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Lara is currently in her second year of a MSc program in One Health as a distance student through the University of Edinburgh Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. Her undergraduate degree, a B.A. in Biological Aspects of Conservation with an emphasis on Wildlife Ecology was completed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she was a member of the Gamma Sigma Delta honor society. Her field experience includes conducting deer population and plant inventories in exclusion and control plots during the first appearance of CWD in Wisconsin, trapping for small mammal species surveys, and conducting a riverine fish survey using backpack electro-shock equipment.

It was through vacillating between human and veterinary medicine, seemingly neglecting one for the other while often neglecting the environmental/conservation aspect of her degree, that led Lara to the field of One Health. She is particularly interested in the policy, education, communication, and leadership aspects of One Health, with a goal of helping the One Health concept gain inertia in political arenas and becoming widely understood and accepted by the general public.