

## MEREDITH WADMAN, BM, BCh, M.S.

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### SUMMARY

An award-winning medical journalist, author and science communicator with a passion for global health who trained as a physician at Oxford and as a journalist at Columbia University.

### WORK HISTORY

9/16- present **Policy and Biology Reporter**, *Science Magazine*, Washington, D.C.

I cover issues at the intersection of medical science and society, like infectious disease epidemics, sexual harassment in science, and vaccine politics. I write breaking news, weekly print news and longer features. My beat includes federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control; Congress as it impacts medical research; research universities; and drug development.

9/13 - 8/16 **Eric and Wendy Schmidt Fellow**, New America, Washington, D.C.

As a New America fellow, I wrote the critically acclaimed book *The Vaccine Race: Science, Politics and the Human Costs of Defeating Disease* (Viking/Penguin: 2017). It tells the story of how cells from a single human fetus were used to make vaccines protecting hundreds of millions of people from rubella, rabies, polio and other deadly diseases. *The Vaccine Race* was shortlisted for Britain's prestigious Wellcome Book Prize and named a *Washington Post* Notable Nonfiction Book of 2017. It was longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie 2018 Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. The *New York Times* called it "a jewel of science history."

1995 – 8/13 **Biomedical Policy Reporter**, *Nature*, Washington, D.C.

I covered the politics of medical research as a correspondent for *Nature*. I wrote breaking news, features and editorials on subjects including human embryonic stem cell research and animal experimentation. I covered Congress; the National Institutes of Health; the Food and Drug Administration; research universities; and the pharmaceutical industry. I also wrote for *Nature's* sister journals, *Nature Medicine* and *Nature Biotechnology*.

8/95 –present **Freelance Writer**, Washington, D.C.

I contributed opinion articles on medical policy to publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *TIME Ideas*. As a contributing writer at *Fortune*, I wrote features on gene therapy and sex selection. I won Time Warner's annual public service journalism award for a *Fortune* feature on the unrecognized risk of heart attacks in women. I have been a regular book reviewer for *The Wall Street Journal*.

12/92- 7/95 **Washington Bureau Chief**, *The Oakland Tribune/Alameda Newspaper Group*.

I established the Washington, D.C. bureau of this major metropolitan daily newspaper and its affiliated chain of four suburban San Francisco daily newspapers. I covered the White House, Congress and federal agencies, writing hard news, features, analysis and profiles.

5-8/92 **News Intern**, *The Wall Street Journal*, Pittsburgh, PA.

I reported and wrote breaking news and features, including exposés on women in medicine and women returning to the workforce after having children.

1/87-8/91 **Freelance writer**, Oxford, U.K.; Durban, South Africa; Vancouver, Canada.

I contributed features on medical conditions in South Africa to *The Guardian (U.K.)* and *The Globe and Mail (Toronto)*. I wrote political commentary for *The Vancouver Sun* and wrote, produced and directed a documentary on Hiroshima for CKVU Television, Vancouver.

## EDUCATION

9/91 - 5/92 **Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism**, New York, N.Y. Master of Science in Journalism, 1992.

9/85 - 7/88 **University of Oxford Medical School**, Oxford, U.K.  
Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (equivalent of the American M.D.), 1988.

9/83-8/85 **University of British Columbia Medical School**, Vancouver, Canada.  
I completed pre-clinical medical studies before transferring to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

9/78 - 6/82 **Stanford University**, Stanford, CA.  
B.A. with distinction, Human Biology, 1982. Minor in French. Phi Beta Kappa.

## SELECTED BROADCAST AND SPEAKING CREDITS

Public Radio International's *The World*: The Kyiv connection to the measles epidemic. (April 10, 2019)

NPR's *1A* with Joshua Johnson: The latest measles outbreaks are leading to legislative changes. (March 13, 2019)

Public Radio International's *Science Friday*: Trump administration cracks down on fetal cell research (December 21, 2018)

National Institutes of Health Vaccine Research Center Plenary Lecture: The Vaccine Race. (Sept. 14, 2018)

CNN Headline News, *Something's Killing Me*: "What's wrong with the twins?" This episode, the fifth in the popular series, concerned the deadly childhood disease Niemann-Pick Type C. (August 19-20, 2018)

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, *The Current*: What rubella vaccine can teach us about fighting Zika virus. (March 6, 2017)

NPR's *1A* with Joshua Johnson: What the race to develop the rubella vaccine teaches us about fighting disease today. (February 28, 2017)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I'm a dual U.S./Canadian citizen. During medical school, I completed rotations in public health and pediatrics in Malaysia and South Africa respectively, and volunteered in a health clinic in rural Ghana.