

## **SLOKA IYENGAR, PhD**

Neuroscientist | Science writer | Science advocate

[www.slokaiyengar.com](http://www.slokaiyengar.com)

[slokaiyengar2014@gmail.com](mailto:slokaiyengar2014@gmail.com)

### **Education and Experience**

10/2014 – 2/2016	Clinical researcher, Northeast Regional Epilepsy Group, New Jersey
11/2015 – 12/2015	Clinical researcher at Pediatric Neurology Clinic, Ahmedabad, India
08/2010– 09/2014	Postdoctoral fellow, Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, New York
02/2014– 03/2014	Business of Science Course, New York University, New York
08/2005–08/2010	PhD in Biomedical Sciences, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, South Carolina Dissertation Title: ' <i>Neuregulin/ErbB signaling in epilepsy</i> '
07/2004-07/2005	Administrator, Animal Help Foundation, Ahmedabad, India
07/1999–07/2004	B.S. in Pharmacy, L.M. College of Pharmacy, Ahmedabad, India

### **Science writing**

Editor: [www.epilepsy.com](http://www.epilepsy.com); Basic Science section

Policy writer: Alliance for Patient Access

Science Writer: FACES – 'Finding a Cure for Epilepsy and Seizures', New York University

The Northeast Regional Epilepsy Group newsletter

International League Against Epilepsy

The Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance

The Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research newsletter

### **Science Outreach**

04/2016	Organizing a session at NYU for graduate students and post doctoral fellows on how to effectively advocate their science
04/2016	Speaking about animal research at the Storycollider in Brooklyn, NY
03/2016	Mentoring two advocacy fellows to advice on advocacy-related issues and events
03/2016	For Brain Awareness Week, organized - 'Uptown Brain Awareness Week' in Harlem, NY (with 60 volunteers and close to 400 participants) - An epilepsy booth for the NYU Brain Fair and - 'Ask the Expert' at Body Worlds Pulse museum, NYC
09/2015	Organized a town hall meeting at The Rockefeller University entitled 'Science funding: what can we do about it?' to discuss how neuroscientists can advocate for their science
05/2015	Organized content and trained 15 volunteers for the World Science Festival

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- 02/2015 – present      Communications specialist for the American Brain Coalition
- 01/2014 – present      Reviewer for ‘Journal of Articles in Support of the Null Hypothesis’
- 01/2014 – present      Reviewer for World Journal of Neuroscience (WJNS) and for Open Journal of Psychiatry (OJPSYCH)
- 03/2014                  Organized a Brain Awareness Week event at Body Worlds Pulse, NYC
- 12/2014 – present      Director of Education at Body Worlds Pulse, NYC  
Developed ‘Kid MD’- a program for children 8 and older to learn about the human body
- 12/2013-12/2015      Invited member of the Scientific Program Committee at American Epilepsy Society. Responsibilities include reviewing and scoring abstracts for the Annual Meeting, and choosing a topic for the scientific plenary session
- 07/2014- 08/2014      Mentor in the New York Academy of Sciences ‘Food Connection’ program. Responsibilities included teaching 15 school children about nutrition at Aspira of New York at IS 131 Albert Einstein School, Bronx
- 06/2014                  Organized a community Health and Wellness Program at the Agape Love Christian Church, Bronx
- 04/2014                  Organized an Epilepsy booth at NYU Langone Medical Center as part of the NYU Epilepsy Conference
- 03/2014                  Organized an Epilepsy booth at the NYU Brain Fair as part of Brain Awareness Week
- 01/2014                  Organized a talk for tenth graders at Bank Street School to talk about neuroscience as a career
- 01/2014                  Worked with school children at PS 107 in Park Slope, Brooklyn for a program named ‘Architecture of the brain’
- 09/2013                  Worked with school children of St. Jude School, Inwood, NYC as part of Brain Awareness Week 2013

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- 08/2005-08/2010 Reviewed Animal Use Protocols, served as a student mentor for graduate students and provided free health checkups for people living in underprivileged neighborhoods at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine
- 05/2004-07/2005 As an administrator at the Animal Help Foundation in Gujarat, India, organized fundraising events and activities to increase public awareness about animal cruelty

### **International projects**

Identifying gaps in care in epilepsy treatment by interviewing neurologists in an Indian setting

An evaluation of parents' quality of life of children with epilepsy in a private practice in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Identifying genetic mechanisms underlying benign infantile non-familial seizures

A questionnaire-based study to evaluate issues in adolescents with epilepsy in India

### **Invited talks**

- 4/2016 An introduction to clinical trials, NYU School of Medicine
- 2/2016 Invited speaker for 'Science and Human Rights' hosted by NYU's Society for Undergraduate Neural Science
- 1/2016 Webinar entitled 'Becoming an Early Career Ambassador' hosted by the Society for Neuroscience
- 11/2015 'Basic mechanisms of epilepsy' Ahmedabad Neurological Association, Ahmedabad, India
- 09/2015 'Synaptic plasticity in epilepsy'; International Conferences on Epilepsy and Treatment, Batimore, MD
- 11/2014 'Synaptic plasticity in epilepsy'; Queens College, NY
- 08/2014 'Anatomy of the Nervous System and Neuronal Physiology'; Camp Neuro, NYU
- 05/2014 'The biology of seizures - Understanding Epilepsy'; Rockefeller University, NY
- 04/2014 'Suppression of adult neurogenesis in mice increases susceptibility to seizures'; NYU Neuroscience Retreat, NY
- 07/2013 'Understanding epilepsy'; Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, NY

