

LAUREN PAIGE KENNEDY

Deputy Editor, [HealthCentral](#)

CLIPS: [laurenpaigekennedy.com](#)

EMAIL: [lkennedy@healthcentral.com](#) and [laurenpkennedy@yahoo.com](#)

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](#), a NYC-based consumer health site, 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](#), [dementia](#), and [deep-dive investigative reports](#). I pitch, assign, edit, and package features, slideshows, videos, and immersive Shorthand stories across 200+ health condition categories, partnering with top journalists and SEO, production, social, multimedia, and design teams.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

From 2008–2019 I worked as a full-time freelance writer/editor based in New York City, 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, and editor in chief of the travel-and-culture guide **Washington Flyer** (The Magazine Group/Washington, D.C.); editor at large for the luxury publication **Canary** (Condé Nast UK/London); copy and editorial development director at **Condé Nast Media Group** (Condé Nast/NYC); and senior copywriter at **New York Magazine** (New York City).

FREELANCE WRITING CLIENTS

Brain + Life, *Coastal Living*, Condé Nast Media Group, *Details*, The Foundry, Frommer's Travel, Hachette Filipacchi, Medscape, *Men's Fitness*, The Mid, Momtastic, *Neurology Now*, *Redbook*, *Scary Mommy*, *Spotlight*, style.com, *Travel + Leisure*, *T+L Family*, *USA Today/Weekend*, *Vogue*, *Washingtonian*, *The Washington Post*, *WebMD Magazine* and webmd.com, *Where*, *Women's Health*, *WWD*, more.

PUBLISHED PROFILES

Andre Agassi, Christina Applegate, Rosanne Barr, [Annette Bening](#), Wolf Blitzer, Kristin Chenoweth, Sheryl Crow, Cameron Diaz, [Joan Didion](#), Gloria Estefan, Jimmy Fallon, [Carrie Fisher](#), Harrison Ford, Jim Gaffigan, [Malcolm Gladwell](#), Tiffany Haddish, Chelsea Handler, Neil Patrick Harris, Christina Hendricks, Jack Johnson, Ashley Judd, Anna Kendrick, [Kermit the Frog](#), Alicia Keys, Ang Lee, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Demi Lovato, Rob Lowe, Lucy Lui, Matthew McConaughey, Frank McCourt, Seth Meyers, Martina Navratilova, Olivia Newton-John, Trevor Noah, Jamie Oliver, Tyler Perry, Queen Latifah, Kelly Ripa, [Chris Rock](#), Seth Rogen, Ann Romney, Live Schreiber, Alicia Silverstone, [Curtis Sittenfeld](#), Lesley Stahl, Sharon Stone, Hilary Swank, Stanley Tucci, Kerry Washington, [Serena Williams](#), Zoe Saldana, more

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

In 2017 I interviewed 14 of the world's leading scientists and activists (including two Cousteaus) about single-use plastic pollution and ocean health for "[Ocean Heroes](#)," an extended feature in *Coastal Living*, one of the earliest alarms in the mainstream media over 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 seven years, this group has successfully led businesses in Westchester, NY, to stop 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 cease selling plastic water bottles. Several of my young charges have gone on to pursue environmental science degrees at top universities.

RECENT AWARDS

My work conceiving, editing, and shepherding HealthCentral stories is recognized by my industry peers.

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| 2023 | FOLIO: Eddie Award, Finalist, Best Investigative Report:
Breast Implant Illness: Can Implants Cause Chronic Disease?
Digital Health Award, Bronze, Video Series:
Young + Chronic: Endometriosis |
| 2022 | FOLIO: Eddie Award, Finalist, Best Long-Form Feature/Consumer Health:
The Obesity-Chronic Connection: A Special Report
FOLIO: Eddie Award, Finalist, Best Series of Articles/Consumer Health and Fitness:
Your Total Guide to Chronic + Sex , which I launched with my survey story,
10 Revealing Truths About Chronic Sex
FOLIO: Eddie Award, Finalist, Best Single Article/Consumer Health:
Can Grief Really Be a Chronic Condition? |
| 2021 | FOLIO: Eddie Award, Winner, Best Single Article, Consumer Health; and Digital Health Award, Merit Distinction, Best Feature:
What if COVID Is Chronic?
Digital Health Award, Silver, Video Series:
Young & Chronic: Crohn's Disease
Digiday Media Award, Finalist, Best Story:
Let's Talk About the Novel Coronavirus |

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

References available upon request.