

Mariella Bodemeier Loayza Careaga

Sao Paulo, Brazil
mariellablcareaga@gmail.com

•SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS•

Neuroscientist turned science writer with more than two years of professional and volunteer experience in creating content for scientific and nonscientific audiences

•JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE•

Science writer | *Freelance* **2026**

- Pitch, report, and write journalistic articles (features, profiles, Q&As, and news stories) for different science outlets
- Interview science experts

Assistant Science Editor | *The Scientist* **2023–2024**

- Pitched, reported, and wrote more than 60 short- and long-form stories (features, profiles, Q&As, and news stories) for *The Scientist's* quarterly print magazine and website
- Interviewed researchers for stories
- Edited news articles written by freelance and staff writers
- Collaborated with *The Scientist's* design team to develop over 10 custom figures and infographics for feature stories and *The Scientist* Digest columns
- Proofread articles and newsletters on a weekly basis

•SCIENCE COMMUNICATION EXPERIENCE•

Guest contributor | *Montana Natural History Center* **2025 – present**

- Write blog posts about wildlife for *Field Notes*
- Write feature stories for the *Montana Naturalist* magazine

Volunteer writer and editor | *Oncobites* **2025**

- Wrote blog posts about recent findings in cancer research
- Edited blog posts written by other volunteer writers

Contributing writer and content researcher | *Nunca Vi 1 Cientista (Brazil)* **2025**

- Conduct content research and write YouTube video scripts debunking misinformation in science
- Conduct content research and write YouTube video scripts explaining scientific topics

Contributing guest writer | *Federation of European Microbiological Societies* 2025

- Pitched story ideas and write blog posts for FEMSmicroblog

Volunteer writer and editor | *Knowing Neurons* 2020–2023

- Pitched and wrote four stories covering mental health and neuroscience topics
- Edited and fact-checked articles for publication on the *Knowing Neurons* website

Contributing content researcher and writer | *Nunca Vi 1 Cientista (Brazil)* 2019–2023

- Conducted content research and wrote explainers on science topics and to debunk misinformation for social media
- Developed three video scripts related to health and science for the project's YouTube channel

Contributing writer | *Massive Science* 2020–2021

- Wrote a story for the Lab Notes section

Contributing writer | *eNeuro journal blog* 2020

- Wrote a blog post

Volunteer writer | *EurekaBrasil (Brazil)* 2020–2021

- Wrote three stories covering health and life sciences for the *EurekaBrasil* website

•SCIENCE COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING•

Newsletter Strategies for Journalists: How to create, grow and monetize newsletters, Steinberg (*Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas*) 2025

Writing Tight and Editing Tighter: How to Keep Your Articles Short Enough to Get Read, taught by John O'Neil and Jacques Steinberg (*Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas*) 2025

How to center people in science stories, taught by Emily Laber-Warren (*The Open Notebook*) 2025

How to excel at interviewing, taught by Emily Laber-Warren (*The Open Notebook*) 2024

How to Ace the Study Story, taught by Emily Laber-Warren (*The Open Notebook*) 2023

Finding a story angle, taught by Emily Laber-Warren (*The Open Notebook*) 2023

Editing workshop, taught by Siri Carpenter (*The Open Notebook*) 2023

SciComms Writers Program, Boston University College of Communication 2022–2023

Science writing workshop, taught by Carl Zimmer (*New York Times*) 2021

Editing Controversial Science, Knight Science Journalism program, MIT 2021

•SCIENCE WRITING AND COMMUNICATION HONORS•

AAAS Mass Media Fellowship semi-finalist 2023

•EDUCATION•

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil Ph.D. in Science (Behavioral Neuroscience) | 2015–2019 |
| Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil Master's degree in Science (Behavioral Neuroscience) | 2012–2014 |
| Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Science | 2008–2011 |

•PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES•

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Poynter ACES Introductory Certificate in Editing | 2025 |
| University of California San Diego Specialized certificate in Science Communication | 2021–2022 |

•SCIENTIFIC EXPERIENCE•

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Postdoctoral researcher | 2020–2023 |
|--|------------------|

•RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS•

Bodemeier Loayza Careaga M, Wu TJ. Chronically stressed male and female mice show a similar peripheral and central pro-inflammatory profile after an immune challenge. *PLoS One*. 2024 Feb 21;19(2):e0297776. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0297776

Miller L*, **Bodemeier Loayza Careaga M***, Handa RJ, Wu TJ. The Effects of Chronic Variable Stress and Photoperiod Alteration on the Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis Response and Behavior of Mice. *Neuroscience*. 2022 Aug 1;496:105-118. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroscience.2022.06.011. *Co-first author

Careaga, MBL; Girardi, CEN; Suchecki, D. Propranolol failed to prevent severe stress-induced long-term behavioral changes in male rats. *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry*, p. 110079, 2020. doi: 10.1016/j.pnpbp.2020.110079

Careaga, MBL; Girardi, CEN; Suchecki, D. Variability in response to severe stress: Highly reactive rats exhibit changes in fear and anxiety-like behavior related to distinct neuronal co-activation patterns. *Behavioural Brain Research*, v. 373, p. 112078, 2019. doi: 10.1016/j.bbr.2019.112078

Careaga, MBL; Girardi, CEN; Suchecki, D. Understanding posttraumatic stress disorder through fear conditioning, extinction and reconsolidation. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, v.71, p. 48 – 57, 2016. doi: 10.1016/j.neubiorev.2016.08.023

Careaga, MBL; Tiba, PA; Ota, SM; Suchecki, D. Pre-test metyrapone impairs memory recall in fear conditioning tasks: lack of interaction with β -adrenergic activity. *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, v.9, p. 1 – 11, 2015.doi: 10.3389/fnbeh.2015.00

•**LANGUAGES**•

English: Fluent in speaking, listening, reading and writing **Portuguese:** Native language

Spanish: Fluent in listening and reading; Intermediate speaking and writing

German: Intermediate listening, speaking, reading and writing