TIBBS Career Blitz Career Profile Questionnaire

Career Profile: Darshini Trivedi, PhD

What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?
Clinical Research Scientist
~10.5 months

Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?
University of Kentucky
Pharmaceutical Sciences (emphasis on Pharmacology)

Did you do a postdoc?
Yes, I did a 1.5 year postdoc at the University of Pennsylvania and a did a second postdoc at NIEHS, which lasted 4 years

What are your main daily responsibilities?
Writing clinical study reports (CSRs) for Phase I, II or III clinical trials. These CSRs are a part of a main Common Technical Document (CTD) that gets submitted to the FDA

What are the keys to success in your career field?
Good writing skills
Attention to detail
Ability to work with tight deadlines
Team work

What were the most important factors in choosing your career path?
Having an interest in clinical research and drug development
One should also keep in mind that there is no ownership of the work you do. Ultimately, you are a contractor working for a client.

What activities (if any) did you participate in that helped you be successful in obtaining your job?
Networking with folks in similar career tracks (meeting people for informational interviews and asking specific questions about their jobs)
Working as an intern for the Regulatory Affairs department at Duke (DCRI/DTMI)
Attending as many career development workshops/career fairs as possible

What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?
Do your homework. Gather as much information as you can about the job. Invite people for informational interviews and don’t be afraid to ask questions about what their job actually involves. Network!!