

March 2022

From academic to medical writer

A guide to

*getting started
in medical
communications*

Written by Dr Annick Moon

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LOUISE
Upton

Learning and development specialist
at AMICULUM

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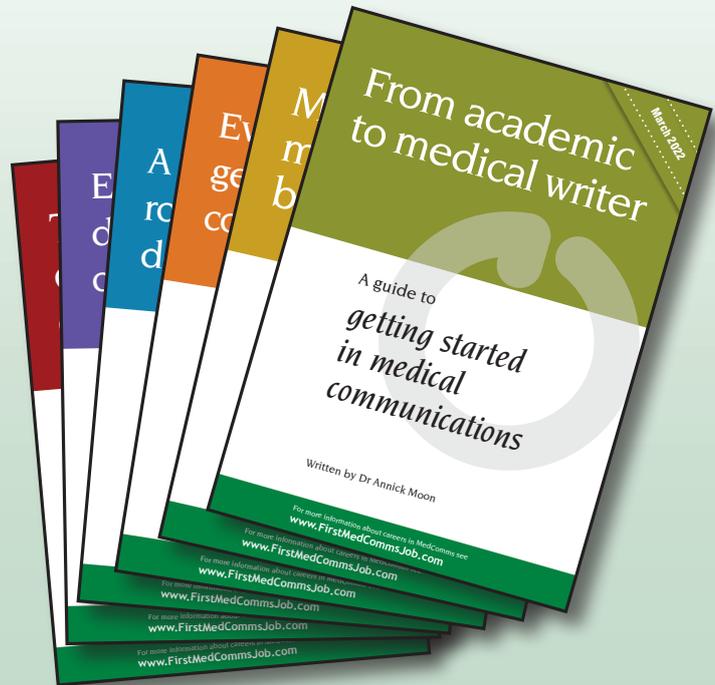
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Ensuring timely dissemination of research

A guide to working as a medical publications professional

The business of medical communications

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Further copies are available to download directly if you visit www.FirstMedCommsJob.com

Printed copies of this guide are also available if you contact the publishers – support@networkpharma.com

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Foreword to 2022 edition



In the years since we first published this annual careers guide about medical writing in MedComms, the global business has evolved significantly – but the basics remain the same. MedComms agencies are looking for individuals with:

- a genuine enthusiasm for science and its application to the world of medicine
- the ability to work independently within a small-team environment.

MedComms can literally take you all over the world and provides attractive long-term career pathways.

Starting with the first edition of the guide in 2009, we've built up a comprehensive, free information service at www.FirstMedCommsJob.com where you can now find extensive insights into working life in MedComms along with information about our regular careers events and networking activities. We've been proud to play our part in supporting so many people in finding their entry-level position. We welcome your feedback.

Peter Llewellyn

For more information see: www.linkedin.com/in/networkpharma

About the author



Annick is a freelance medical communications consultant and writer, living and working in Oxford. After gaining a degree and doctorate in physiology from Newcastle, she undertook post-doctoral research at Oxford and Manchester. During her time as an academic, she was an editorial committee member for the Physiological Society's magazine. Annick started her first job in medical communications in 2001 and worked at various agencies until she set up her freelance business in 2006 providing consultancy and writing services to the pharmaceutical and biotech industries. She provides medical writing training and has been a regular participant in careers events over the years, talking about the role of the medical writer in MedComms.

Annick Moon

For more information see: www.moon-medical.com

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Introduction

After years of hard work, you finally got your doctorate. Or maybe you've done a few post-docs. Lectureships are hard to come by and as one short-term contract begins it's time to start looking about for the next. Sound familiar? Time to leave academia, but feel like you've occupied a narrow scientific niche for so long that you've specialised yourself out of the job market?

Leaving academia doesn't mean turning your back on science. Your vast scientific knowledge, and your research and analytical skills are truly valuable – ever thought about a career in medical communications?

What is medical communications?

No...

- Journalism
- Academic publishing

Yes...

- Providing consultancy services to the pharmaceutical industry to help raise awareness of medicines

Medical communications provides consultancy services to the pharmaceutical industry to help raise awareness of medicines

About this guide

This guide focuses on medical writing careers in medical communications, in particular in MedComms agencies. The MedComms industry provides consultancy services to pharmaceutical companies, and the role of the medical writer is to use science and language to deliver these services successfully, while working to the highest ethical standards and adhering to industry regulations and guidelines.

The aim of this guide is to give you the information you need to decide if you are suited to the role of medical writer, and to provide the insider knowledge you need to excel at interview.

Please see the profiles provided by people working in MedComms later in this booklet for more insights into working in the industry.

For more information about starting out in MedComms and details of careers events, past and future, visit:

www.FirstMedCommsJob.com

The pharmaceutical industry

A medicine starts out as a new chemical entity which, after many years of basic research, has emerged as a potential treatment for a particular disease. To put this in context, consider that from 10,000 promising new chemical entities, if one makes it to the first stage of a clinical trial, the R&D department is doing well. The new chemical entity must then undergo many years of clinical development, and must fulfil many criteria before eventually being approved for use as a medicine.

Getting a drug from the laboratory through all of the necessary clinical trials and regulatory administration, and approved for release on the healthcare market represents a major triumph for a pharmaceutical company; indeed, developing a drug can take up to 15 years and the cost can run into the £billions – but the story doesn't end there. To get doctors to prescribe the medicine, you have to tell them about it, which usually involves marketing and communications activities: ensuring that doctors are well informed about a new medicine is essential if it is to be used appropriately and ultimately improve the health of many thousands of people.

To appreciate the scale of the 'from bench to bedside' process, it is first necessary to consider the phases of clinical development.

Pre-clinical

Before a new drug can be tested in people, it must undergo rigorous pre-clinical testing, both in vitro and in suitable animal models; also known as non-clinical testing. During this phase, important pharmacological data are obtained about drug dosing, and potential hazards and risks are identified. This allows the regulatory authorities to make a risk assessment and consider the drug's suitability for testing in humans.

Phase I

Once approved for testing in humans, Phase I can begin (sometimes known as 'first-time-in man' studies). Phase I studies typically involve a small number of healthy human volunteers in whom the chemical toxicity and the clinical side-effects of the drug are investigated. Volunteers receive various doses of the drug, and the aim is to determine the drug's pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic profile in humans.

Phase II

After the initial safety testing in human volunteers is complete, the drug can be tested in patients. The aim of a Phase II trial is to provide 'proof of principle' and to assess the clinical benefits of the drug, in addition to the side-effects, sometimes in comparison with placebo. The benefit/risk profile of the drug is then used to plan the next phase of development.

*Developing a drug can take up to
15 years and the cost can run into
the £billions*

Phase of clinical development	Description
Pre-clinical	Testing in vitro and in suitable animal models
Phase I	Testing in healthy human volunteers
Phase II	Testing in patients
Phase III	Testing in comparative trials
Phase IV	Post-marketing surveillance following the launch of the drug

Phase III

If the Phase II study shows the drug to provide a good clinical effect without producing unacceptable side-effects, then a larger Phase III study can begin. A Phase III trial must compare the new medicine with the current standard treatment for the disease or with placebo if there is no suitable active comparator. A Phase III trial is designed to show a statistical difference between the new drug and the comparator, and to establish its therapeutic benefit and side-effect profile.

If efficacy is established in Phase III trials, then all data are submitted to the regulatory agencies who will decide whether the drug can be marketed based on the strength of evidence.

Phase IV

Phase IV trials are often referred to as post-marketing surveillance studies – following a successful Phase III trial the drug will have been approved and marketed, so a Phase IV trial is used to gather information in large populations to assess the optimal use of the drug and any side-effects that may not have been identified in a clinical trial setting.

Why does the pharmaceutical industry need external consultants?

It makes financial sense for a pharmaceutical company to outsource certain activities to external partners. From running a clinical trial to manufacturing a box for the medicine, the pharmaceutical industry is supported by organisations and agencies, each with specialist expertise.

What is MedComms?

Agencies servicing the pharmaceutical industry provide expert consultancy on anything from producing regulatory documentation to fulfil legal requirements to devising campaigns to help market a drug. For most pharmaceutical products, a communications and publications programme will run alongside the clinical development process, and will then support the launch of the drug and ensure that the drug remains on the clinical radar for the duration of its patent (also known as its lifecycle).

