
Laura Wolszon, Ph. D.

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SUMMARY: I have built my career in an academic research environment, receiving my doctorate in Neuroscience and doing scientific research at Columbia University for 10 years. I then transitioned to academic administration, focusing on strategic university-industry technology transfer and research partnerships, which included program management in several STEM disciplines. More recently, I have developed an interest in how knowledge of neuroscience principles can inform architectural design, and have taught for 3 years in the *Neuroscience for Architecture* certificate program at the NewSchool of Architecture and Design in San Diego.

EDUCATION: **B.S., Chemistry** (University of Minnesota)
 Ph.D., Biophysics (Neuroscience) (State University of New York)
 Postdoctoral training, Neuroscience (Columbia University)

Continuing education: Corporate Finance (Columbia School of Business), Advanced Negotiation Skills (Licensing Executives Society), Project Management (UCSD), Finance for Non-Financial Managers (Rady School), and Spanish language.

EXPERIENCE:

1) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

April, 2018 – present: **Scientific Associate**, [Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute](#), La Jolla (part-time position). *Highlights:* Manage federally and industry-sponsored research programs in the laboratory of Dr. Jerold Chun

Jan., 2010 – May, 2011: **Director**, [CYCORE](#), Center for Wireless and Population Health Systems, [Qualcomm Institute](#) (QI, a.k.a. *Calit2*), UCSD.

Highlights: Provided strategic and managerial leadership, fiscal and personnel oversight and long-range planning for CYCORE (Cyberinfrastructure for Comparative Effectiveness Research), a 2-year, \$4 million Grand Opportunity grant program.

2) STRATEGIC PLANNING

Oct., 2005 – Jan., 2010: **Manager, Strategic Partnerships**, Qualcomm Institute (QI), UCSD

Highlights: Built new interdisciplinary national and international research relationships for QI with both academic and industry partners; developed outreach programs; acted as liaison amongst stakeholders regarding the laws, policy and best practices surrounding these relationships; co-created the *Center for Interdisciplinary Science for Art, Architecture & Archeology* ([CISA3](#)), currently in its thirteenth year; led team that created the

gallery@Calitz, a state-of-the-art exhibition space for bridging technology and the visual arts.

Member of QI's Executive Council, New Strategic Directions Committee on Health, New Research Initiatives Committee, and Industry Advisory Board Planning Committee.

Frequent panelist in CONNECT's [Springboard](#) program; served on several [CONNECT](#) committees.

3) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

April, 2004 - Oct., 2005: **Senior Licensing Officer**, UCSD technology transfer office (TTO)

May, 2001 - March, 2004: **Licensing Officer**, UCSD TTO

Jan., 1999 - April, 2001: **Licensing Officer**, *Columbia Innovation Enterprise*, Columbia University

Highlights: Working knowledge of Intellectual Property (IP) law, legal drafting and analysis, business plan development, market and technology valuation, equity financing, patentability determination, drug-development practices, and UC policy on IP and consulting; managed a portfolio of 220 inventions held by 65 faculty members; executed 26 commercial license agreements with biotech, pharmaceutical and engineering industries; co-created 6 start-ups founded on UCSD platform technologies.

4) RESEARCH and TEACHING

Oct., 2017 – present: **Faculty**, [NewSchool of Architecture and Design](#) (NSAD): *Introduction to Neuroscience and Architecture* (part-time position)

1992 - 1999: **Assistant and Associate Research Scientist**, Columbia University

1989 - 1992: **NRSA Postdoctoral Fellow**, Columbia University

1991 - 1996: **Instructor**, Marine Biological Laboratory: *Neural Systems and Behavior*

Highlights: Expertise in neuroscience: biophysics, electrophysiology, development, neuroimaging; received high ratings as one of 3 professors teaching in NSAD's *Neuroscience for Architecture* certificate program.

Publications: One book chapter and 10 peer-reviewed research papers (7 as first author); co-authored several successful grant proposals.

OTHER SKILLS:

Independent, creative and analytical thinker, prioritizing *long-range vision* and *breadth of impact*

Organized, excels in multi-tasking, highly proficient in oral and written communication

Excellent management, leadership and interpersonal skills: professional, self-motivated, straightforward and trustworthy; collaborative but able to make difficult decisions

REFERENCES AND PUBLICATIONS ON REQUEST