Career Profile of Medical Writer: Sophie Bolick, PhD

What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?

Medical Writer, almost 1 year

Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?

University of South Florida, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Did you do a postdoc?

NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC

What are your main daily responsibilities?

Writing various pieces I am assigned (e.g., posters, manuscripts, abstracts, etc)

What are the keys to success in your career field?

Excellent communication skills (both written and verbal), organization, multi-tasking, detail-oriented

What were the most important factors in choosing your career path?

I enjoyed writing about the ideas I had for lab projects, more than I liked doing the actual experiments themselves. I knew that whatever career path I chose, it would be one that was writing intensive.

What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?

Seek out opportunities to write (outside your lab)—it’s the only way you will know if this is something you enjoy and are good at. Seek out individuals who write for a living and ask them specifics about their jobs and what advice they might have. Every work environment is different and medical writing is a field with a broad range.