Types of agency

There are many types of agencies offering a range of differing services to the pharmaceutical industry and it can be confusing trying to figure out which agency does what, especially as the terminology is often used inconsistently. Some agencies concentrate on publications and medical education (generally called MedComms or medical education agencies) – the focus of this booklet; others on legal and regulatory documentation or advertising. Some agencies offer a full range of consultancy such as medical education, public relations, market research and advertising, whereas others focus on a niche area.

Many of these agencies are part of a global group with sister-agencies covering the range of healthcare communications and marketing services, and there are also many small independent specialist agencies.

Whatever the service offered, the objective is always the same – to educate and inform stakeholders such as doctors, patients, nurses and hospital managers about innovations and perspectives in healthcare.

Regulatory affairs:

Clinical trial documentation (Clinical Trial Applications and Investigational New Drug Applications); Marketing Authorisation Applications; New Drug Applications

Health economics:

Materials to support cost-effectiveness messages

Public relations:

Materials to communicate with the media; issues management

Medical education:

Support of publication activities, including: journal manuscripts and conference presentations; advisory boards

Advertising and branding:

Trade press; consumer adverts; sales aids; direct mail; exhibition stand materials

MedComms agencies

MedComms agencies have their roots in medical education, and traditionally produce materials such as journal manuscripts for peer review, learning resources, slide kits, and posters and presentations for conferences. However, the boundaries are often blurred, and MedComms agencies may also touch on media materials at the public relations end of the spectrum, or more promotional materials at the commercial end of the spectrum (i.e. brochures, leaflets and animations). MedComms agencies also advise the pharmaceutical industry on how best to educate and inform their customers (i.e. doctors, nurses, hospital managers, pharmacists, patients) about the benefits and risks of the therapy using clinical and economic data. All materials should comply with best practice guidelines, as issued by bodies such as the European Medical Writers Association and the International Society for Medical Publications Professionals (further details are available on page 15).

Why join a MedComms agency?

When it comes to getting broad writing experience, a MedComms agency is a good place to start your career. One day you'll be writing a highly technical document and using all of your scientific

When it comes to getting a broad experience, a MedComms agency is a good place to start your career

and research skills, and the next you'll be using your creative powers to summarise the entire document in one diagram. Also, in a MedComms agency, it is possible to find a job that suits you: some people prefer the more scientific, educational element of the job and are happy to write nothing but technical manuscripts and may focus very specifically on narrow therapeutic

fields, whereas others enjoy the challenge of a new therapy area every week. Other people prefer the more creative element of writing a range of materials, or prefer to be out of the office talking to clients.

Which job?

As well as medical writing, there are numerous different roles within a MedComms agency, many of which require a scientific background.

Account Manager

New media agency

You will manage a diverse range of projects including on-line disease awareness and patient education websites, interactive

Medical Editor

Healthcare Communications Agency

Proofing copy to the highest standard for a full range of medical education and communications materials including scientific abstracts, papers, posters, oral presentations, print items, and multimedia; professional liaison with pharmaceutical industry key contacts; managing and co-ordinating materials through design.

Editorial Project Manager

Medical Education Agency

.....

Are you an energetic, ambitious and passionate individual with the desire and potential to join one of the largest healthcare communications agencies in the UK?

Medical Writer

International MedComms

Suitable candidates will ideally have at least 18 months relevant writing experience with a background in Medical Communications, Clinical Research, Academic Research or Publishing. A life science degree is preferable. You will display excellent organisational skills and acute attention to detail.

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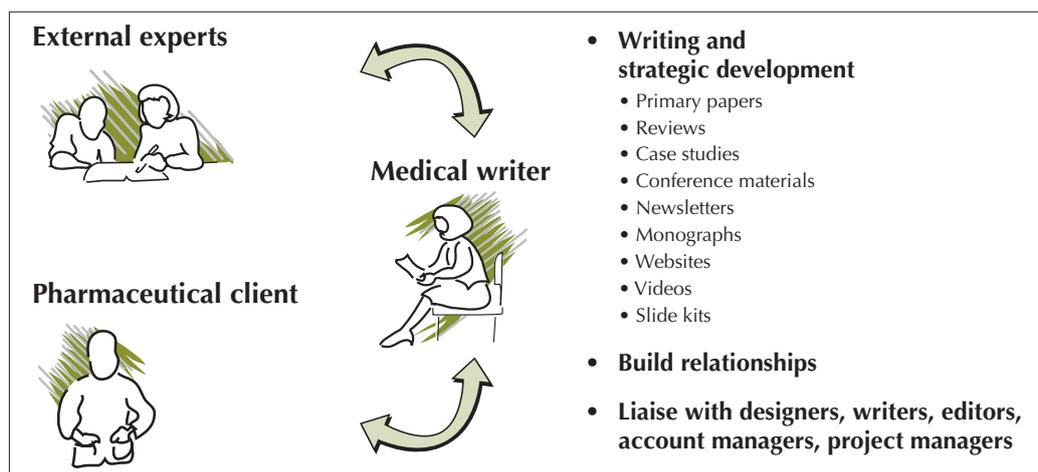
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Medical writing

A medical writer is part of a team of people who develop a communication strategy to help deliver an effective campaign – what are you going to say? Who are you going to say it to? When are you going to say it? As a medical writer your job is to write high-quality, scientific copy for the wide range of materials that a MedComms agency produces. Your role will also involve keeping an eye on developments in any given scientific field, recognising the big players in the therapeutic area, assessing the strategies used by your clients' competitors by monitoring their activities, and identifying opportunities to communicate your client's information.

Attending conferences, and advisory board and standalone meetings is a large part of agency life, so if you like travelling, this is a definite perk. Most medical writers have visited a few of the major conference venues of Europe, such as Prague, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Paris, Barcelona, Berlin, Munich, Nice, Rome and Milan, and also popular global venues such as Cancun, Toronto and Sydney. However, although you may find yourself staying at a nice hotel, you might not get much sleep.

A medical writer's job is to write high-quality, scientific copy for the wide range of materials that a MedComms agency produces



Medical editing

Many agencies combine the role of writing and editing. In such agencies a medical writer is not only expected to produce original articles but also to be able to 'edit' other writer's work – checking it for scientific accuracy, and grammatical and editorial errors. Some agencies split this role, employing both medical writers and editors. In such agencies, medical editors tend to have a wider function, adding proofreading and print production skills to their editing role. In terms of entering an agency as a trainee, agencies more commonly recruit writers than editors. Trainee editors are often known as editorial assistants.

Account/project management

For more information see our careers guide: *The business of medical communications* by Lindsey Heer, available from www.FirstMedCommsJob.com

An account/project management team is responsible for making sure that projects are delivered on time and on budget. This role includes tasks such as preparing cost estimates, tracking projects, liaising with internal team members and external suppliers, negotiating with clients and

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preparing invoices. Usually, account managers progress to become account directors, a position that may additionally involve looking for new business opportunities and promoting the agency to potential clients (although some agencies employ dedicated sales staff). Account managers often have a scientific background, but it is not essential.

Event management

Attending conferences, and advisory boards and standalone meetings is a large part of agency life. Events managers are involved in all aspects of event management, including the production of materials to promote the events, sourcing venues, programme development, and booking flights and hotel rooms for attendees. A scientific background is not essential for this role, and many people come to the job from a background in hospitality or event management.

Entry requirements

A PhD in life-sciences is the usual entry requirement for a medical writer joining MedComms, and many applicants have post-doc experience, although candidates with any relevant post-graduate qualification may be considered. If you have a science degree or other health-related degree (e.g. nursing, physiotherapy), but no post-graduate qualification, work experience in the publishing or pharmaceutical sectors will probably be needed.

Career progression

A new medical writer will largely be trained 'on the job', your work being reviewed during this period by a more senior writer. Many agencies also have structured training programmes and you may get to attend external courses. For most new medical writers it will take about a year to lose the 'trainee' status (regardless of your job title when you start). After about 6 months of being a trainee, it starts to become frustrating (and sometimes horrible) having your work picked-apart; however, it takes a few years to gain experience and to learn how to plan and produce a range of materials, and it is worth being patient and establishing a good foundation.

