

## **Sonja K. Billes, PhD**

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### **Summary of Experience**

- Experienced in scientific communications, including medical writing, publication planning, medical education, scientific illustration, and related activities for pharmaceutical and biotech companies, medical education agencies, and individual healthcare professionals.
- More than 6 years of cross-functional interaction with medical affairs, clinical development, research, regulatory affairs, business development, and marketing for scientific communications and related activities.
- Scientific expertise in physiology, pharmacology, and the health sciences, including obesity, diabetes, neuroscience, psychology, mood disorders, and addiction.

### **Professional Experience**

**Freelance Medical Writer**  
**August Scientific, San Diego, CA**

**March 2011–present**

- Medical writing and scientific communications services: author, edit, and provide scientific review of preclinical and clinical publications, including abstracts, posters, journal articles, reviews, white papers, PowerPoint presentations, medical education, press releases, data presentations, newsletters, webpage content, storyboards, and online training materials.
- Scientific illustration for figures and diagrams.
- Related services: literature searches and data summaries, data analysis, interpretation and visual presentation, competitive intelligence, clinical data management, reference library management, and document quality control.

**Guest Lecturer**  
**Mira Costa Community College, Vista, CA**

**2013–present**

- Give guest lectures on neuroscience and obesity-related topics.

**Medical Affairs Writer**  
**Orexigen Therapeutics, Inc., La Jolla, CA**

**May 2008–Feb 2011**

- Authored and managed Medical Affairs publications including primary clinical manuscripts, reviews, preclinical and translational manuscripts, abstracts, posters, and PowerPoint presentations. Lead data mining efforts for secondary publications.
- Provided scientific and data interpretation support to Commercial, Investor Relations, and Business Development.
- Trained new hires in aspects of Medical Affairs and Medical Writing, including manuscript, poster, abstract, and PowerPoint presentation writing.
- Presented clinical trial results and mechanism of action topics to Key Opinion Leaders.

**PhD Candidate, Department of Neuroscience** **2003–2008**  
**Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine, Portland, OR**  
**Supervisor: Michael A. Cowley, PhD**

- Investigated the involvement of catecholamines in regulation of food intake, energy expenditure, and body weight in lean and obese rodent models.

**Founding Editor and Editor in Chief, The OHSU Student Newsletter** **2005–2007**  
**Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR**

- Created the OHSU All Student Newsletter, recruited student writers and contributors, worked with contributing writers on content and projects, edited articles, and performed layout.

### **Additional Skills**

Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Acrobat, Adobe Illustrator, EndNote, and Prism.

### **Honors and Awards**

2007 Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine Alliance Award, Portland, OR  
2005 Student Research Forum Poster Award, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR  
2003 Honors Thesis: Pass with Distinction, Washington State University Honors College, Pullman, WA  
2003 Undergraduate Scholar Award, Washington State University Faculty Association for Scholarship and Research (FASR), Pullman, WA

### **Academic History**

Ph.D. (2003-2008): Neuroscience, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR  
B.S. (1999-2003): Neuroscience, with Honors, Washington State University, Pullman, WA  
B.S. (1999-2003): Psychology, with Honors, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

### **Publications**

**Billes SK**, Sinnayah P, Cowley MA. Naltrexone/bupropion for obesity: An investigational combination pharmacotherapy for weight loss. *Pharmacological Research: the official journal of the Italian Pharmacological Society* 2014;84C:1-11.

Simpson RW, Nicholson GC, Proietto J, Sarah A, Sanders KM, Phillips G, et al. Efficacy and Safety of Oral Methazolamide in Patients With Type 2 Diabetes: A 24-Week, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind Study. *Diabetes care*. 2014. doi: 10.2337/dc14-1038.

Hughes TE, Kim DD, Marjason J, Proietto J, Whitehead JP, Vath JE. Ascending dose-controlled trial of beloranib, a novel obesity treatment for safety, tolerability, and weight loss in obese women. *Obesity (Silver Spring)*. 2013 Sep;21(9):1782-8.

Smith SR, Fujioka K, Gupta AK, **Billes SK**, Burns C, Kim D, Dunayevich E, Greenway FL. Combination therapy with naltrexone and bupropion for obesity reduces total and visceral adiposity. *Diabetes Obes Metab*. 2013 Sept 15(9):863-6.

**Billes SK**, Simonds SE, Cowley MA (2012) Leptin reduces food intake via a dopamine D2 receptor-dependent mechanism. *Mol Metabolism*. 1(1-2):86-93.

**Billes SK & Greenway FL (2011)** Combination therapy with naltrexone and bupropion for obesity. *Expert Opin Pharmacother.* 12(11):1813-26.

Greenway FL, Fujioka K, Plodkowski RA, Mudaliar S, Guttadauria M, Erickson J, Dunayevich E (2010) Effect of naltrexone/bupropion combination therapy on weight loss in overweight and obese participants: The COR-I multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial. *Lancet* 376:595-605.

Wilcox CS, Oskooilar N, Erickson JS, **Billes SK**, Katz BB, Tollefson GT, Dunayevich E (2010) An open-label study of naltrexone and bupropion combination therapy for smoking cessation in overweight and obese subjects. *Addictive Behavior* 35:229-234.

Greenway FL, Dunayevich E, Tollefson G, Erickson J, Guttadauria M, Fujioka K, Cowley MA (2009) Comparison of combined bupropion and naltrexone therapy for obesity with monotherapy and placebo. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 94:4898-4906.

Greenway FL, Whitehouse MJ, Guttadauria M, Anderson JW, Atkinson RL, Fujioka K, et al (2009) Rational design of a combination medication for the treatment of obesity. *Obesity* 17:30-39.

**Billes SK**, Cowley MA (2007). Catecholamine reuptake inhibition causes weight loss by increasing locomotor activity and thermogenesis. *Neuropsychopharmacology.* 33(6): 1287-1297.

Enriori PJ, Evans AE, Sinnayah P, Jobst EE, Tonelli-Lemos L, **Billes SK**, et al (2007). Diet-Induced Obesity Causes Severe but Reversible Leptin Resistance in Arcuate Melanocortin Neurons. *Cell Metab* 5: 181-194.

**Billes SK**, Cowley MA (2007). Inhibition of dopamine and norepinephrine reuptake produces additive effects on energy balance in lean and obese mice. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 32: 822-834.

Grayson BE, Allen SE, **Billes SK**, Williams SM, Smith MS, Grove KL (2006). Prenatal development of hypothalamic neuropeptide systems in the nonhuman primate. *Neuroscience* 143: 975-986.

Koegler FH, Enriori PJ, **Billes SK**, Takahashi DL, Martin MS, Clark RL, et al (2005). Peptide YY(3-36) inhibits morning, but not evening, food intake and decreases body weight in rhesus macaques. *Diabetes* 54: 3198-3204.

**Over 20 abstracts representing publications at Scientific Meetings.**

***Excellent references available upon request.***