**TALKIN’ CHEMISTRY**

**WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUNG CHEMISTS INTERESTED IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALISM?**

Write a bunch and work with editors who you respect and who respect you. I chose to go back to school to do that (at UC Santa Cruz, which was all kinds of wonderful), but friends, family, and your colleagues in chemistry can make great editors, too.

**WHAT DO YOU KNOW NOW THAT YOU WISH YOU HAD KNOWN BEFORE STARTING YOUR CAREER?**

While I was a grad student, a senior researcher told me, “If something works perfectly the first time you try it, you did it wrong.” For me, there was a big difference between knowing failure is okay and expecting it. If not needing it, as part of every step of my professional development. I wouldn’t have minded operating in that mindset from the get-go.

**WHAT MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A SCIENTIFIC JOURNALIST?**

I read this Yahoo! News article about “real” invisibility cloaks when I was an undergrad and thought it was absolutely terrible. I remember thinking I could do so much better and that stuck with me until I finished grad school and finally decided to prove that to myself. Nowadays, though, I’m inspired by my peers and colleagues who are absolutely crushing it and I’m just trying to keep up.

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**BY THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY**

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