

*Stephen X. Arthur, M.F.A., M.Sc. (neuroscience)

2351 Palmerston Ave, West Vancouver, V7V 2W2 sxarthur@shaw.ca sxa-portfolio.com 604-926-9787

Freelance Scientific Medical Writer, Editor, & Illustrator



- Adept at improving the language, flow, structure, and clarity of manuscripts for research journals, scientific review articles, and research grant proposals
- On the leading edge of writing NIH R01 proposals according to their new short form
- Mastered the standards of Zieger's *Essentials of Writing Biomedical Research Papers*, Hofmann's *Scientific Writing and Communication*, and Gerin's *Writing the NIH Grant Proposal*
- Hired to write systematic reviews from assigned literature searches
- Produced clear conceptual illustrations of signaling pathways (design to finish)
- Provided new hypotheses for investigators due to a high level of creative intuition
- Developed and wrote successful arts grants totaling over \$215,000
- Draws on a solid history of professional writing and communication in many genres: technical writer, creative writer, video script writer (training and documentaries), screenwriter, and animation artist

Technical or substantive editor: understands the content to edit the content for structure, coherence, logic gaps, and factual accuracy, in addition to editing the language for diction, syntax, and punctuation.

Selected Contracts

McGill University Health Centre - Research Institute

Performed authors' editing (substantive, structural, copy) and conceptual illustrating for a journal review article on subcellular injuries in Alzheimer's disease co-authored by Vassilios Papadopoulos, DPharm, PhD, Professor, Dept of Medicine; Canada Research Chair in Biochemical Pharmacology; Executive Director of MUHC Research Institute. March 2012

New York University – Bluestone Center for Clinical Research and Translational Cancer Pain Laboratory

Editing and developing biomedical research report manuscripts, topical review articles, illustrations, and NIH R01 research grant proposals. Focus is on endogenous molecular mediators of cancer pain, peripheral nociception, epigenetics, genomic and signaling pathways, regulation of receptor expression, endothelin and endocannabinoid receptors, surgical and molecular interventions, behavioral animal models, and pre-clinical and clinical translational research for development of novel analgesic drugs. *You have done a masterful job. This is perfect. Consider me thoroughly impressed.* — Brian Schmidt, MD, PhD. June 2010 to present

University of California, San Francisco – Faculty of Medicine

Provided substantive editing for journal review articles and primary research manuscripts, as well as content development for grant applications. Area of focus was

cancer pain. [See links to published research reports at www.sxa-portfolio.com] Feb. 2010 – June 2010

Iwasan Consulting SR&ED

Deciphered oral reports to create effective Detailed Project Descriptions to obtain Scientific Research and Experimental Development Tax Credits for various businesses. 2006

ImageMaker – New Media for the Resource Sector

Consulted with mining company executives to effectively portray the right story to investors in mining exploration. 2005–2007

National Film Board of Canada

Developed a scientific-visualization project for schools—\$80,000 development budget. Researched the subject matter in depth (historical geology), wrote scripts, conducted market research, and evaluated production software and processes. *Stephen was a catalyst for consensus building and teamwork between creative and technical contributors, delivering results ahead of schedule.* — George Johnson, Producer, NFB. 1998-2000

Science World BC

Collected, interpreted, and summarized stories for *That Day in Science*, an interactive kiosk on the history of science. Contract 1993

B.C. Medical Association

Wrote a press release, *World's Deadliest Poison Used*

for Revolutionary Therapies (contracted by Dr. Jean Carruthers).

Dr. Reza Tabrischi, Dept. Pharmacology, UBC
Performed substantive editing and copy editing for a major grant proposal. 1991

Science textbook (*From Above the Web*)

Commissioned author—originated and wrote, with co-author Lorne Whitehead (recently Vice President Academic at UBC), a 400-page college-level general science textbook based on visual flowcharts that show the logical and historical relationships between major concepts. Covered sub-atomic physics, chemistry, and biology (sample on website). Unpublished, Federal grant

Other relevant experience

Graduate research in neuroscience

Performed animal experiments with receptor binding assays and autoradiography to identify the geniculostriate neurotransmitter. Presented at poster sessions at UBC Dept. Ophthalmology and Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Published abstract (Soc. Neurosci. Abstr. 17, 75).

Primary research manuscript:

<http://sxa-portfolio.com/SXA-ResearchPaperNeuroscience.pdf>

Selected review paper:

<http://sxa-portfolio.com/SXA-NeuroscienceReview2.pdf>

Undergraduate thesis in zoology

Wrote an original monograph entitled *Toward a Complete Synthetic Theory of Evolution* (excerpt on website).

Technical writing contracts

Impact BC—Practice Support Program, an alliance between BC Ministry of Health Services, the BCMA, and the regional health authorities

Originated a series of training guides to help BC family physicians be proactive in managing care for patients with chronic ailments. A preliminary survey showed a positive impact on both patient care and physician satisfaction. 2006–2008

B.C. Hydro • BC Mineral, Oil and Gas Revenue Branch • BC Transmission Corporation • IMT Image & Microscope Technology • CHC Helicopter Global Operations • McDonald Dettwiler and Associates • Glenayre Electronics • Richmond Fire-Rescue • Hughes Canada Systems Division • Spectrum Signal Processing • B.C. Ministry of Forests • E-Comm 9-1-1

Wrote many user guides, training manuals, and proposals for a wide range of products, services and educational topics. 1984 to 2008

Corporate documentaries and training videos
(various clients, including BC Cancer Agency and BC Children's Hospital)
Consulting Video Script Writer and Creative Content Developer 1985-1995

Education

Master of Science (Physiology/neuroscience)
University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Master of Fine Arts (Film production/screenwriting)
University of Southern California, Los Angeles

Bachelor of Science (Zoology)
University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Writing samples and C.V.

See a large number of writing samples at:
www.sxa-portfolio.com. See full chronological C.V. at:
www.linkedin.com/in/stephenxarthur

Member

- American Medical Writers Association
- Society for Technical Communication
- Mensa (past)

Reference

Brian L. Schmidt, DDS, MD, PhD, Professor,
Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery,
Director, Bluestone Center for Clinical Research
New York University College of Dentistry
212-998-9543 brianl.schmidt@nyu.edu

Testimonials

See: www.sxa-portfolio.com/SXA-recommendations.html

Stephen is highly talented in an extraordinarily broad range of areas. His core strengths are a highly developed understanding of sophisticated scientific concepts coupled with proficiency and excellence in crystal clear written communication of complex matters. On top of that, Stephen is highly creative and has fine aesthetic judgment in numerous areas including creative writing and various forms of graphic arts.—Lorne Whitehead, PhD, Professor, UBC Leader of Education Innovation, UBC 3M Chair in Physics, and past Vice President Academic University of BC.

Software

Endnote, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe After Effects
(animation & VFX), MS-Word, Adobe Acrobat.