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Dr. Sharman obtained a B.Sc. in Natural Sciences from the University of Birmingham, and an M.Res. from the University of York and a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh in Bioinformatics. Her Ph.D. work developing novel computational tools for visualisation of data relating to the malaria parasite led to her being awarded the "Young Bioinformatician of the Year" prize at the BioSysBio 2007 conference in Manchester, UK.