Whatever position you choose as a starting point, once in the industry there is scope to change direction and to progress in various ways. The editorial route leads from medical writer to senior writer; beyond this, job specifications tend to vary between agencies, offering the opportunity to define and develop your career according to your strengths. Some writers choose to focus on writing in roles such as principal writer and editorial team leader; others do less writing, focusing more on managing and directing accounts.

Earning potential

Starting salaries vary between agencies, and depend upon your experience. Trainee writers leaving academia with a PhD or another higher degree, or with post-doc experience, can expect a ballpark of £25–30K. It is often a source of frustration to trainees with post-doc experience that they have started on a similar salary as someone straight out of their doctorate; don't be disheartened. If you are a bit older, with more experience and knowledge, it is likely you will progress more quickly than someone younger. For older people with many years of academic experience or for professionals from other relevant backgrounds (e.g. healthcare or publishing), starting salaries may be higher than a trainee rate. However, starting salaries are no indication of career progression and earning potential, and the rate at which your salary increases depends on how you progress. Experienced MedComms professionals are in demand, particularly those with extensive writing skills – it is not unknown for a writer to go from being a trainee to running their own department, or even their own company, within a few years.

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So you want to be a medical writer...

There's an equation to describe medical writers:

Likes science × likes writing = medical writer

Training to be a medical writer is hard work as, despite your scientific background and your extensive publication record, there's still a lot to learn.

Common characteristics of a medical writer in no particular order

Established scientist

A doctorate and post-doc experience will be advantageous when applying for a job as a writer. The basic entry requirement is a science degree.

Enjoys writing

You are the type of person who enjoyed writing your thesis rather than seeing it as a necessary evil.

Good listener

Whereas in academia your opinion about your research area was valued, in MedComms, although you'll be expected to have a good knowledge of numerous therapeutic areas, your opinion may not be asked for. You will be required to listen to the client and the medical experts, and to communicate their opinions.

Excellent research skills

You will be expected to learn numerous new clinical fields very quickly. Although it's always nice to get a project that is related to your research background, this doesn't happen very often. For example, your existing knowledge may be in microbiology, but you may be expected to become an expert in psychiatry. You will have to be able to research new areas and to discuss the diseases with confidence in a variety of situations. This may seem like a daunting task, but you'll be surprised at how far the research skills you developed during your doctorate can carry you.

Pedantic

If the use of an apostrophe in a plural word makes your blood boil, or if you have ever told someone that it is '10 items or fewer' not '10 items or less' then you are a true pedant. This type of pedantry is often called attention to detail.

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Comfortable with statistics

You don't have to be an expert in statistics, but presenting data and making them easy for doctors to understand will be part of your job. Medical statistics are a far cry from the odd t-test you had to do for your doctorate, and whereas you won't be expected to number crunch, you will have to produce evidence-based arguments based on clinical data. A basic understanding of the analyses used in clinical trials will be essential, and you should find that you quickly learn various statistical concepts that are commonly used in clinical research.

Thick-skinned

It may seem like a step backwards going from being a respected scientist to being a trainee, and learning to be a writer will be tough to begin with. You will hand over a piece of work on which you have spent hours, only to have it covered in comments by a senior writer. Nevertheless, if you stick with it, you will gradually develop a set of much sought-after skills. Once you become an experienced writer, this still doesn't mean that people will love every word you write – many a beautiful piece of work has been picked apart by a client – so you have to be able to deal with it, and re-write it numerous times if necessary.

Applying for your first medical writing job

Preparing a good CV is essential when applying for any job, but when applying to be a writer, editorial accuracy is extremely important. Unlike other sectors, your CV and covering letter will be assessed by a panel of editors who will spot grammatical errors, spelling mistakes and clumsy sentences, and these things will not be forgiven. Also be careful about posts on social media that are in the public domain. Joining forums relevant to the job may be viewed favourably, but your posts will be scrutinised. Even posts that have no relevance to medical writing may be used to see if you are a suitable candidate, and whereas offensive comments attributed to you in the public domain are obviously going to be disadvantageous, even seemingly harmless posts may reveal your inability to construct a sentence.

Writing experience outside of your academic work will help get you noticed

Additional experience

Writing experience outside of your academic work will help get you noticed and will show that you have a genuine interest in communications. Getting published is easier than you think. Many of the academic societies produce a publication for their members and the editor will be happy to consider your contribution. For example, the Physiological Society produces *Physiology News*, a quarterly magazine, and the Genetics Society produces *Genetics Society News*, a bi-annual newsletter. Or if you are feeling really ambitious, you could enter a science writers' competition.

Transferable skills

When leaving academia it is very easy to understate your skills and experience. Something you may consider to be a mundane everyday task may represent a valuable skill to a potential employer.

Skill	Example
Writing	Doctoral thesis, peer-reviewed manuscripts, slide presentations, conference posters/abstracts, grant applications
Presentation skills	Transfer talk, conference presentations, journal club
Project management	Designing experiments and scheduling resources
Project leading and mentoring	Mentoring project students, teaching/demonstrating
Teamwork	Liaising with colleagues and collaborating with other research groups
Discussing science with experts	Confidently discussing complex issues with leading experts (e.g. in the pub on a Friday night)

The writing test

As part of the interview process, you will be asked to do a writing test. Sometimes this will be before you are invited to interview, and sometimes after your first interview. There is no industry standard for the test. Examples of what you may be asked to write include:

- an abstract for a poster or a manuscript
- a mini review based on a small number of papers that have been supplied
- a news article based on a conference report, manuscript or other background documents
- a conference report based on a slide presentation and abstract book.

Whatever the task, it is important that you prepare properly. Even if your writing skills are excellent, you are unlikely to be an expert in drafting clinical documents or on the rules of writing marketing copy for a medicine. Don't worry though, because the reviewers will not expect you to be an expert, but they will be looking for:

- attention to detail – avoid spelling mistakes and grammatical errors
- structure and flow – provide a well-structured document with a logical flow of ideas
- simplicity – don't overcomplicate the project by doing extensive background research about the disease; it is unlikely that a writing test will need this, and the test nearly always involves reporting the information you have been given.

The agency will probably give you a guide to how long the test should take. You may find that it takes quite a bit longer, but this is fine and is often the case. If you go over the suggested time by days, rather than hours, maybe consider other roles within the agency.

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Using your initiative can make all the difference when it comes to getting through the writing test. For example, if you are asked to write a newsletter aimed at nurses, buy a copy of *Nursing Times* to get an idea of pitch and tone. Also, there are many guides to medical writing available, which are definitely worth a read before attempting the test. *How to Publish in Biomedicine*, by Jane Fraser, gives excellent advice and tips (further details are available on facing page).

However, sometimes using too much initiative can be an applicant's downfall. If you already know someone who is a medical writer, it is fine to ask for advice, but do not ask them to do the test for you. The people reviewing your test will know what standard to expect based on the experience outlined on your CV. If you get offered the job based on dishonesty, you will be found out when the work you produce on your own falls below the standard of your test.

As well as a writing test, you may be asked to complete an editing test to assess your eye for detail. If you use standard editing marks, this will be viewed favourably, although this is not what is being tested so it is fine to mark-up the mistakes using whatever method suits you.

Editing test

The following editing test contains 20 editorial errors – these include errors of spelling, punctuation, grammar, consistency or meaning. For fun, how many can you spot? (Answers on page 15.)

Over a median followup of 8.4 years, 64 patients (9.7%) experienced disease recurrence (median time to recurrence 5.6 years). The 5-, 10- and 15-year recurrence-free probabilities were 0.93, 0.87, and 0.81, respectively. Using time-to-event estimates to adjust for differences in follow-up between groups, radiotherapy was found to reduce tumour recurrence in patients who received a sub-total resection ($p < 0.001$) but not in those undergoing gross-total resection of the tumor ($p = 0.63$). Multivariate analysis identified cavernous sinus invasion (hazard ratio 3.6, 95% CI 1.5–6.4, $p < 0.001$) and STR without radiotherapy (HR 3.6, 95% CI 1.4–14, $p = .01$) predictive of an increase in disease recurrence. Median follow-up for overall survival was 14.0 year. The 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year estimates for overall survival were 0.91, 0.81, 0.69 and 0.55, respectively. Mortality was higher in patients who underwent radiotherapy with or without SRT than would have been expected in the general USA population.

