Career Profile of Managing Editor, Sarah Taylor, PhD

What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?
Current title: Managing Editor
Worked at current job: 6 months

Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?
I received my PhD from the UNC Biology Department.

Did you do a postdoc? Where?
No, but some of my co-workers worked as postdocs before they started working for AJE.

What are your main daily responsibilities?
I read/scan through 6-8 primary literature manuscripts that were previously edited for English grammar, clarity, and flow by our contract editors. I also provide feedback to contract editors and interact with customers, and I work on a team that is involved in recruiting and training new AJE contract editors.

What are the keys to success in your career field?
AJE managing editors are self-motivated and willing to work flexible hours in a deadline-driven business. They are computer-savvy and have excellent verbal and written communication skills.

What were the most important factors in choosing your career path?
I wanted to work in the science writing/editing field, and I wanted a flexible work schedule. As a bonus, I get to work from home!

What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?
Try it out while you're still a grad student or postdoc. Edit manuscripts for non-English-speaking co-workers or apply to be a contract editor at AJE to determine whether you enjoy editing other scientists’ work. We are currently hiring contract editors and managing editors, so feel free to apply if this sounds like the career that you are looking for.

Links for more information on this career path:

Starting a Career in Science Writing:
http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2005_05_20/noDOI.1903229214099627359

Careers in Science Editing (this link contains links to many different feature articles)
http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2002_02_01/noDOI.12885841876765522867