

MJOTA MEDICAL WRITER TRAINING

MEDICAL WRITING TRAINING WEBINARS

We have 4 series of webinars starting the first week of March:

1. Choosing topics for articles, editing articles for upcoming issues, MJoTA Editorial Meeting, Mondays 7-9pm (these webinars are open to all)
2. Medical writing marketing & editing, Tuesdays
3. Clinical trials data & health statistics, Mondays
4. Regulatory documentation, Thursdays.

WHOM WE ACCEPT AS STUDENTS

At MJoTA we work with professionals in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa with strong science backgrounds, and with advanced degrees in life sciences (MS, MD, PhD, RPh, PharmD, DHA, DBA). We also accept trained journalists.

MJoTA frequently offers free webinars, for example, on Thursday evenings during Black History Month. All are welcome to participate as long as their microphones do not create noise interference.

We require students in the mentorship program to write at least 3 articles for Medical Journal of Therapeutics Africa over 3 months.

MJOTA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

MJoTA will direct you towards a regulatory writing career or a marketing writing career. Core training is needed in both: you cannot write manuscripts, abstracts, posters and powerpoint presentations if you do not understand clinical trial documentation.

You have a choice in the mentorship program:

RW1: Writing documents for regulatory authorities. If you are local to Washington, or can visit, we invite you to come with us to open FDA sessions.

MW1: Medical writing for continuing medical education, medical journals, magazines, sales representatives, poster presentations, monographs.

HOW WE TRAIN MEDICAL WRITERS

We are online, but students are always welcome to stop by. We teach by phone, by e-mail, by discussion board on Linked-In, by Skype, and by GoToMeeting.

Minimum requirements for award of a MJoTA Medical Writing Certificate

1. Prepare resumes, post them on online
2. Prepare a portfolio which includes:
 - a. CME-style PowerPoint presentation
 - b. Peer-reviewed articles published in MJoTA (at least 3)
 - c. Presentations and documents demonstrating competency in FDA documentation preparation and rules
3. Pass a 3-hour exam on clinical statistics and data
4. Pass a 3-hour exam on clinical study report writing competency
5. Prepare a poster from a clinical trial article published in NEJM
6. Prepare an article from data from databases.

"During the 4 years I was the Director of the medical writing program at USP, I designed and taught many courses, and was involved in curriculum development for all courses. One thing was clear: highly educated professionals do not need another degree, what they need is direction, and the "killer ap" of medical writing training is work as a medical writer."

*Susanna J Dodgson BSc(Hons), PhD,
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief,
Medical Journal of Therapeutics Africa*

The global economy. MJoTA has watched with its mouth open the Dow Jones Index going up and down from day to day since the end of September, and is cheering on the stimulus package. What we know is colleagues in the pharmaceutical industry are being laid off: clinical trials specialists, regulatory affairs specialists, statisticians, programmers, medical writers, lawyers, recruiters. We believe that the pharmaceutical industry is tightening its belt for the long haul, and that it will be hiring again as soon as it can get credit to run clinical trials and continue with research and development. When this happens, MJoTA wants all our people to be ready with glistening resumes, portfolios and shining faces.

Fees until August 2009

We charge USD110 to participate in an individual webinar, or USD1,000 for unlimited webinars forever with mentorship and help getting jobs.



MJOTA MEDICAL WRITER MENTORING

MJoTA Medical Writers Requirements

A. APPLYING FOR JOBS

1. Know why you want to be a medical writer, and how preparing articles for MJoTA will get you there. Know that MJoTA is a tool for visibility, displaying your skills as a writer and researcher.
2. Keep an ongoing document of long-term and short-term goals for career, which jobs are wanted, why you think you can be hired for the job, which jobs you have sought, what has been the response. Always ask for feedback, if you have not been hired, find out from the recruiter or the employer why not.
3. Once weekly attend a group meeting in which expectations for applying for jobs are reassessed, and strategies are changed, and resumes and cover letters are tailored for the jobs.

B. GETTING YOUR RESUME OUT THERE

1. Profile on LinkedIn. Link to as many groups as you can (50 is permitted), link to every recruiter you can, link to everyone who is working in a pharmaceutical company.
2. Resume and portfolio on MJoTA
3. Resume on Monster
4. Get on Facebook

C. ARE YOU A MEDICAL WRITER?

If medical writing is your field: you will be interested in researching a question, trying to find answers and writing articles on these answers.

1. Prepare articles for publication in MJoTA. They are due to first of every month. During our weekly Monday editorial meetings we will discuss articles in progress and suggestions to make them work
2. Become an expert in the field where you want to belong. Pick your field, see yourself in it.
 - i. Target companies that you want to hire you. Call the CEO, interview him. Write articles about products marketed by the company, about their clinical trials.
 - ii. Write articles about FDA documentation, about NDAs, about the evolution of regulation.
 - iii. Write articles about the regulatory laws, and clinical trials, FDA approvals, World Bank; eg, look through the clinical trials database, analyse the trials by indication, by country, by ethics, by therapies.
3. Build a portfolio. A huge portfolio. Write about everything related to health, drugs, devices and biologics. Write about data, because that is why medical writers with strong life sciences backgrounds have the edge: they know data and they can interpret it. Write medical fiction. But write, and joyfully.

MJOTA Provides

A. WEBINARS

1. Once weekly editorial webinars Mondays 7-9pm.
2. Weekly webinars for regulatory documentation, data and statistics, medical writing skills for mentorees.
3. Weekly MJoTA Talks (Thursdays 4-5pm, repeated 9-10pm) is open to the public, and is an opportunity to showcase articles and MJoTA staff. MJoTA writers are encouraged to present their work, or talks on any topic that relates to MJoTA.
4. Articles will be worked on until publishable.
5. Resumes, cover letters will be worked on
6. We stay with you until you have a job, and are there for you when you need your next job. We are a co-operative, everyone is expected to work together.
7. We will work with you on your portfolio, on MJoTA articles, Powerpoint presentations, posters, websites. All these are your credentials; writers must be able to research, handle data, write a great story and edit. Your portfolio will show that you can do these things.
8. We will tell you about conferences, webinars, events where you can attend for information or networking.
9. We will work with you to focus on what you need to succeed. We can only be successful if you work with your portfolio, on your networking, and work to address gaps in your understanding.
10. We assign writing, we will work on them with you. Occasionally you may be paid.
11. We assign reading. Writers read. Nonstop. Everything.
12. We let you write for MJoTA on topics that interest you, but if you do not have any topics, or you need them assigned, we will assign them.