The interview

Most agencies select candidates based on one short interview, or perhaps two. I've never heard of MedComms agencies running day-long interviews, or asking candidates to undergo tests not directly related to writing. By the time you have been invited to an interview, you should have passed the writing test, although some agencies may ask you to complete another short writing test when you attend the interview. If this is the case, they should let you know before what to expect. You may be asked to give a presentation, but again, you will be told what you need to prepare before the interview.

Further information

Useful books

Getting Research Published, An A-Z of Publication Strategy
Third Edition.
Elizabeth Wager, CRC Press, 2015.
Available from www.crcpress.com
ISBN-13 9781785231384

Guidelines for Reporting Health Research: A User's Manual.
David Moher (Editor), Douglas Altman (Editor),
Kenneth Schulz (Editor), Iveta Simera (Editor),
Elizabeth Wager (Editor), Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.
Available from www.wiley.com
ISBN-13 9780470670446

How to Publish in Biomedicine: 500 Tips for Success
Third Edition.
John Dixon, Louise Alder, Jane Fraser,
CRC Press, 2016.
Available from www.crcpress.com
ISBN-13 9781785230103

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Professional bodies

Association of the British Pharmaceutical
Industry – www.abpi.org.uk

Healthcare Communications
Association – www.hca-uk.org

International Society for Medical Publication
Professionals – www.ismpp.org

Pharmaceutical industry news, views and information

MedComms Networking –
www.medcommsnetworking.com

PharmaFile – www.pharmafile.com

pharmaphorum – www.pharmaphorum.com

PharmaTimes – www.pharmatimes.com

Pharmaceutical Executive –
www.pharmexec.com

PMLive – www.pmlive.com

The Publication Plan –
www.thepublicationplan.com

Over a median follow-up of 8.4 years, 64 patients (9.7%) experienced disease recurrence (median time to recurrence 5.6 years). The 5-, 10- and 15-year recurrence-free probabilities were 0.93, 0.87 and 0.81, respectively. Using time-to-event estimates to adjust for differences in follow-up between groups, radiotherapy was found to reduce tumour recurrence in patients who received a sub-total resection (STR) ($p < 0.001$) but not in those undergoing gross-total resection of the tumour ($p = 0.63$). Multivariate analysis identified cavernous sinus invasion (hazard ratio [HR] 3.6, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.5–6.4, $p < 0.001$) and STR without radiotherapy (HR 3.6, 95% CI 1.4–14, $p = 0.01$) as predictive of an increase in disease recurrence. Median follow-up for overall survival was 14.0 years. The 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year estimates for overall survival were 0.91, 0.81, 0.69 and 0.55, respectively. Mortality was higher in patients who underwent radiotherapy with or without STR than would have been expected in the general USA population.

Answers

Moon A. *From academic to medical writer*. March 2022.

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Belinda Dean

**SVP, Portfolio Director
CMC Connect, a McCann Health Medical
Communications Agency**

My route into MedComms wasn't what some would call 'typical', but was instead based on a love of science, a desire to make a meaningful contribution to healthcare, a few wrong turns and a few key interactions.

I graduated with a BSc (Hons) in biochemistry and felt ready to take on the working world. I interviewed for a pharmaceutical PR position, and realised it wasn't for me, before landing a job as a commissioning editor for a healthcare journal. I loved the job and acquired some great insights; however, the London commute was too much. I got in touch with a recruitment agent who introduced me to the world of MedComms and set up an interview at Complete Medical Communications (CMC) for an account executive position. I will forever be grateful to the individuals who interviewed me, saw promise and suggested I instead do the associate medical writer (AMW) test.

I got the AMW position, moved to Macclesfield and began my now 17-year career at CMC (now CMC Connect). Had I been making that move now, I'd be entering our Future Experts and Leaders (FuEL) programme, which offers a variety of role, industry and personal development, as well as a networked learning community designed to maximise all the benefits of the McCann Health Network.

I've particularly enjoyed creating meaningful partnerships with clients, allowing me to ask questions, challenge their thinking and design innovative solutions to meet their needs

Career satisfaction is top of mind at CMC Connect and everyone is encouraged to take ownership of their development, be inquisitive and authentic, put their hand up for new opportunities and to lead in their own unique way. Being a large, established agency, CMC Connect has offered me opportunities spanning the full spectrum of MedComms deliverables across a wide range of therapeutic areas and at all stages across the product lifecycle. I have enjoyed working on

publications, which lay the foundations for many of the other deliverables, but I thrive on meetings work and I love a good advisory board! As I've developed in my career, I've particularly enjoyed creating meaningful partnerships with clients, allowing me to ask questions, challenge their thinking and design innovative solutions to meet their needs.

I have never had to look far for opportunities to develop as an expert and as a leader, and the company's unwavering commitment to my development, coupled with my passion and determination, has allowed me to maximise my potential as I progressed through the Medical Services Career Pathway, up to SVP, Senior Medical Director. More recently, I maximised the opportunities open to me in our Career Pathway and made the leap over to Client Services as SVP, Portfolio Director to try and match my medical knowledge with commercial insight.

I'm frequently asked why I have been at CMC Connect for so long. There is one simple answer... the people. Yes, I've been lucky enough to work on cutting-edge science, with world-leading physicians and pharmaceutical clients who are just as committed to making a meaningful difference to people's health and wellbeing, but it's the people I work with each day who have kept me at CMC Connect: like-minded supportive colleagues who are focused on developing the next leaders, not only of CMC Connect but of the MedComms community in general.



Debbi Gorman

Cogent, an AMICULUM agency

Having stumbled into doing a PhD almost by accident as part of my research assistant role at Imperial College London, I had never really intended to pursue a career in academia. However, I soon found myself loving the lab with a flair for growing parasites and a taste for diligent documentation. I couldn't believe that I was getting paid to play in a lab all day long – I had found my happy place. So, when the good times ground to a halt, and my endeavours in the lab were failing, and the politics and diplomacy of seeking funding began to weigh heavily, I was in all honesty

devastated at the prospect of leaving the lab. A friend of mine had moved on to MedComms not long before me with favourable reports, so I took the leap as well. I thought that it would be a tough adjustment, but I truly have not once missed the lab, and have instead found a new passion for MedComms.

My first role was a hybrid between a trainee medical writer and an account handler. This was a great introduction to the world of MedComms, but I knew that writing was my forté, and that I wanted to pursue it as a career. I was thrilled to move to AMICULUM in a full-fledged writing role at Mudskipper and haven't looked back since. I have had the opportunity to partner with clients on practice-changing data, working across medical education initiatives, market access and publications. Every day is different – I love thinking strategically about the bigger picture, how everything we do is interwoven, whether it is across client business functions or throughout the healthcare landscape. For me, the secret of success is storytelling. I still get a little thrill when something has been articulated in a clear, engaging manner, and if this can be done with fewer words and better visualisation – even better!

After nearly 10 years at Mudskipper, I am grateful to have been able to move sideways to join AMICULUM's newest full-service MedComms agency, Cogent. This has opened a whole new world to me, and I am really excited about being part of something new but still having the security and values of AMICULUM behind us.

I truly have not once missed the lab, and have instead found a new passion for MedComms

One of my best days in MedComms was when a letter written by a patient to our client's chief scientist – the 'inventor' of a drug – was filtered down to us. It was genuine letter of overwhelming appreciation for the difference this drug had made to the patient's life. It was heart-warming to be reminded of the difference these new treatments make, and ultimately of why we all do this job – to improve patients' lives.



Meghan Kelly

Senior Medical Writer 90TEN, part of Envision Pharma

Similar to most people working in MedComms, I did not go to university with the intention of becoming a medical writer. In fact, when I went to university, I did not know what a medical writer was.

