



LAUREN PAIGE KENNEDY

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FOCUS

Exploring current trends in health, wellness, and medical news, backed by scientific research and expert testimony; COVID-19 updates; women's health; service journalism; celebrity health; the environment

CURRENT POSITION

In January 2020, I joined [HealthCentral](https://www.healthcentral.com), a NYC-based consumer health site owned by Remedy Health Media, as a senior editor to help launch its new, award-winning editorial—and cover the pandemic from the start. I was promoted to deputy editor in February 2023. **Regular beats:** COVID-19/vaccines, health disparities, women's health, heart health, autoimmune disorders, and deep-dive reports. I pitch, assign, edit, and package features, slideshows, video content, and Shorthand stories across 90 condition categories, partnering with SEO, production, social, video, and design teams, plus top freelance writers.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

From 2008–2019 I worked as a full-time freelance writer/editor based in NYC, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., during which time I served as a regular contributing writer for **WebMD Magazine** as I simultaneously wrote for many other print and web publications, as well as custom content agencies.

Prior to 2008, I served as co-founding editor of **WebMD Magazine** (which I developed, pitched, launched, and edited for its first three years of existence); editor in chief of the travel and culture guide **Washington Flyer**; editor at large for luxury publication **Canary** (Condé Nast UK); corporate copy director at **Condé Nast Media Group** (NYC); and senior writer/merchandising at **New York Magazine**.

FREELANCE CLIENTS

Brain + Life, Coastal Living, Condé Nast Media Group, The Foundry, Details, Frommer's Travel, Hachette Filipacchi, HealthCentral, Men's Fitness, Medscape, The Mid, Neurology Now, Purple Clover, Redbook, Spotlight, style.com, Travel + Leisure, USA Today/Weekend, Vogue, Washington Flyer, Washingtonian, Washington Post, WebMD Magazine and webmd.com, WHERE, Women's Health, WWD, more.

PUBLISHED CELEBRITY COVER STORIES AND PROFILES

[Malcolm Gladwell](#), Trevor Noah, Annette Bening, Cameron Diaz, Curtis Stone, Tiffany Haddish, Seth Meyers, Matthew McConaughey, Harrison Ford, Sharon Stone, Jim Gaffigan (twice), [Kristin Chenoweth](#), Gloria Estefan, Ann Romney, Jack Johnson, Zoe Saldana, Seth Rogen (twice), Neil Patrick Harris, Jimmy

Fallon, [Chris Rock](#), Rob Lowe, Demi Lovato, Chelsea Handler, Queen Latifah (twice), [Joan Didion](#), Adrian Grenier, Rosanne Barr, [Serena Williams](#), Andre Agassi, Martina Navratilova, Kerry Washington, Anna Kendrick, Abigail Breslin, Lucy Lui (twice), Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Sheryl Crow, Christina Applegate, Stanly Tucci, Kelly Ripa, Frank McCourt, Jamie Oliver, Taye Diggs, Olivia Newton-John, Jerome Bettis, more

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORTING

In 2017, I interviewed 14 of the world's leading scientists and activists on single-use plastic pollution and ocean health for an extended feature in *Coastal Living* called "[Ocean Heroes](#)." The feature was one of the first in the mainstream media to sound the alarm on microplastics and endangered marine life.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

After my *Coastal Living* feature came out, I launched an anti-plastics youth organization called PEP (Pelham Eliminates Plastics). In just five years this group has successfully led Westchester businesses to refrain from using plastic bags (a year before the New York State ban went into effect) and inspired the Pelham Unified School District to introduce compostable utensils and stop selling plastic water bottles. Several of my young charges have gone on to pursue environmental science degrees at top universities.

RECENT AWARDS

Three editorial initiatives that I developed and shepherded in 2022 were singled out as [FOLIO: Eddie and Ozzie Awards finalists](#):

- Best Long-Form Feature/Consumer Health for "[The Obesity-Chronic Connection: A Special Report](#)," a Shorthand story that builds as it unfolds
- Best Series of Articles/Consumer Health and Fitness for "[Your Total Guide to Chronic + Sex](#)," which I launched with my survey story, "[10 Revealing Truths About Chronic Sex](#)"
- Best Single Article/Consumer Health for "[Can Grief Really Be a Chronic Condition?](#)"

In 2021, my editing work earned the following distinctions:

- The FOLIO: 2021 Eddie and Ozzie Awards named my story "[What if COVID Is Chronic?](#)" as Best Single Article in the Consumer Health category.
- The 2021 Digital Health Awards awarded the same story a Merit distinction.
- The 2021 Digital Health Awards awarded my video interviewing work for "[Young & Chronic: Crohn's Disease](#)" a Silver for Video Series.
- The 2021 Digiday Media Awards named "[Let's Talk About the Novel Coronavirus](#)," a comprehensive condition hub that I've managed, edited, and regularly updated since mid-2020, as a finalist for Best Story.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

I'm an exacting top, line, and copy editor; skilled interviewer; and thorough reporter with experience working in content management systems (CMS) and copy-design platforms such as **Contentful**, **Canva**, **Shorthand**, **Monday.com**, and **Jira**, plus the video platform **JW Player**. I'm also skilled in using **InDesign**, **WordPress**, **Squarespace**, and **Weebly**. In my current position I was tasked with creating the site's **editorial style guide** from scratch, an assignment that brought this nerdy wordsmith unmitigated joy.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, Emphasis on Creative Writing; University of Wisconsin, Madison