# Life in MedComms:
# **A newbie's perspective**

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Having only recently started in medcomms, fresh from the world of academic research, I wasn't entirely sure how I'd adapt to the change of scene. Life in the lab had taught me a great deal, but I wasn't sure how this would translate to the 'real' world, with its faster pace and client-driven deadlines. I knew I'd be OK with the writing side, as I actually enjoyed writing my gargantuan PhD thesis. But, as I've now learned, being a medical writer involves a whole lot more than writing.

Having had no prior experience dealing with high-profile clients, I found myself with my very own project working with a huge global company, after only 2 months in my role. This prospect was intimidating in itself, but in addition, we'd been asked to deliver a large amount of content in just 3 days. It gave me a quick lesson in the importance of teamwork, as I had to quickly enlist extra team members to help ensure we could deliver on time. Suddenly I was managing my own project and acting as first point-of-contact for the client, and I loved it. Our successful delivery of the work helped us win a large amount of new business and gave me a real sense of pride in what we'd achieved together.

For me, moving into medcomms has enabled me to keep hold of the things I enjoyed about life in academia, but lose the aspects I didn't like. The science, the high level of responsibility and the collaborative culture are there, but the insecurity and sense of thanklessness are most certainly gone. Now when I go the extra mile, I am appreciated by both my clients and my colleagues.

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