An interest in science led to a degree in biology, and then a summer lab placement inspired the decision to pursue a career in research. My journey continued with an MRes at Newcastle

University and ended with an MPhil at the University of Edinburgh, where I realised early on that I was not suited for life in the lab. I was bored by the monotony of repeated experiments, frustrated by weeks of failed protocols and disillusioned with academia.

Like many biology undergraduates and research graduates, I was convinced that my career prospects beyond working in a lab were non-existent. Thankfully, after googling career opportunities that might align with my interest in science as well as the skills I had developed during my masters' degrees, I came across MedComms.

MedComms presented the ideal alternative career path, allowing me to continue pursuing my passion for science and providing me with the opportunity to work with other like-minded people on projects that make a difference

My first foray into MedComms was as an account executive at Iceberg Medical, a small agency in Buckinghamshire. I gained experience in managing projects, planning events, liaising with designers, developing content, working with healthcare professionals and dealing with clients. It was the perfect introduction to MedComms as it gave me the opportunity to test my skills in different areas, which ultimately led me to medical writing.

At that point, I was a bit hesitant about becoming an 'associate medical writer' because the title did not necessarily scream variety or excitement, and the last thing I wanted was to be back where I started, doing

the same thing every day but with a pen instead of a pipette. Fortunately, I learned shortly after starting at 90TEN that the title is a bit of a misnomer. The role is full of variety, and not just in terms of the type of writing I do.

For instance, on Monday I might write a scientific narrative, and then on Tuesday I may find myself creating a storyboard for an animation or developing the agenda for a symposium. Then, later in the week, I might conduct desktop research in a new therapy area in preparation for a pitch, brainstorm creative ways to communicate a new scientific concept, mentor junior writers or, as part of our behavioural science-led approach to the work that we do, conduct interviews with doctors to better understand their behaviour to enable me to develop content that will drive meaningful change. In short, the opportunities for a medical writer are endless.

Since starting in MedComms I have learned that my career in science did not have to end in the lab. MedComms presented the ideal alternative career path, allowing me to continue pursuing my passion for science and providing me with the opportunity to work with other like-minded people on projects that make a difference. A career in medical writing was not the initial plan, but it has turned out to be exactly what I was looking for.

Moon A. *From academic to medical writer*. March 2022.

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Ewa Kilinska

Senior Medical Writer Fishawack Health

While working towards a master's degree in global health, I realised that academia was not for me, but I wasn't sure what other options were available. I started looking for a role that combines science with writing and creative thinking, while also offering a healthy work-life balance. I first heard of MedComms at a university careers event and was drawn to the idea of working outside of a lab, but still within science, by writing about the latest research on different diseases.

After a successful interview, I started working at Fishawack Health (FH) in August 2020 and immediately got involved in ongoing projects across two different teams. I found the fast-paced, deadline-driven environment exciting. I was still new to the world of MedComms, so accessing the right training was crucial to helping me hit the ground running while supporting my colleagues from day one. Our company has developed a STEPS (Supporting Training and Enhancing Professional Skills) Foundation training programme for entry-level medical writers. The training helped me develop essential skills for the role, such as translating complex information into compelling narratives, and allowed me to connect with other junior writers, all with varying paths into this industry and role. I was also reassured by the variety of career paths open to me, depending on whether I want to focus more on the data and pure science, internal management or interactions with clients. In addition, all FH employees have access to an online career development platform (FUEL50) to help map out our ideal career path, whichever direction we choose, offering me flexibility and structure as I develop my skills and interests.

As a medical writer, I have the unique opportunity to learn about multiple diseases and treatments, while also applying my creative side and diving into the details of the data. On a day-to-day basis, I work in publications (developing manuscripts, abstracts, videos, patient materials) and medical affairs (preparing slide decks for advisory boards and writing up meeting reports). I've also had the opportunity to attend medical congresses (though so far only virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic). I enjoy the balance of working independently while also interacting with colleagues, pharmaceutical clients and medical experts in the field.

If you enjoy communicating science and research in a variety of ways and to different audiences, then medical writing might be for you. I'd recommend researching MedComms agencies, the therapy areas they focus on and the scope of work they do as they all offer slightly different opportunities. In addition, don't be discouraged from applying for a medical writing role if you don't have a PhD or post-doc experience – while these are useful, it's the transferrable skills and a willingness to learn new things that are essential.

... Don't be discouraged from applying for a medical writing role if you don't have a PhD or post-doc experience – while these are useful, it's the transferrable skills and a willingness to learn new things that are essential



Alicia Lledó Lara

Medical Writer Oxford PharmaGenesis

In 2019, I completed a DPhil in human genetics, during which I enjoyed working alongside very talented people and learning valuable transferrable skills; however, I felt that academia wasn't really for me. The research was very open-ended, and I missed having specific and measurable goals. Writing my thesis was very challenging, but in hindsight it was also excellent training for how to convey negative and inconclusive results using a compelling

and clear story. Nevertheless, at the time, it didn't cross my mind that I could make a career out of communicating science.

One day, over coffee, a friend told me about her current job as a medical writer and how excited and accomplished she felt in the role. Although I thought that not being a native English speaker might be a deal-breaker for medical writing, I decided to attend the 'Introduction to MedComms' event organised by Peter Llewellyn in Oxford. It quickly became apparent that I was wrong! Obviously, you need to meet certain standards and have an advanced level of English, but there are also many

other skills that are extremely valuable in medical writing. I decided to give the writing tests a go, and I was beyond excited when Oxford PharmaGenesis offered me a writing position. Ironically, after all my worries about not being a native English speaker, my line manager was French and my team had members from several different countries.

It's been 2 years since I began my journey at Oxford PharmaGenesis, and I couldn't be happier. It is an excellent

Alongside improving your writing and communication skills, working as a medical writer also trains you to think differently and to adapt to the varied needs of clients and target audiences

place to start your career, and you have a sense of belonging to something great right from the beginning. I'm part of a supportive team in which the management deeply and truly cares about my development and where people unconditionally support each other. The variety of work is another aspect that I love – I've worked on four different therapeutic areas and developed various materials, such as posters, manuscripts, a book chapter and a systematic literature review. In fact, being a native Spanish speaker has been an advantage in some areas – it enabled me to get involved in a key strategic project for a client in Latin America and helped me to collaborate with other teams across the company. Alongside improving your writing and communication skills, working as a medical writer also trains you to think differently and to adapt to the varied needs of clients and target audiences. As a medical writer at Oxford PharmaGenesis, you will be continually developing your ability to deliver complex information in a logical, simple and concise manner, which can be quite challenging but very rewarding too. You will also get feedback on your work on an almost daily basis, which helps you to learn from constructive criticism and to grow as a writer.

Overall, I would highly recommend medical writing and Oxford PharmaGenesis to anyone who truly enjoys communicating and who is looking for a job in which no 2 days are the same.



Lauren Oswald

Medical Writer Helios Medical Communications

My route into MedComms was not the most traditional. Before I began my career with Helios, I worked in a patient-facing role as a health and wellbeing physiologist. While it was rewarding to help patients achieve their health goals, there was limited day-to-day variation in the clinic, and my main passion lay with communicating the science behind the patients' test results and writing evidence-based reports about how to improve fitness, nutrition and lifestyle. I decided to research other career paths

that would allow me to launch my scientific career outside of a clinical setting, while putting my communication skills to use.

I was keen to use the knowledge I had gained during my sport and exercise science degree from the University of Birmingham and exercise physiology masters from Loughborough University, so I decided to research alternative scientific roles. After much research into careers that could offer me what I was looking for, I discovered the MedComms industry. I soon realised that a career in MedComms would allow me to work in a fast-paced, challenging environment and collaborate with leading experts at the forefront of scientific research, while continuing to learn about different therapy areas.

I joined Helios as an associate medical writer and received on-the-job training and support from my senior colleagues during my first year. As someone who was new to MedComms, I found it very beneficial to learn from the knowledge and experience of my colleagues, while I learned the ropes of the industry and developed my writing skills through feedback on my work. My colleagues have always been happy to help and this, alongside role-specific training, has given me a great foundation for my career.

I now work as a medical writer and have been fortunate to contribute to a variety of projects, including manuscripts, literature reviews, website content development, medical education training modules, infographics, meeting reports and advisory boards. I enjoy listening to experts, who are at the top of their field, discuss the best practices for healthcare professionals and their strategies to improve patient outcomes.

