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**Olivia Harrison, PhD**

Seques

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# My journey in MedComms

From student to working life



# My background



## ACADEMIC

**BSc in Biomedical Sciences**  
(Newcastle University)

**MSc in Clinical Neuroscience**  
(King's College London)

**PhD in Molecular Medicine**  
(University of Edinburgh)



## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Lifeguard**

**Receptionist**

**Sales/Membership advisor**

**Personal tutor**  
in Biology, Maths and French



## EXTRA CURRICULAR

**Volunteering**  
Projects in Africa  
Local fundraising

**BioTech YES**

**University societies**

# Academic vs professional life



## ACADEMIC

- Unstable job
- Scientific results are unpredictable which directly affects your career
- Lonely
- Unclear career path
- High expectations – low reward



## PROFESSIONAL

- Career progression
- Teamwork
- Money
- Recognition of effort
- Stable, permanent job

VS



# What did I have to offer?



# Why MedComms?

Putting my PhD experience to good use

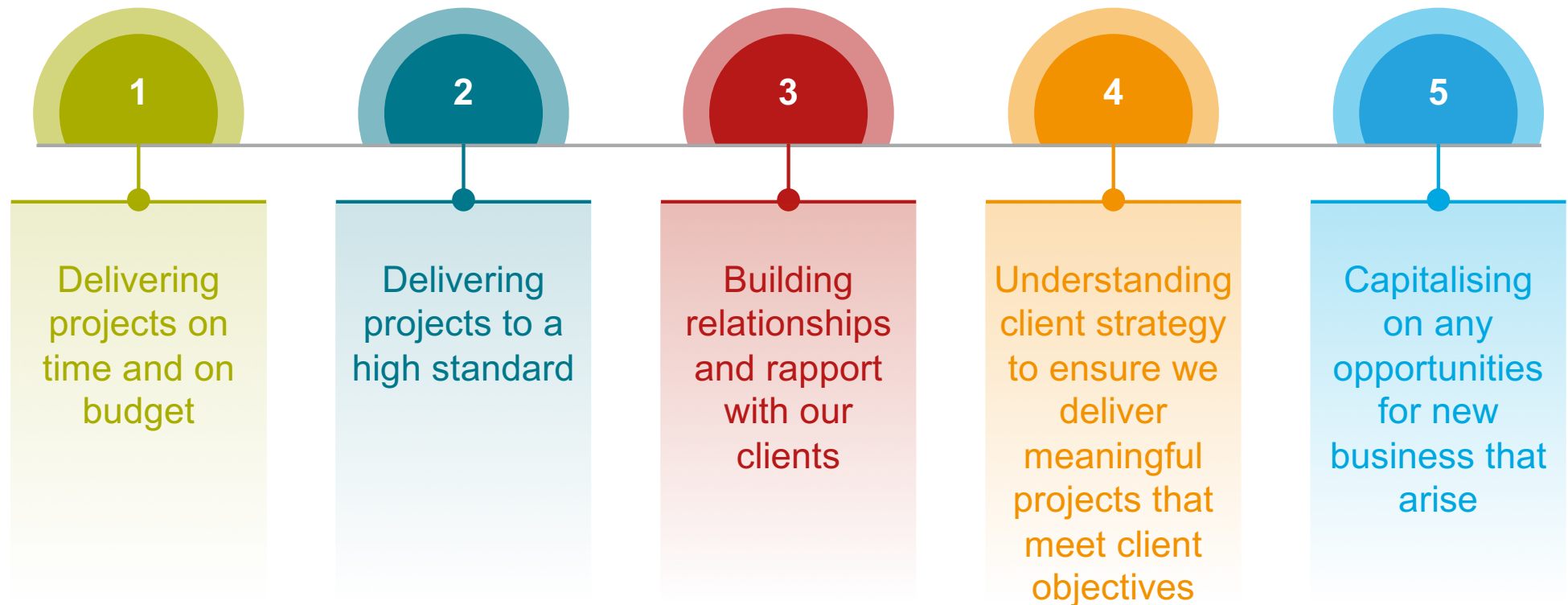
Combining my interests of business and science

