaching as, "fun, informative and engaging."