Moving into the MedComms industry to pursue medical writing has been one of the best decisions I have ever made, and the job has provided me with everything that I was looking for. I really value the day-to-day variety in my role, as every day is different, and each project I work on brings new challenges and learning opportunities. I am fortunate to have the chance to work within different teams, which makes each day exciting and dynamic. Furthermore, juggling different projects has allowed me to draw upon the skills I used as a physiologist: effective communication, teamwork, organisation and time management.

The best things about working in MedComms include the team-oriented environment, the supportive culture and the opportunity to work at the cutting edge of scientific research. I am delighted to continue to develop my career within a professional and enjoyable environment and to be part of a great team.

Moving into the MedComms industry to pursue medical writing has been one of the best decisions I have ever made...

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Lucinda Sinclair

Associate Scientific Director Ashfield MedComms

I joined the allegro.WRITE entry-level training programme as an associate medical writer with Ashfield MedComms in October 2018. After completing a masters in translational oncology, with a brief stint at a pharma company on work experience, I was searching for a career where I could stay close to the science, but also work with others in a collaborative and creative environment. allegro.WRITE appealed to me because the structured programme

enabled fast-tracked progression, with ongoing development opportunities during the initial 8-week training phase, two 5-month rotations and beyond.

During my first year with Ashfield, I completed rotations within two teams – a small haematology oncology account involving a mixture of publications and medical affairs, and a much larger publications account working on an ErbB-family blocker for solid tumours. Supporting different teams and clients on a range of projects was an invaluable experience. Throughout the year, with the help of the allegro.WRITE team's network of mentors, advisors and alumni, I developed the wide range of skills required to be a medical writer.

I have had the opportunity to work on a range of exciting projects, all the while keeping a focus on development and career progression

At the end of the 12-month allegro.WRITE programme, I re-joined the team from my first rotation as a medical writer, working on a range of different publications and medical affairs activities. With the support of the team, I have had the opportunity to work on a range of exciting projects, all the while keeping a focus on development and career progression. One of the most rewarding parts of the job has been mentoring a new allegro.WRITE writer in

their first 5-month rotation; this gave me the first step towards a management role and helped me to discover my passion for mentoring.

In June 2021, Ashfield launched allegro.EXCEL, an individualised programme that allows senior medical writers to accelerate their career development towards scientific director. allegro.EXCEL has three pathways (content, strategy and team). Through training, mentoring and in-role assignments you can shape your career into a role that plays to your strengths and interests. I began the allegro.EXCEL programme as soon as it launched and have already seen the benefits of the fantastic training and mentoring support. My interests are primarily in the 'team' pathway, but I have also been able to attend training and gain experience in strategy and, of course, content development.

In January of this year, I was promoted to associate scientific director. I am really enjoying my role; I am involved in both training and mentoring within the team, as well as strategy and planning on the client side. Whether it's mentoring new writers, planning how we can deliver activities with the highest impact for healthcare professionals or discussing new data with colleagues, clients and key opinion leaders, no 2 days are the same; for me, that is the best part about working in MedComms.



Helen Speedy

Seques, an AMICULUM agency

From first learning about genetics in GCSE science lessons, I knew that it was a subject that I wanted to pursue. Fast forward several years and I had gained a degree and PhD in genetics and had a productive period of post-doc research under my belt. However, it was then decision time. Did I want to stay in academia, or did I want to branch out into something new?

Ultimately, I had known for some time that I didn't want to continue too far down a narrow research path or become an academic group leader. From what I had seen, the prospect of continually applying for research funding didn't seem particularly appealing. However, I was keen to keep using not just my broad scientific knowledge, but also my training in genetics.

During my research career, I had gradually become more involved in writing content and designing figures for papers, grants and presentations. In fact, pulling out the salient data and getting their story across to other people was one of my favourite aspects of my job. I also particularly enjoyed working on large and complex projects with collaborators from across the world. I wondered if it would be possible to incorporate these 'best bits' into a new career?

I had heard about MedComms from a friend and so, putting my research skills to good use, I set about learning what a career in the industry might look like. I discovered that it ticked the boxes on my wish list for a new role, incorporating science with writing and creativity across fast-paced, exciting projects involving international experts.

For anyone looking for a varied role, where you can utilise your scientific knowledge outside of the lab, whilst still satisfying your intellectual curiosity, I would highly recommend a career in MedComms

In early 2021, I joined Seques as a trainee medical writer. Seques is an AMICULUM agency that specialises in genetic disorders, and cell and gene therapies. Therefore, it seemed like the perfect fit for my experience and ticked that outstanding box on my wish list: genetics.

Now, in early 2022, I can definitely say that I made the right choice. I have been involved in client work from the outset and have thoroughly enjoyed learning what it's really like to work in MedComms. Over the course of the past year, I have worked on a wide range of deliverables, including abstracts, congress coverages, infographics, newsletters, slide decks, standalone meetings and surveys. I have been given increasing levels of responsibility and have been made to feel like a valued member of the Seques team. In addition, I now feel that my work has far more direct relevance to patients than *in vitro* and *in silico* research, making it all the more rewarding.

For anyone looking for a varied role, where you can utilise your scientific knowledge outside of the lab, whilst still satisfying your intellectual curiosity, I would highly recommend a career in MedComms.

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Kelly Stroud

Principal Medical Writer Lucid Group

I began as a medical writer after almost a decade working in medical publishing as a production editor. Whilst working in publishing, I was exposed to lots of different writing styles, learned about design, illustration, effective copyediting and quality control, and, importantly, worked closely with scientific experts. I quickly became well-grounded in project management, independently managing my own time and workload, and overseeing the quality and work of others.

I made the move to MedComms because publishing had slowly changed over the past decade to a very outsource-heavy industry where production editors were a lot less closely involved in the content. The opportunity to be once again deeply embedded in the science and content creation was a big part of what attracted me to MedComms, as well as the variation in the types of projects I would work on. I had a lot of colleagues who had made the move from medical publishing to MedComms several years before and loved it. The hard-working attitude and emphasis on delivering content of the highest possible quality that had been instilled in us from our early days of publishing paved the way for a career in MedComms.

Since moving to MedComms I have worked on a huge range of projects, from traditional symposia and congresses located as far away as Dubai and Australia, to podcasts and scientific narratives. The fast-paced nature of the job means you are always learning something new and picking up

additional skills. It has been a chance to work with intelligent colleagues and clients, passionate about what they do, who always question how we can improve and innovate on the work we deliver.

As someone without a masters or PhD, it's great working at a company like Lucid Group that offers so many opportunities for growth and career progression. Lucid has a leadership team that really supports you, encourages you to stretch within your role and set your own personal development goals. It is an agency that is rapidly expanding, so progress is based on when you are ready for the next step

As long as you're willing to put the work in, are a fast learner and have a real passion for the science, I would encourage those interested in medical writing to not see a lack of higher qualifications as a barrier

in your career, in contrast to other industries, where you need to wait for someone to retire before positions become available! As long as you're willing to put the work in, are a fast learner and have a real passion for the science, I would encourage those interested in medical writing to not see a lack of higher qualifications as a barrier.

I work in MedComms...

"I work in MedComms because it provides a very fulfilling work environment and enables me to remain updated on topical changes in the pharmaceutical industry."

Ben Allen, Associate Medical Writer at Helios Medical Communications

"I work in MedComms because I feel like I am really making a difference to patients' lives while also being able to 'geek out' on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge."

Maria Allen-Davies, Medical Writer at Helios Medical Communications

"I work in MedComms so I can feel engaged with ground-breaking new medical treatments that benefit patients today and in the future."

Marc Astick, Senior Medical Writer I at Langland

"I work in MedComms because I like writing and reading up on new research – and I love not doing any lab work. I feel very lucky to work with such a great team and client, and to have a secure job I enjoy!"

Victoria Ateess, Scientific Content Director at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms because I get to communicate ground-breaking medical findings in a way that ensures patients get the right medicines when they need them most. I enjoy intellectually challenging and creative projects spanning a wide range of medical deliverables. I get to grow within an exciting and rapidly evolving industry."

