

## Science Writing Workshop: How to tell a story, How to conduct an interview



Organization: Materials Research Society  
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### Facilitators / Instructors

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#### **Instructor: How to Conduct an Interview**

**Alison Hatt**, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
User Program Director, Molecular Foundry

Alison Hatt is the director of the User Program at the Molecular Foundry and a former Foundry postdoc. She oversees the Foundry's scientific proposal process, including working with scientific staff to reach out to and grow new diverse, engaged, and productive User communities. Alison also has a background in science writing and communication, and previously served as public affairs specialist for the materials sciences division, where she facilitated communication between MSD scientists, DOE and the general public. For the past several years, Alison has written news and features for [MRS Bulletin](#) and [Meeting Scene](#)<sup>®</sup>. She received her B.S. in physics from the University of Utah (2005) and her Ph.D. in materials from the University of California, Santa Barbara (2010).



#### **Instructor: How to Conduct an Interview**

**Emily Lewis**, 2014-15 Congressional Fellow  
American Chemical Society/ AAAS

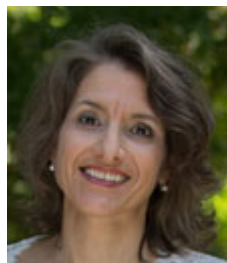
Emily Lewis earned her Ph.D. in chemistry from Tufts University for her research studying molecular interactions on renewable energy catalysts at the nanoscale. She developed her communication skills as a graduate writing consultant in the academic resource center at Tufts, a role in which she assisted students with writing projects in all subjects and specialized in helping students with writing in the sciences. Emily received the Apprentice Science Reporter Award from MRS and the International Center for Materials Research in 2013, and she has written numerous science news articles for MRS's [Materials360 Online](#). She hopes to learn more about the role science communication in policy as one of the American Chemical Society's congressional fellows for 2014-15.



#### **Instructor: How to Tell a Story**

**Judy Meiksin**, Materials Research Society  
MRS News Editor, [Materials360 Online](#)

Judy Meiksin is MRS News Editor for the Materials Research Society, where she is responsible for generating content for news and features for the *Materials360® Newsletter* and *Materials360 Online*, *MRS Bulletin*, and *Meeting Scene*. She has taught writing for over 20 years, including courses at the University of Pittsburgh as well as invited workshops, most recently at the College of William and Mary and the Center for Study of Science, Technology & Policy (Bangalore). She has her B.A. (1983) from Carnegie Mellon University and her MFA (1989) from the University of Pittsburgh, both in writing.



**Facilitator**

**Julie Nucci**, Cornell University  
Adjunct Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

Julie Nucci is adjunct professor of materials science and engineering at Cornell University. She is currently a member of the Editorial Board for *MRS Bulletin*. Prior *MRS Bulletin* involvement includes serving as Volume Organizer and on a committee that established the “Beyond the Lab” feature. She has also served on the Public Outreach and NISEnet committees of the Materials Research Society. She has held positions as an engineer for Digital Equipment Corporation and National Semiconductor, a lecturer at Cornell and Stuttgart Universities, director of education programs for the Center for Nanoscale Systems at Cornell University, and as a research scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Metals Research in Stuttgart, Germany. She received her B.S. in materials engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, an M.S. in applied physics from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from Cornell University.



**Facilitator & Instructor: Opportunities for Science Writing**

**Aditi Risbud**, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
Science Communications Officer

Aditi Risbud is the Science Communications Officer at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. She provides communications expertise and guidance to the Science Program, and develops a communications strategy that complements the Science Program’s efforts in emerging fields at the frontiers of science. She also supports foundation-wide communications activities. Aditi is a communications and engineering professional with research, teaching and public relations expertise in nanotechnology, materials engineering and technical communication. She focuses on communicating the implications of technological breakthroughs to a broad audience, including students, the media, policy makers and the general public. She received a B.S. in materials science and engineering from the University of California, Davis, and a Ph.D. in materials from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She also holds a certificate in science communication from the University of California, Santa Cruz.



**Facilitator:**

**Birgit Schwenzer**, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
Fundamental & Computational Sciences Directorate

Birgit Schwenzer is a scientist in the Fundamental & Computational Sciences Directorate at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington. She received a M.Sc. in chemistry from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and got a doctorate degree from the University of Konstanz in Germany in organometallic chemistry. During a postdoc at the University of California, Santa Barbara, she switched to experimental materials science, and her main research interest now is to investigate structure-property relationships of inorganic nano- and microstructures. Her volunteer work with MRS started when she became an *MRS Bulletin* Volume Organizer for 2013. Since then, she has also done some science writing and technical editing for the *MRS Bulletin*. She was a participant of the first Science Writing Workshop at the 2013 MRS Fall Meeting.



**Instructor: How to Conduct an Interview**

**Ashley White**, US Green Building Council & Freelance Science Writer

Ashley White has developed her communication skills through experience in research, government, and the non-profit sector. Currently, she is a Senior Research Fellow at the US Green Building Council, where, among other things, she distills scientific information about the human health and environmental impacts of building materials to green building practitioners through blog entries, technical white papers, and training guides. Previously, Ashley worked at the National Science Foundation as a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow and served as an MRS/OSA Congressional Fellow in the Office of Senator Franken. In recent years she has contributed news articles to *MRS Bulletin* and *Materials360 Online*. She received her Ph.D. in materials science from the University of Cambridge and a B.S. in materials science and engineering and B.A. in music from Virginia Tech.

**Guest Scientists**

Workshops include an opportunity to practice your interviewing skills with a leading materials scientist.



**Guest Scientists**

**Michael H. Bartl**, University of Utah

Dr. Michael H. Bartl is an associate professor of materials and physical chemistry and an adjunct professor of physics at the University of Utah, and a visiting professor at the Technical University Munich in Germany. He earned his doctorate degree in materials/inorganic chemistry from Karl-Franzens University Graz, Austria, and conducted postdoctoral research at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Bartl is the scientific co-founder of Navillum Nanotechnologies. Currently, he is the director of the Integrative Research Group on Plasmonic Metamaterials of the Utah Materials Research Science and Engineering Center, and a Deputy Editor for *Scripta Materialia*. He was the recipient of a “DuPont Young Professorship”, and was named a “Brilliant 10” researcher by Popular Science magazine in 2010 and a

Scialog Fellow by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement in 2013. His research group studies functional nanostructured materials for energy and information technology applications, including bioinspired photonics, magnonics, nanocrystals, porous compounds, and thin films.



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