
Leah Kesselman

MASc, Chemical Engineering

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EXPERIENCE

Scientific Knowledge Manager - CellCAN Inc.

MAY 2019 - SEPT 2020

- Organized cell and gene therapy stakeholder meetings with Health Canada to advance regulatory standards and to facilitate Canadian clinical trials
- Educated and collaborated with scientists at international conferences
- Planned and facilitated workshops and webinars on key issues in cell and gene therapy manufacturing: training and retaining highly qualified personnel, supply chain and logistics management and good manufacturing practices

Director of Technical Sales, Life Sciences - Rheolution Inc.

JULY 2017 - APRIL 2019

- Demonstrated mechanical testing instrument to researchers and professionals
- Wrote application notes and SOPs
- Performed in-house sample testing of hydrogels
- Installed instruments and trained users
- Optimized experimental procedures remotely and in-person at research and industry labs
- Collaborated with engineering team to implement customer feedback into new designs

Research Technician II - Durocher Lab, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute

JULY 2016 - DECEMBER 2016 CONTRACT

- Amplified a viral library for use in CRISPR knockout screens in a cancer research lab
- Wrote and implemented SOPs for work in a viral tissue culture facility

Teaching Assistant - Concepts in Chemical Engineering, University of Toronto

JANUARY-APRIL, 2013 - 2015

- Taught weekly tutorials for 70 students; graded quizzes, midterms and exams

Research Assistant - Hoare Lab, McMaster University

MAY-AUGUST, 2009 - 2011

- Created microgels using inverse microemulsions and microfluidics
- Presented research at AIChE and CSE conferences in 2010 and 2011

Research Assistant - Jones Lab, University of Guelph

JUNE-JULY 2007; MAY-AUGUST 2008

- Studied the effects of Nck protein mutations on angiogenesis

EDUCATION

Master of Applied Science - *Shoichet Lab, University of Toronto*

SEPTEMBER 2012 - DECEMBER 2015

- Thesis: Hyaluronic Acid Hydrogels for Astrocyte and Neural Progenitor Cell Co-Cultures
- Cultured human iPS-derived cells and isolated primary mouse neurons in 3D
- Used ImageJ and Imaris software to analyze reconstructed z-stacks
- Presented at the Ontario-Quebec Biotech Meeting and Canadian Biomaterials Society

Bachelor of Engineering and Biosciences - *McMaster University*

SEPTEMBER 2007 - APRIL 2012

- Completed a five-year program combining chemical engineering and biotech courses
- Achieved a cumulative average of 10.2; graduated *summa cum laude*

ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN REFEREED JOURNALS

Kesselman, L.R.B.; Shinwary, S.; Selvaganapathy, P.R.; Hoare, T. "Microfluidic Production of Monodisperse, Covalently-Crosslinked, Degradable 'Smart' Microgels." *Small*, April 2012

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- NSERC CGSD in 2015, NSERC CGSM in 2014
- Training Program in Regenerative Medicine Fellowship Trainee: 2013
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship: 2012
- NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award: 2009, 2010, and 2011
- McMaster Entrance scholarship (2007-2009), University (Senate) Scholarship: 2008, 2011

VOLUNTEER WORK

Canadian Biomaterials Society Mentor, 2019-present

- Acted as an industry mentor to a student finishing her PhD

Canadian Biomaterials Society Meeting, 2015

- Led a student-professor speed-networking event and coordinated poster and talk judging

Ontario-Quebec Biotechnology Meeting, 2014

- Designed website and Facebook accounts for the conference
- Coordinated tours of labs at the University of Toronto

McMaster Solar Car Team Member, 2008-2010

- With the team, built a solar car and raced across Australia in the World Solar Challenge
- Presented the solar car project at sustainability events and summer camps