Andrew Barszczyk, Associate Medical Writer at Caudex

"I work in MedComms because it is socially acceptable (and even encouraged!) to nerd-out about exciting science; I am much more interested in explaining data than in generating them; life is too precious to waste on something that doesn't interest and challenge you."

Sophie Bilton, Editorial Team Director at Langland

"I work in MedComms because I enjoy science and communicating information across multiple therapy areas to a wide range of audiences."

Fiona Boswell, Senior Medical Writer at Caudex

"I work in MedComms because it provides me with the opportunity to work on projects in a wide variety of therapy areas, and to continue making a difference to patients without having to be at the 'coalface!'"

Suzanne Brunt, Medical Writer at Porterhouse Medical, part of the Porterhouse Medical Group

"I work in MedComms because I believe that high-quality and timely communication is key to raising awareness of new research and clinical findings that will ultimately improve the lives of patients. I enjoy being a part of this process and learning about interesting new research along the way."

Sarah Bubeck, Senior Medical Writer at Caudex

"I work in MedComms because it allows me to apply my scientific knowledge in a creative way to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences. I enjoy working on a huge array of project types across multiple therapy areas. The work stays interesting despite having been at Porterhouse Medical for over a decade."

Erica Cave, Associate Scientific Services Director at Porterhouse Medical, part of the Porterhouse Medical Group

"I work in MedComms because I want to bring meaning to the scientific data such that healthcare professionals and the public can easily understand them and make use of them to improve patient care."

Jane Cheung, Associate Director of Medical Writing at Caudex

"I work in MedComms because it is an interesting and engaging sector with excellent career opportunities and provides the opportunity to make a real difference to patients worldwide."

Andy Church, Medical Writer at Caudex

"I work in MedComms because it allows me to work across multiple therapy areas each day, writing in different styles for a range of audiences, and I can discuss the latest exciting developments with expert healthcare professionals. Each day provides a new opportunity to have a positive impact on patients' lives."

Emma Conran, Principal Medical Writer at Porterhouse Medical, part of the Porterhouse Medical Group

"I work in MedComms because I love putting my science background and love of writing to good use in a way that helps to bring new treatments to the patients who need them. Throughout my career I have worked on a range of projects in different therapy areas, which has always kept me on my toes, and the people I've met along the way have made it such a fun environment to work in!"

Sophie Cook, Senior Medical Writer at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms because I am exposed to cutting-edge clinical research in a wide variety of therapy areas. The fast-paced, deadline-driven environment keeps me motivated and engaged with all the different projects that I'm aligned to."

Georgie Cowell, Associate Medical Writer at CMC Affinity

I work in MedComms...

"I work in MedComms because I love an intellectual challenge and working closely with others."

Nadia Cummins, Medical Writer II at Langland

"I work in MedComms because I can work creatively alongside an amazingly supportive team of medical writers. The industry has provided me with opportunities to develop personalised career goals and tailor the focus of my role to my specific areas of interest."

Ben Daniels-Marsh, Associate Medical Writer at Helios Medical Communications

"I work in MedComms because it allows me to use my skill sets and knowledge of different therapeutic areas to benefit patients and the scientific fraternity. I also happen to love writing, so it's never been a job for me but more of a hobby; lucky me!"

Rhutika Dessai, Senior Medical Writer at Prime Global

"I work in MedComms as it allows me to contribute to improving the lives of patients in a way that best suits my strengths and lifestyle."

Zach Dixon, Scientific Director at Adelphi Communications

"I work in MedComms because it allows me to combine my passions for science and writing in a creative way. I love the varied nature of this job as it allows me to get involved in multiple therapy areas and projects to produce materials that are ultimately used to improve more patients' lives."

Richard Dobson, Programme Director at Adelphi Communications

"I work in MedComms because it offers the opportunity to work in various therapy areas across a range of exciting projects. I love the diversity of each day and working alongside a brilliant team."

Lucy Farrow, Associate Medical Writer at Helios Medical Communications

"I work in MedComms because I love staying on top of the current trends in medicine and enjoy helping others to communicate their scientific messages. I also find the combination of science and business highly rewarding and there are countless opportunities for professional development and career progression."

Tony Ferrar, Senior Medical Writer at Porterhouse Medical, part of the Porterhouse Medical Group

"I work in MedComms because it allows me to apply the knowledge from my pharmaceutical and public health background in a very creative way. No day is the same and the role offers an excellent work-life balance."

Kiran Ghatahora, Senior Medical Writer at Highfield

"I work in MedComms because, while no 2 days are the same, every day focuses on the lives and wellbeing of healthcare professionals and patients. The altruistic nature of the industry is what attracted me in the first place."

Jack Gibbons, Medical Writer at Porterhouse Medical, part of the Porterhouse Medical Group

"I work in MedComms with a view to helping clients give a voice to the latest therapies, technologies and, most importantly, patients. Working within this industry is highly rewarding and every day is a school day, with each new project bringing fresh challenges and opportunities."

Matthew Gunther, Associate Scientific Director at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms because I enjoy translating medical data into digestible outputs for different audiences. It also allows me to work flexibly, which is great for my work-life balance."

Emma Handley, Senior Medical Writer at Porterhouse Medical, part of the Porterhouse Medical Group

"I work in MedComms because it combines creativity and continued scientific learning over a variety of therapeutic areas. Insights from my clinical background help me contribute to tailored medical communication at a much earlier point in the therapeutic journey, to ultimately benefit patients and their families."

Dalia Hassan, Senior Medical Writer at dna Communications

"I work in MedComms because I love writing about science without actually doing the lab work myself."

Christina Holleywood, Senior Medical Writer at LINK Medical

"I work in MedComms because it allows me to feed my scientific curiosity, while challenging me to apply my academic and industrial expertise to new and interesting problems. I love that each day is fast paced and different from the next, and that I get to work with incredibly talented scientists and thought leaders who are at the forefront of science and medicine."

Kelly Hunter, Medical Writer at Fishawack Health (STEPS Foundation Program)

"I work in MedComms because it allows me to work in a challenging and fast-paced environment where I'm constantly applying, learning and developing my scientific knowledge. I also really enjoy the creative aspect of breaking down complex scientific information and transforming it to tell a story."

Mariya Jamali, Senior Medical Writer at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms because I know that collaborating with our clients to produce high-quality medical education materials and publications can eventually lead to meaningful, even life-changing benefits for people living with medical conditions."

Will Jones, Senior Medical Writer at Adelphi Communications

"I work in MedComms because I'm constantly learning while contributing to the development of new medicines. I love the diversity of the role and get to work with intelligent and talented people every day."

Helen Jordan, Editorial Assistant at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms because I can be a vital part of the mechanism that gets a drug from the laboratory to the patient. Researchers can make all the discoveries they want, but without effective communication of the outcomes to regulatory authorities, physicians and, eventually, patients, there can be no real-world prevention, treatment or cure."

Richard Knight, Associate Director of Medical Writing at CMC Connect

"I work in MedComms because it allows me to apply my professional expertise as a pharmacist to a more creative, dynamic role, while still working to improve the lives of patients. I love the satisfaction of completing a project to an excellent standard, as part of an amazing team!"

Lucy Liveston, Senior Medical Writer at Porterhouse Medical, part of the Porterhouse Medical Group

"I work in MedComms because it allows me to stay at the forefront of research, interact with world-leading experts and make a difference to patients' lives without doing the research myself; working in a supportive and collaborative environment is the cherry on top!"

Leanne Miller, Associate Medical Writer at Helios Medical Communications

"I work in MedComms because of the diverse range of projects. I enjoy being able to take a detail-oriented approach to improve the quality of our deliverables."

Conor Monks, Associate Medical Writer at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms because I love the duality of the medical writer's role – combining both critical analysis and scientific reasoning with creativity and big-picture thinking. The feeling of being truly valued as a part of a team is fantastic too; no man is an island!"

Honor Morris, Associate Medical Writer at Helios Medical Communications

"I work in MedComms because I enjoy learning about a multitude of clinical disciplines, working as part of a dynamic team and developing communications across multiple formats that have a real-world impact. The fast-paced nature of MedComms allows for the completion of many projects and gives me a real sense of accomplishment."

