Raven Baxter, Ph.D.

MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST · SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR · SCIENCE EDUCATOR

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Molecular biologist and science communication executive with 10+ years of experience translating complex science into strategic communications for scientific, clinical, and public audiences. Led communications strategy in academic medicine, supporting senior leaders through high-stakes messaging, stakeholder engagement, and organizational change. Pairs a strong scientific foundation with a proven ability to build trust, align teams, and deliver results in fast-paced, high-visibility environments.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Curriculum, Instruction, and the Science of Learning (Science Education)
University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY | Class of 2021

- Dissertation: *Culturally responsive science communication: The messengers and messages of communicating science through hip-hop*

M.A., Biology
SUNY Buffalo State University, Buffalo, NY | Class of 2016

- Thesis: *Immunological Strategies to Study Caenorhabditis elegans ER chaperone Glucose-Regulated Protein 170*

B.A., Biology
SUNY Buffalo State University, Buffalo, NY | Class of 2014

- Research: Soil Microbial Respiration

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Earned national credibility as a scientist and trusted public educator, reaching audiences in the tens of millions through digital media and live programming.
- Built a 635,000+ following across Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Bluesky, and LinkedIn; consistently generates 10M+ monthly impressions through evidence-based storytelling.
- Secured philanthropic and corporate funding and negotiated significant in-kind support for community-centered STEM access initiatives.
- Co-led the Infection-Associated Chronic Illness Provider Manual (2025, 180 pages) and its dissemination, reaching 5,000+ clinicians, patients, and caregivers globally, in the first month of release.
- Serves as Director of Partnerships, Association of Science Communicators, and Chair of the Science Communication Ethics Consortium.
- Led inclusive excellence strategy and resource alignment in a research-intensive environment (UCI Biological Sciences; 4,300+ students, 120+ faculty; $50M+ budget).
- Founded and scaled The Science Haven (501(c)(3)); launched Stellar Dreams with national sponsors.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

The Science Maven (Dr. Raven the Science Maven) — National platform
Founder and Science Communication Executive | 2016–Present

- Built and leading a global science communication platform grounded in culturally responsive, audience-centered scholarship; reaches tens of millions and generates 10M+ monthly impressions.
- Growing a 635,000+ following through consistent, high-performing science storytelling across digital platforms.
- Serve as a steady, evidence-based public voice, translating complex biology while countering misinformation and honoring scientific uncertainty.
- Led national campaigns and partnerships spanning academic, federal-adjacent, corporate, philanthropic, and entertainment sectors (e.g., Netflix, 3M, Olay, Regeneron, Meta, Brooks Running, National Fair Housing Alliance).
- Hosted and moderated high-visibility programs, including Pfizer's flagship *Science Will Win* podcast (Seasons 5–6), and frequently invited to national STEM workforce convenings, including White House engagements during the Biden administration.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Cohen Center for Recovery from Complex Chronic Illness (the CoRE) — New York, NY
Director of Science Communication | 2024–2025

- Led the science communication team at the world's first medical center dedicated to infection-associated chronic illnesses, building dissemination infrastructure to move clinical expertise into routine care at scale.
- Co-led the publication and launch of the Infection-Associated Chronic Illness Provider Manual (2025, 180 pages).
- Drove rapid uptake of core materials, reaching 5,000+ clinicians, patients, and caregivers in the first month.
- Established the CoRE Knowledge Collaborative as an ongoing learning and implementation network convening practitioners globally; oversaw CME-accredited programming reaching hundreds of physicians.
- Organized cross-functional teams to produce and host a ten-part post-acute infection syndromes education series with Osmosis Medical Education.

The Science Haven — Washington, DC (national)
President and Executive Director | 2022–Present

- Founded and lead a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit advancing STEM equity through tools, guided learning, and sustained community connection.
- Designed and launched Stellar Dreams, a telescope-based astronomy program; led the Buffalo program launch delivering 27 telescopes and immersive astronomy learning.
- Leading national expansion planning for World Space Week 2026 with multi-site programming anchored by a national virtual hub and year-long curriculum; established a partnership with the Aspen Institute.

