

LAURA MAINZ, PhD

Medical Science Liaison Candidate

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Medical Science Liaison (MSL) candidate with 10+ years of oncology, hematology, and rare disease expertise, exceptional scientific presentation and communication skills, and proven adaptability to cross-functional, HCP-facing roles. Demonstrated success executing scientific educational initiatives, strategic territory planning in patient advocacy, and leadership of collaborative projects across academic and patient advocacy settings. Strongly patient-centric advocate, driven by a personal loss, committed to translating complex science into meaningful medical outcomes and improving access to care through education, collaboration, and policy engagement.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Therapeutic Area:	Oncology, Hematology, and Rare Disease
Communication:	Presenting Complex Medical Data, Scientific Exchange, Patient Education
Stakeholder Engagement:	KOL/HCP Relationship Management, Collaboration, Territory Development
Time & Project Management:	Cross-functional Teamwork, Project Launch, Mentoring

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Volunteer, Manager Center of Excellence (CoE) (Rare Disease)

Team Telomere Mar 2025 – Present

- Foster cross-functional collaboration among 18 international clinical institutions as part of a global multi-center initiative, supporting the delivery of high-quality care for Telomere Biology Disorders (TBD) patients.
 - Lead the development and facilitation of HIPAA-compliant multidisciplinary meetings for Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs) nationwide, enhancing stakeholder engagement and best practices in patient management.
 - Provide strategic guidance to HCPs on the CoE application process, contributing to the geographic expansion and clinical integration of the Team Telomere network.
 - Collaborate with the technology company Citizen Health, enhancing medical insights gathering, scientific exchange, and clinical decision-making within the TBD landscape.
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Volunteer Lead, Community and Patient Outreach (Hematology/Oncology)

Blood Cancer United Jan 2023 – Present Southern CA/HI

- Develop and execute a strategic territory plan to sustain collaborations with cancer centers and hematology/oncology health care teams, facilitating outreach to over 1,200 newly diagnosed patients annually.
 - Co-lead the planning and moderation of virtual and live educational forums (50-150 attendees), driving scientific exchange with HCPs, enhancing disease awareness, and patient education across hematologic malignancies.
 - Spearhead in-person educational conferences and fundraising events (300-1000 attendees), promoting access to clinical trials, novel therapies, and support services for blood cancer patients.
 - Advocate for pediatric blood cancer patients in a team of 500+ volunteers, translating patient needs into policy recommendations presented to California lawmakers to drive systemic healthcare improvements.
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Postdoctoral Fellow (Oncology, Rare Disease)

Salk Institute for Biological Studies Nov 2020 – Present San Diego, CA

- Conduct preclinical research in aging and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), generating insights into cancer mechanisms with potential implications for early detection and therapeutic targeting.
- Lead and manage multiple translational research initiatives in collaboration with internal and external scientific partners, driving forward oncology-focused discovery and innovation.
- Deliver oral and poster presentations at five international conferences, reaching over 1,500 attendees and effectively translating complex scientific data for diverse audiences while fostering external relationships.
- Supervise and mentor five technical assistants and undergraduate researchers, cultivating scientific curiosity, increasing lab productivity, and contributing to talent development in oncology research.

COMMUNICATION AND FIELD-BASED EXPERIENCE

Founder – Scientific Communication Platform (Oncology)

www.WithinOncology.com

Feb 2025 – Present

- Developed patient-centered educational content demystifying the drug development process, clinical trials, and cancer treatment options empowering informed decision-making among patients and caregivers.
- Co-authored 20+ scientific article on emerging oncology topics including circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA), multi-cancer early detection (MCED), liquid biopsy/minimal residual disease (MRD), KRAS inhibitors, cancer vaccines, and oncolytic virus therapy, engaging 300+ readers monthly.

Scientific/Medical Presentations

- 2025. Oral presentation on Citizen Health’s mission to the global Telomere Biology Disorder community.
- 2025. Moderation, Blood Cancer United/Team Telomere virtual patient education program on “Molecular Drivers and Genetic Predisposition to Blood Cancers”.
- 2023. Poster presentation at Telomeres & Telomerase Conference, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York.
- 2019 and 2023. Poster presentation at Mechanism and Models of Cancer Conference, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, San Diego.
- 2019. Poster presentation and flash talk at Beatson International Cancer Conference, Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, Glasgow (UK).
- 2018. Oral presentation at EWCD 11th European Workshop on Cell Death. Fuiggi (Italy).

Selected Scientific Publications

- Jones-Weinert, C.*, **Mainz, L.*** & Karlseder, J. (2024) Telomere function and regulation from mouse models to human ageing and disease. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol*.
- Nassour, J., Gutierrez Aguiar, L., Correia, A., Schmidt, T.T., **Mainz, L.**, et al. (2023) ZBP1-mediated telomere-to-mitochondria signaling prevents cancer initiation. *Nature*, 614(7949), 767-773.
- **Mainz, L.**, et al. (2022) Acute systemic knockdown of Atg7 is lethal and causes pancreatic destruction in shRNA transgenic mice. *Autophagy*. 18(12), 2880-2893.
- **Mainz, L.**, et al. (2022) Autophagy Blockage Reduces the Incidence of Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma in the Context of Mutant Trp53. *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology*. 10:785252.
- **Mainz, L.** and Rosenfeldt, M.T., (2018) Autophagy and cancer—insights from mouse models. *The FEBS journal*. 285(5), pp. 792- 808.

MEDICAL AFFAIRS EDUCATION AND CONTINUOUS LEARNING

- Clinical shadowing | Rady Children’s Hospital, Hematology/Oncology | San Diego, CA Jul 2025
- Building a HIPAA Compliance Program | LinkedIn Learning Jul 2025
- ORAQ Regulatory Affairs Training Program | Duke University School of Medicine Oct 2024
- 12th Annual MSL Society Conference | MSL Society | Miami, FL Sep 2024
- Good Clinical Practice (GCP) | NIDA Clinical Trials Network Aug 2024

ACADEMIC EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

University of Wuerzburg, Germany

- PhD | Pre-clinical studies of targeted therapies in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma Oct 2015 – Oct 2020
- Master of Science (MS) | Nanogels in Multiple Myeloma Therapy Oct 2013 – Sep 2015
- Bachelor of Science (BS) | Theragnostic potential of oncolytic virus Oct 2010 – Sep 2013

Grants/Fellowships

- Salk Women & Science Conference and Course Attendance Grant recipient (5 out of 100+ applicants) – \$2,500 to support participation and presentation at international research conference, USA, Sep 2022
- Paul F. Glenn Center for Biology of Aging Research Fellowship Recipient (3 out of 50+ applicants) – \$65,000/year for postdoctoral research project on tumor initiation, USA, May 2021 – Apr 2023