**Research Focus:** Development of the brain

**Translation:** I study the role of proteins that help certain brain structures develop. These brain structures are important for complex thinking, memory, and movement. I study how these proteins interact with each other in cells and how they contribute to the functioning of both the developing and adult brain.

**What are your goals for the summer?**

I really want to improve my writing skills and get feedback on my work. It would be awesome at the end of the summer to say that I contributed and helped make an episode.

**What are you most excited about?**

I’m excited to work at NOVA and be in a real office, discussing science and ideas for shows. I’m most excited about seeing the whole process and how a show gets put together.

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**Why are you passionate about science communication?**

There is a wealth of science research being completed and yet the general public often doesn’t hear about or understand the findings. I think it’s important to have scientists and specialists translate the discoveries, methodology, and jargon for a lay audience. A better understanding of science will help in the sculpting of policy decisions, understanding of health and medical options, and promoting better environmental practices.

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**Who is your favorite science communicator?**

Gretchen Reynolds (writes the Phys Ed column for the NY Times) because she has a very personable style and you can always relate to what she is writing. Also, Ira Flatow because he covers such a wide range of science topics. And I’m incredibly jealous of both of their jobs!

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**Do you have a link to an article you’d like to share?**


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**Describe your dream job.**

My dream job would involve spending my time reading about the latest research and translating it (writing or talking about it) for non-scientists. I don’t care if it’s a newspaper, magazine, website, or radio station, it all sounds amazing!

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**Tell us about something you do outside of the lab.**

I’m an avid runner and marathoner.

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**Anything else you’d like to share?**

Baking (and eating my creations) is my favorite way to negate all the miles I run.