MICHELE M. SOLIS
freelance science writer

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EDUCATION

University of Washington — Seattle, WA
Post-doctoral training in neuroscience, with David Perkel — 1999-2007

University of California-San Francisco — San Francisco, CA
Ph.D. in neuroscience, with Allison Doupe — 1992-1999

Washington University — St. Louis, MO
B.A., Anthropology; minors in Biology and French — 1985-1989

University College London — London, England
Junior year abroad in Anthropology — 1987-1988

WRITING EXPERIENCE

Since 2007 I have produced articles for both scientist and general audiences. I've covered a range of topics in neuroscience, including schizophrenia and other mental health issues, and written about different types of research, including genetics, brain imaging, neural circuits, psychology, and behavior.

- Feature writer for **Pharmaceutical Journal** (2015 – present)
- Workshop writer for **SFARI.org** (2019 – present)
- Feature writer for **IEEE Pulse** (2016 - 2017)
- Writer, editor for (now defunct) **Schizophrenia Research Forum** (2009 – 2016)
- News writer for **Scientific American Mind** (2009 – 2015)
- News and profile writer for **Spectrum**, an autism news website (2008 - 2012)
- Columnist for **MSN Health and Fitness** (2008 – 2009)
- Contributor to **Crosscut**, a Pacific Northwest news outlet (2008 - 2009)
- Other stories have been published in **Nature, Nautilus, The Economist, HHMI Bulletin, The Scientist,** and **Pain Research Forum**

RESEARCH

I am trained as a systems neuroscientist; during 15 years of graduate and post-doctoral work I used electrophysiology to probe auditory and motor neural circuits in an effort to understand their relation to learned behavior.

While a scientist, I received several awards, notably the Burroughs Wellcome Career Award in Biological Sciences (2004) and the Lindsley Prize in Behavioral Neuroscience (2000).

I published six original research articles, and seven invited reviews (listed on next page).

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Solis MM, Perkel, DJ (2006) Noradrenergic modulation of activity in a vocal control nucleus in vitro. J Neurophysiol 95(4): 2265-2276.

Solis MM, Perkel, DJ (2005) Rhythmic activity in a forebrain vocal control nucleus in vitro. J Neurosci 25(11): 2811-2822.

Solis MM, Doupe AJ (2000) Compromised neural selectivity for song in birds with impaired sensorimotor learning. Neuron 25(1):109-121.

Solis MM, Doupe AJ (1999) Contributions of tutor and bird's own song experience to neural selectivity in the songbird anterior forebrain. J Neurosci 19(11): 4559-4584.

Solis MM, Doupe AJ (1997) Anterior forebrain neurons develop selectivity by an intermediate stage of song learning. J Neurosci 17(16): 6447-6462.

Whaling CS, **Solis MM**, Doupe AJ, Soha JA, Marler P (1997) Acoustic and neural bases for innate recognition of song. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 94(23):12694-12698.

INVITED REVIEWS

Solis MM, Perkel DJ (January 2006) Neuroethology. In: ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LIFE SCIENCES. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd: Chichester http://www.els.net/ [doi:10.1038/npg.els.0003380].

Doupe AJ, **Solis MM**, Kimpo R, Boettiger CA (2004) Cellular, circuit, and synaptic mechanisms in song learning. Ann NY Acad Sci 1016:495-523.

Doupe AJ, **Solis MM**, Boettiger CA, Hessler NA (2004) Birdsong: Hearing in the service of vocal learning. In: The Cognitive Neurosciences III (Gazzaniga M, Ed.) pp 245-258.

Solis MM, Brainard MS, Hessler NA, Doupe AJ (2000) Song selectivity and sensorimotor signals in vocal learning and production. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 97(22): 11836-42.

Solis MM (2000) Adult neurogenesis in songbirds: a tale of two neurons. Neuron 25(2): 256-7.

Doupe AJ, **Solis MM** (1999) Song- and order-selective auditory responses emerge in neurons of the songbird anterior forebrain during vocal learning. In: The Design of Animal Communication (Hauser M and Konishi M, Eds.), pp 343-368. Boston: MIT Press.

Doupe AJ, **Solis MM** (1997) Song- and order-selective neurons develop in the songbird anterior forebrain during vocal learning. J Neurobiol 33(5): 694-709.