University of California, Irvine, School of Biological Sciences — Irvine, CA
Director of Diversity Initiatives | 2021–2022

- Directed strategy for inclusive excellence, STEM education, and community engagement in a research-intensive environment.
- Guided DEI strategy and institutional credibility during a period of national racial unrest.
- Partnered with senior leaders to align resource allocation with stated priorities and deploy funds from a $50M+ operating budget.

Health Sciences Charter School — Buffalo, NY
Director of Collegiate STEM Initiatives and Regents Chemistry Teacher | 2019–2020

- Designed and delivered college-prep STEM curriculum and programming to strengthen college readiness.
- Expanded dual-enrollment and early-college options in partnership with D'Youville University.

SUNY Buffalo State University — Buffalo, NY
Academic Advisor and Biology Lecturer | 2017–2019

- Advised and mentored 400+ STEM undergraduates annually.
- Taught introductory biology courses and applied science communication strategies.
- Served as a central connector in the student support ecosystem.

SUNY Erie Community College — Buffalo, NY
Adjunct Professor of Biology | 2017–2019

- Led lecture and laboratory instruction in microbiology and human biology.
- Designed alternative assessments and inclusive teaching approaches.

Albany Molecular Research (AMRI) — Buffalo, NY
Research Scientist I, Lead Drug Discovery | 2016–2017

- Co-developed a manufacturing protocol for a 400 kDa neurodegenerative protein.
- Oversaw experimental budgets and resource forecasting in a newly built laboratory.

Buffalo Public Schools — Buffalo, NY
Substitute Teacher | 2016–2018

- Provided bilingual (English/Spanish) instruction and classroom support across English- and Spanish-speaking academies.

Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine — Winston-Salem, NC
Visiting Research Scientist in Molecular Biology | 2015

- Conducted molecular oncology research on androgen receptor expression in prostate cancer cells.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited — Cleveland, OH
Project Supervisor | 2013

- Supervised 20+ youth in urban environmental engineering projects.

Scientists and Engineers for America — Washington, DC
Science Policy Research Intern | 2008–2009

- Produced energy policy analyses and candidate policy briefings.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Baxter, R. (2021). *Culturally Responsive Science Communication: The messengers, messages, and voices in communicating science through hip-hop.* Doctoral dissertation, University at Buffalo. (ERIC: ED620019).
- Baxter, R. P. Baxter-Christian. (2017). *Immunological Strategies to Study GRP170 in Caenorhabditis elegans.* Master's thesis, SUNY Buffalo State College.
- Baxter, R., et al. *Improving Provider Preparedness and Perceptions for Managing Infection-Associated Chronic Illnesses* (manuscript in preparation, 2026).
- Baxter, R. *Hormonal and Genetic Insights into hEDS, KLK15, Testosterone, and the Breakdown of Connective Tissues* (manuscript in preparation, 2026).

SELECTED HONORS AND RECOGNITION

- 2026 | Living Legacy Award, Cohort Sistas
- 2024 | UniPhi Space Astronaut Rock Star Award, with The Science Haven
- 2023 | Bronze Award, The Anthem Awards, with AMNH
- 2023 | National Museum of African American History & Culture, Afrofuturism Museum Exhibit
- 2023 | People Magazine, People Studios, Olay, Women Who Give an “F”
- 2022 | AAUW, Woman of Distinction Award
- 2022 | AfroTech, Future 50
- 2022 | EBONY Power 100
- 2022 | Graduate Women in Science, Science Communication Award
- 2021 | Forbes, 30 Under 30
- 2021 | SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence
- 2021 | Buffalo State University, Young Alumnus Achievement Award
- 2020 | Fortune, 40 Under 40
- 2018 | Arthur A. Schomburg Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND ADVISORY ROLES

- Since 2025 | Director of Partnerships, Association of Science Communicators, and Chair of the Science Communication Ethics Consortium
- Since 2025 | Member, Washington Academy of Sciences
- Since 2025 | Member, National Fair Housing Alliance
- Since 2023 | Member, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Since 2022 | Board Member, Buffalo State Alumni Association
- Since 2022 | Member, National Society of Black Engineers
- Since 2020 | Member, American Education Research Association
- Since 2015 | Member, American Society for Cell Biology
- Since 2015 | Member, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Since 2015 | Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages Spoken: English (native), Spanish (nearly fluent, familial), Mandarin Chinese (Beginner), American Sign Language (Beginner)

Thank you for your time in exploring my qualifications!