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03/2012	'Reduction of adult neurogenesis increases susceptibility to seizures caused by kainic acid'; New York University, NY
11/2011	'Exacerbation of seizures caused by a reduction of adult neurogenesis'; Columbia University, NY
03/2010	'Regulation of synaptic plasticity in temporal lobe epilepsy'; Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, NY
12/2009	'Differential regulation of synaptic plasticity in epilepsy'; University of Texas, Austin
05/2008	'Changes in neuregulin signaling during development of epilepsy'; University of South Carolina
03/2008	'Changes in NRG/ErbB regulation of synaptic plasticity following status epilepticus'; Georgia/South Carolina Research Consortium
07/2007	'Therapies for epilepsy'; Columbia College, South Carolina
03/2007	'Novel therapies for epilepsy'; University of South Carolina

### **Publications**

Lancman M, Fertig E, Trobliger R, Perrine K, Myers L, **Iyengar SS** and Malik M The effects of lacosamide on cognition, mood and quality of life in patients with refractory partial epilepsy. Submitted to Epilepsy and Behavior.

**Iyengar SS**, LaFrancois JJ, Friedman D, Drew LJ, Denny CA, Burghardt NS, Wu MV, Hsieh J, Hen R, Scharfman HE. Suppression of Adult Neurogenesis Increases the Acute Effects of Kainic Acid. *Exp Neurol*. 2014

Scharfman HE, Pearce PP, Friedman DJ, LaFrancois JL, **Iyengar SS** and MacLusky NJ. Spike-Wave Discharges in Adult Sprague-Dawley Rats and Their Implications for Animal Models. *Epilepsy and Behavior* 2014; 32:121-131

**Iyengar SS** and Mott DD. Neuregulin blocks synaptic strengthening caused by epileptiform activity in the rat hippocampus. *The Pharmacologist* 2008; 50:57

**Iyengar SS** and Mott DD. Neuregulin blocks synaptic strengthening after epileptiform activity in the rat hippocampus. *Brain Research* 2008; 1208:67-73

### **Funding**

01/01/2009 - 12/31/2009      Epilepsy Foundation pre-doctoral fellowship 'Neuregulin regulation of synaptic plasticity in epilepsy'

### **Science education**

4/2016-5/2016      Organizing a neuroscience curriculum at the Brooklyn Free School

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- 5/2016-7/2016 Summer Quest Elective teacher at the Harlem Educational Activities Fund
- 3/2016-4/2016 Course director for Medical Communication as an alternative career for graduates in biomedical sciences
- 09/2009 Taught 'Comorbidities of Epilepsy' to 10 graduate students as part of the Epilepsy Module at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine

**Awards**

- 2016** Awarded the Distinguished Alumni award from University of South Carolina School of Medicine
- 2015** Awarded the Early Career Policy Fellowship from the Society for Neuroscience to promote neuroscience advocacy in New York and New Jersey. As part of this Fellowship, I talked to elected representatives from NY and NJ the importance of science funding
- 2014** Received a travel award to attend the Gordon Conferences for 'Mechanisms in epilepsy and neuronal synchronization' in Vermont
- Received a travel award from the NYU Comprehensive Epilepsy Center to attend the Partners Against Mortality in Epilepsy (PAME) conference at Minneapolis
- 2013** American Epilepsy Society (AES) fellow
- Received a travel award to attend the American Epilepsy Society annual conference at Washington, DC
- Invited to attend 'Curing the Epilepsies' meeting at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
- Received an award from Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE) to attend Festschrift for Dr. Phil Schwartzkroin in Monterrey, CA
- 2012** Received a travel award to attend the Gordon Conferences for 'Mechanisms in epilepsy and neuronal synchronization' in New Hampshire
- 2011** Received a postdoctoral travel award from the Society of Neuroscience to attend annual conference in Washington, DC
- 2010** Student representative for the Graduate Committee

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President of Medical Graduate Student Association

- 2009** Received the Dean Barnhardt Award from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine for the graduate student for exceptional devotion to research
- Honorable mention at the Newton Symposium at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine for research presentation
- 2008** Received a graduate student travel award from the Society for Neuroscience to attend the annual conference in Washington, DC
- Invited to attend the Gordon Conferences in Maine for “Mechanisms in epilepsy and neuronal synchronization”
- 2007** Received a travel award and the best poster award from the Southeastern Pharmacology Society to attend the 28th Southeastern Pharmacology Society (SEPS)
- 2006** Received a travel award from University of South Carolina School of Medicine to attend Society for Neuroscience in Atlanta, GA