Dynamic and fast-paced environment

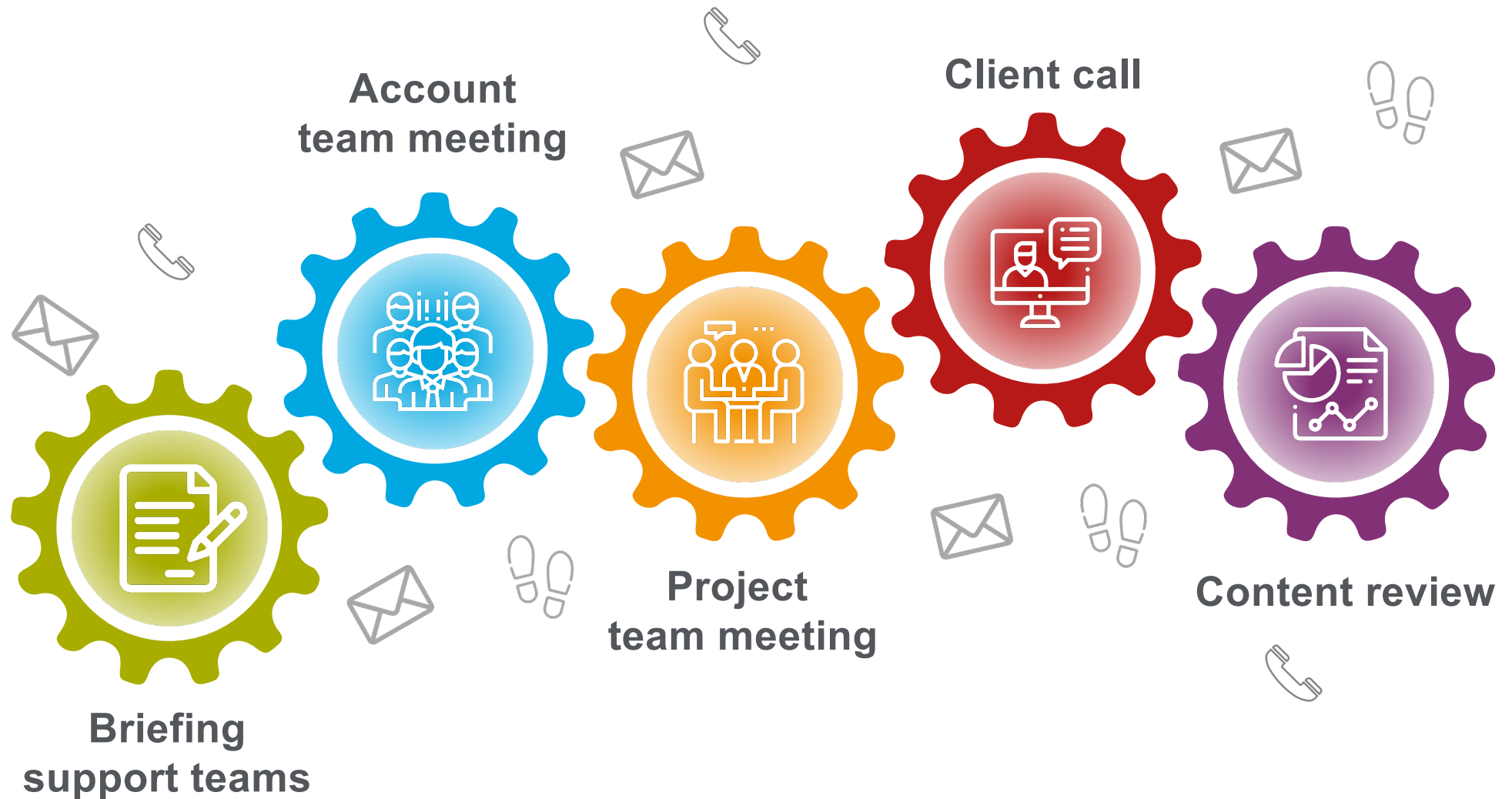
Working closely with the pharmaceutical industry on therapies that directly affect the public

# What does the commercial role involve?

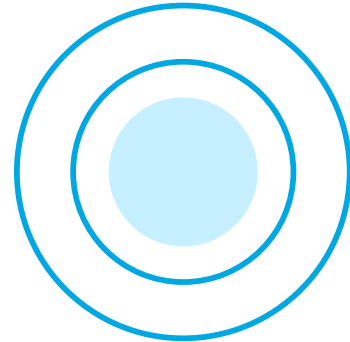
In a nutshell, I am responsible for;



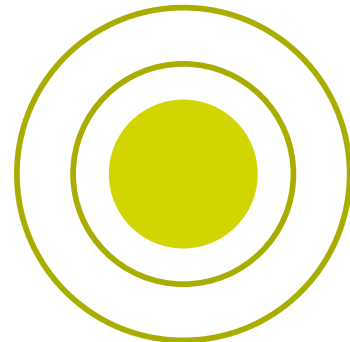
# What actually happens in a day...



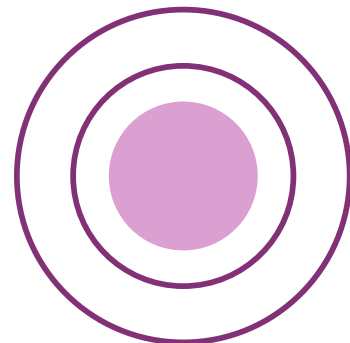
# Where could this lead?



Business  
development



Strategy  
and tactics



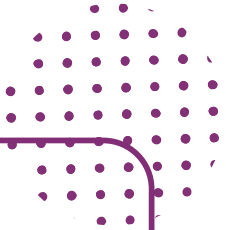
Operations

# Did I make the right choice?






- Recognition of hard work
- Trained managers who understand individual growth
- Bonuses
- Responsibilities
- Opportunities to grow in leadership
- Career progression based on ability
- Diversity of projects

# My advice




Find out what makes you tick

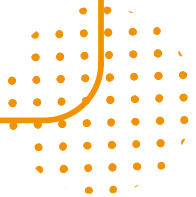
Don't forget that a job interview goes both ways...



Conversation is key, you never know what opportunities you might unlock



Employers want to get the best out of you so speak up if there is an area you want to get involved in



**Thank you for listening**

