



# Karina Sturm

## Résumé

📍 171 Skyview Way  
94131 San Francisco, CA, USA  
☎ +1 (415) 3018948  
✉ karina.sturm86@gmail.com  
🔗 www.karina-sturm.com

### PROFILE

Karina is a multi-media journalist and filmmaker from Germany currently residing in the US. She gained significant scientific knowledge through studying laboratory technology and working in research for several years. Due to a chronic illness and invisible disability, she found her passion for media production and has been working as a freelance journalist since 2013. In 2019, she finished her Master's degree by producing a feature-length documentary called "We Are Visible" to highlight how to improve reporting on people with disabilities in media. "We Are Visible" has won several movie awards, while Karina graduated with distinction from her journalism program. Karina's main focus is to represent people with illnesses and disabilities accurately in the media to reduce biases and stereotypes. She thinks disabled journalists should be reporting on disability.

### SUMMARY

- 8 YEARS **Experience as a freelance writer/journalist**  
*focusing on improving the representation of people living with chronic illnesses and disabilities in media*
- 5 YEARS **Experience as a lab technician**  
*researching bacterial effector proteins, in particular SiiE from Salmonella*
- 4 YEARS **Experience as a medical assistant**  
*including care for chronically ill people*

### ACADEMIC DEGREES

- JULY 2020 **Master of Art with Distinction in International Journalism for Media Professionals**  
*Edinburgh Napier University  
Scotland*

### AWARDS

- 2020 **We Are Visible - Film Awards**  
*LA Film Awards, New York Film Awards, Festigious Film Awards, Oniros Film Awards, Florence Film Awards, Druk International Film Festival, Tagore International Film Festival, Accolade Global Film Competition, Impact DOCS Awards, Docs Without Borders Festival, ([www.we-are-visible-film.com](http://www.we-are-visible-film.com))*
- 2020 **Class Medal Winner**  
*Edinburgh Napier University; Class medal for outstanding journalistic and academic work across the board*

### PUBLICATIONS

ABILITY Magazine (US), Ärzte Woche (Austria), The Mighty (US), Columbia Journalism Review (US), Raul Krauthausen (Germany), Belo Cipriani (US), Leading Medicine Guide (Germany), Springer (Germany), Süddeutsche Zeitung (Germany), BMJ Medical Humanities (US)

### WORK EXPERIENCE

JUNE 2013 – PRESENT  
**Journalist and Filmmaker**  
Combining my scientific background with my personal experiences as a journalist living with a chronic illness and invisible disability in order to educate about and raise awareness for a variety of health conditions and disabilities, and writing of academic publications and reviews of medical conditions.

2009 – 2012

Biotechnology University of Erlangen  
*Laboratory Technician*

Researching bacterial effector proteins, in particular SiiE from Salmonella with a main focus in chromatography, cultivation of bacterial expression systems, protein biochemistry and crystallography, lectures and presentations, lab management, support for students, documentation and review of results in scientific publications.

2006 – 2009

Laboratory Technician School Nuremberg  
*Student*

Three-year standardized study as a laboratory technician at the Staatliche Berufsfachschule B8 in Nürnberg, Germany Final grade: 1.04 (resembles 21 subjects with grade A, one subject with grade B) Exam: 1.3 (grade A) Resulted in admission to a program that supports students with extraordinary talents.

2002 – 2006

Medical Assistant Neumarkt  
*Student; Permanent Position*

Dr. Bauer/ Ehrengut/ Wonka in Neumarkt, Germany Final grade: 1.33 (resembles grade A) Exam: 1.7 (resembles grade B) With a main focus in caring for complex, mostly chronically ill patients, guidance and examination of diabetic patients, diagnostic testing such as ECG, geriatric diagnostics, vital parameters, cancer screening, assistance during outpatient surgeries, phlebotomy, injections, office hygiene.

## COURSES

---

2017 **Journalism SGD**  
*Finished with Grade 1; resembles A*

## COMMUNICATION SKILLS

---

GERMAN Native speaker  
ENGLISH TOEFL Score 119/120 in 2017

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

---

2017 – TODAY **Volunteer at Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco**

*As part of the Activity Department, I visit residents and spend time with them*

2014 – TODAY **Advocate for people living with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome**

*And sharing my experiences on my German blog [www.holy-shit-i-am-sick.de](http://www.holy-shit-i-am-sick.de)*

## SPECIAL SKILLS

---

BASIC HTML, FileZilla, Scrivener

GOOD MS Office (Word, Excel, Power Point); Apple Pages, Numbers, Keynote; WordPress, Social Media, YouTube; Video production including filming and editing; closed captions and descriptive audio for the blind; Podcasting, Blogging, SEO, Editing; Academic writing, Research