Career Profile – Ann Winter-Vann, PhD

What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?
Medical writer and consultant; 5 years

Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?
My PhD is in Molecular Cancer Biology, from Duke University.

Did you do a postdoc?
Yes, I spent 3 years in a lab in the Pharmacology Department at UNC.

What are your main daily responsibilities?
My main responsibility is writing clinical regulatory documents for our clients. I often have 3 or 4 projects going at a time, and I am responsible for getting the answers that I need and turning in my documents on time.

What are the keys to success in your career field?
Autonomy and attention to detail

What were the most important factors in choosing your career path?
A desire to leave the lab bench, an interest in writing, and serendipity – I had a friend in the field, and she gave me my start.

What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?
Take every opportunity you get to write, because it’s the best way to hone that skill. In addition, it helps to learn about clinical trials, which you can do through seminars and training classes at UNC.