Optimising Training for Medical Writers

Views of a Writer/Editor
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Outline

• My journey into medical writing
• What training did I receive? Good and bad aspects?
• What difficulties did I face as a non-native speaker?
• What would benefit me now training-wise as a writer?
• Should medical writing be an academic discipline with a formal qualification overseen by a university?
My journey into medical writing

> Biotech Studies
> PhD Analytical Chemistry
> Editor at Scientific Publishers
> Medical Writing
Training

• Academic education, editorial experience at publishing houses, training on the job
• Reading and writing a lot, receiving comments from experienced writers/clients
• Toastmasters public speaking club (helps with storytelling)
• Collaboration and discussion with other writers and creative people
• Online resources and books
What difficulties did I face as a non-native speaker?

• Getting the language subtleties right

Recommendations for new writers

• Take on projects that involve you on-site with the client/agency, to get a feel for how things are done there and establish personal connections

• Work at a good coworking space / business club to establish daily structure, a network, invite clients and host meetings
What would benefit me now training-wise as a writer?

• That is highly dependent on individual projects

• Coming from a life science background, medical and pharma regulatory training and clinical trial management would be beneficial
Should medical writing be an academic discipline with a formal qualification overseen by a university?
Thank you