Alison Murphy, Senior Medical Writer at Oxford PharmaGenesis

"I work in MedComms because I find it engaging, rewarding, thought-provoking, creative and fun all at the same time. There are endless learning opportunities with a constant flow of exciting new information. Coming from a research background, I could not have asked for a more satisfying job!"

Shaista Naqvi, Medical Writer at Highfield

"I work in MedComms because I get to learn and challenge myself every day. I love working with the team to communicate science in a way that will have an impact."

Matthew François Nicolas, Medical Writer at Prime Global

"I work in MedComms because it gives me the opportunity to use my editorial experience in a field I am really interested in, and the fast-paced and varied nature of the job means I am continually learning and developing. Working together closely as part of a team drives me to perform well and it's really rewarding knowing that what we do together makes a difference to the lives of patients."

Kathy Oliver, Editorial Specialist Lead at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms because of my love and passion for science and it allows me to apply my scientific knowledge in a creative manner on a daily basis. I particularly enjoy the fact that no 2 days are the same, and it constantly keeps me on my toes. It is also very rewarding and it's great to see the impact our work has on patients' lives."

Kalpesh Patel, Medical Writer at dna Communications

"I work in MedComms because I enjoy the challenge of working on multiple projects in fascinating therapy areas. The opportunity to work alongside some of the most knowledgeable healthcare professionals across the globe provides invaluable and compelling insights into patient care while offering an extremely fulfilling career!"

Neil Patel, Medical Writer at Helios Medical Communications

"I work in MedComms because it allows me to get creative and involved in the development of scientific content while having great flexibility of working from home as part of a vibrant, fully remote team."

Gosia Pospiech, Medical Writer at LiNK Medic

I work in MedComms...

"I work in MedComms because I get to learn something new every day, and the work always challenges me to improve or try something new."

Ed Potts, Medical Writer at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms because I have always been passionate about communicating science. I love that my job gives me the opportunity to work with leading experts from across the world on diverse, engaging projects that raise awareness and understanding of the latest research across a range of therapy areas."

Jess Sampson, Senior Medical Writer at Highfield

"I work in MedComms because I feel strongly that science should be communicated well. My role allows me to contribute to lots of interesting projects that have real-world impact."

Fiona Scott, Medical Writer at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms because the work is diverse, collaborative and rewarding. There's always a great sense of achievement after finishing a project when you know it's going to have real-world impact at the forefront of science and patient care – and then you get to do it all over again! I love working as part of a close-knit team and it's a fantastic job for science graduates who want to move away from the lab, but still want to make valuable contributions to medical research in a more creative way."

Kennedy Shaw, Associate Medical Writer at Adelphi Communications

"I work in MedComms because without effective communication, science is meaningless."

Arti Sikka, Senior Medical Writer at Synergy Vision

"I work in MedComms because I believe that disseminating scientific data in a clear and timely fashion is critical to advancing medical research and ultimately improving the treatment of patients."

Craig Slawecki, VP, Medical Director at CMC Connect

"I work in MedComms because working as part of a team to help patients get the best medical care possible is enormously rewarding."

Elsbeth Stewart, Programme Director at Adelphi Communications

"I work in MedComms because each day is different and I have the opportunity to work on exciting projects at the forefront of pharmaceutical development. The supportive and collaborative environment at Helios makes it a great place to work!"

Bryony Thomas, Associate Medical Writer at Helios Medical Communications

"I work in MedComms because I enjoy working with dedicated, enthusiastic colleagues to create innovative solutions that meet the needs of clients, healthcare professionals and patients."

Lydia Travis, Senior Medical Writer at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms and I'm always learning."

David Webb, Medical Writer I at Langland

"I work in MedComms to fulfil my combined passion for science and creativity. I enjoy that every day is different; I have had exposure to multiple therapy areas, a wide range of project types and numerous pharmaceutical companies."

Gemma White, Medical Writer at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms because data are useless unless they are communicated effectively to meet the specific needs of audiences. Patients and healthcare professionals need to know the same stuff, just at completely different levels."

Chris Whittaker, Scientific Strategy Director at Ashfield MedComms

"I work in MedComms because the profession involves a unique blend of science and business. The skills and experience I gained in academic research apply directly to the core parts of the job, such as critical thinking and dissemination of scientific content. Yet, there are also plenty of opportunities to be involved in other areas, such as business development and strategy. MedComms offers prospects of tailoring the job to your strengths and interests."

Frankie Wignall, Medical Writer at Fishawack Health (STEPS Foundation Program)

"I work in MedComms because it has enabled me to use my years of clinical experience as a doctor to set up a Medical Advisory Group, which helps benefit clients by providing unique insights into what makes both healthcare professionals and patients tick from an insider's perspective."

Beth Wynne-Evans, Medical Advisor and Senior Medical Writer at Porterhouse Medical, part of the Porterhouse Medical Group

"I work in MedComms because I enjoy learning new things, I enjoy variety, I enjoy a challenge and I enjoy working as part of a team to make a meaningful difference in healthcare research."

Lianne Young, VP, Medical Development Director at Complete Health Vision

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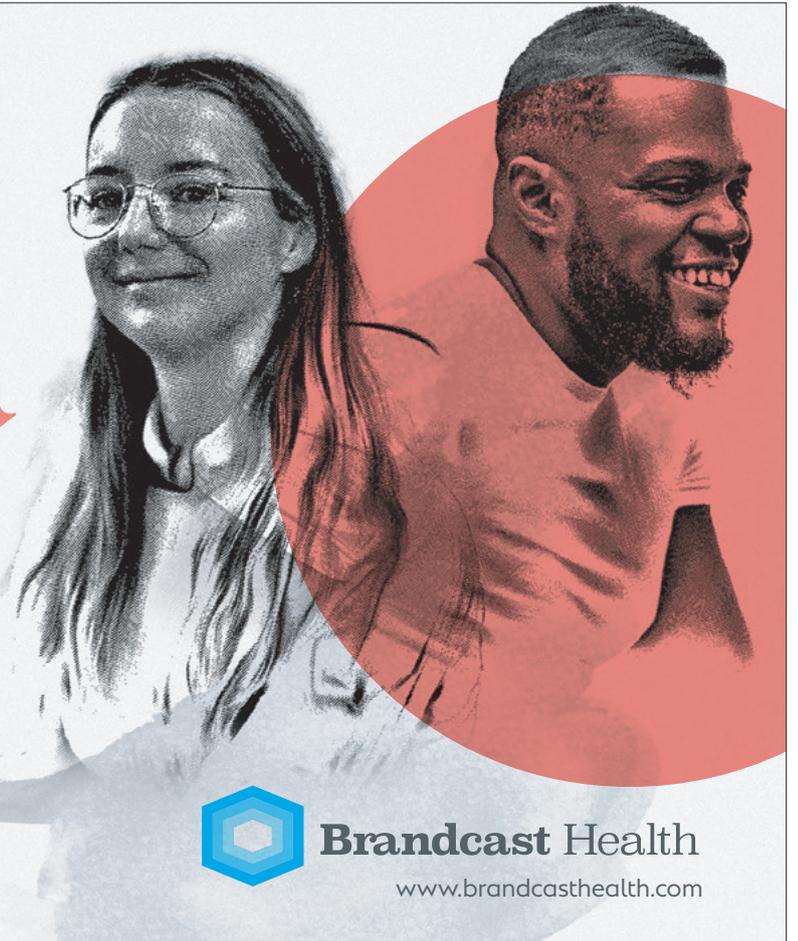
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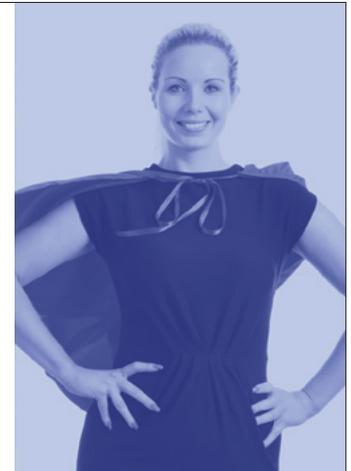
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