

SARA E. KEARNEY, PH.D.

Scientific Program Manager | Gainesville, FL

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- Highly self-motivated scientist with 7+ years of experience in chemical research, cross-functional collaboration, and science communication
- Detail-oriented with a proven ability to strategically manage multiple projects simultaneously and independently solve complex problems in a matrix environment
- Skilled communicator and conscientious team player dedicated to critical systems thinking, process innovation, and relationship building

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Organic Chemistry (May 2023)

University of Florida

Bachelor of Science, Chemistry, ACS Certified in Biochemistry; Spanish language minor (May 2016)

Wheaton College, IL

EXPERIENCE

Scientific Program Manager [C] (February 2023 – present)

Axle Informatics | National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)

- Researching and evaluating the operation of early drug discovery scientific programs and initiatives
- Developing and executing strategic communications initiatives for the intramural research program
- Composing and editing scientific and technical documents for internal and external stakeholders
- Providing project management support for medicinal chemistry
- Preparing programmatic presentation materials for technical meetings and consultations
- Coordinated a quadrennial scientific review involving individual, team, and branch level assessments of productivity, innovation, and portfolio management

Doctoral Research Assistant (August 2018 – May 2023)

University of Florida Department of Chemistry

- Designed and synthesized novel axially chiral cannabinoids to inspire new directions in drug discovery; resulted in first-author publication (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2023**, *145*, 13581–13591.) and new patent application (Grenning, A. J.; Kearney, S. E.; A New Route for Synthesizing Axially Chiral Cannabinoids from Coumarins. PCT/US2022/081229, filed December 9, 2022)
- Coordinated 2 external collaborations to explore the therapeutic potential of drug-like compounds
- Expertly composed and delivered presentations (slide decks; posters) for internal group meetings and scientific conferences (e.g., Gordon Research Conference; Florida Heterocyclic & Synthetic Chemistry)
- Tactfully trained and mentored junior graduate and undergraduate students

NIH Post-baccalaureate Research Fellow (August 2016 – June 2018)

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)

- Conducted pre-clinical translational research with a cross-functional team of medicinal chemists, assay biologists, and bioinformaticians to generate novel chemical probes for promising therapeutic targets (*Nat. Cancer. 2023, 4, 365 – 381.*)
- Advanced multiple projects in parallel within a matrix environment
- Developed in-depth knowledge of project-relevant therapeutic areas
- Evaluated multi-assay data sets generated by high-throughput screening and coordinated the progression of compelling hits (Canvass: A Crowd-Sourced, Natural-Product Screening Library; *ACS Cent. Sci. 2018, 4, 1727-1741.*)

Volunteer Research Scientist (Summer 2016)

University of Florida College of Pharmacy

- Demonstrated learning agility by rapidly developing skills in biochemistry and molecular biology, including molecular cloning, protein expression and purification, and bacterial cell culture (*Scientific Reports. 2017, 7, 11888.*)

Research & Development Intern (Summer 2015)

Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Department of Analytical Development

- Developed and validated analytical methods to quantify active pharmaceutical ingredients in drug products
- Adhered to all regulatory standards and documented experiments meticulously according to company SOPs
- Independently prepared and presented a cumulative research summary for an internal stakeholders meeting

AWARDS & HONORS

- Corteva Agriscience Chemistry Scholar (2022)
- Outstanding Lecture Award | *Synth-Posium by the Sea* (2021)
- Invited Lectureship | *German International School Washington D.C.* (2018)
- Graduate School Preeminence Award | *University of Florida* (2018)
- NCATS Director's Award | *National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences* (2018)
- Outstanding Research Poster Award | *National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences* (2017)

SKILLS

- Small molecule synthesis
- Scientific & technical writing
- Project management
- Data analysis/interpretation
- Cross-functional collaboration
- Literature searching/review
- Critical & analytical thinking
- Creative problem solving
- Teaching & mentoring
- Relationship building
- Public speaking
- Line editing & proofreading

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- Advancing Innovation through Mentorship (AIM) (2024) | *Credly – NCATS*
- The Art of Negotiation (2022) | *Coursera*