



iJOBS Career Panel Series: Science Writing and Journalism

Tuesday April 14, 2015
4:30-6:00pm
Medical Science Building, Room C600
185 South Orange Avenue
New Jersey Medical School
Newark, NJ 07103

Below are some links that would be useful for people interested in medical writing, and the respective organization's associated conferences. There is also a link to the Biomedical Writing Program and University of the Sciences (USciences now).

<http://www.amwa.org/>

<http://www.diahome.org/>

<http://www.diahome.org/zh-CN/Networking-and-Communities/SIACs.aspx>

<http://www.gradschool.usciences.edu/biomedical-writing/biomedical-writing-program-overview>

Great field guide book: <http://www.nasw.org/field-guide-science-writers-official-guide-national-association-science-writers>

It can be very useful to join the National Association of Science Writers as a student. The rate is cheaper, and you don't need to show that you've published material.

Two other resources:

[The Open Notebook](#): this website offers advice for science writers, interviews from writers about how they tackled some of their stories, and covers the art of "pitching" a story.

[The Science Writers' Handbook](#): a practical guide to how to go about writing.

You can always consider getting a Masters in journalism. Science-specific programs are usually 2 years, and include a built-in internship. They are expensive but can be valuable networking experiences. Some of the well-known programs are at MIT, UCSC, NYU, and Johns Hopkins.

Below is a list of internships, which may not be offered all the time. Some are paid. Some require you to be a student or to have recently graduated, so check the fine print. A majority of these are on the East Coast, so this certainly is not comprehensive, and a few are only tangentially science0y. Since these are subject to change, I might not post these online.

The easiest one for grad students to consider is the AAAS fellowship. To be a competitive candidate, students will need to demonstrate that writing is something they are very interested in, and have tried on some level before (writing for a school paper or blogging). Many of the other internships are looking for journalism grads, so they expect published writing samples, or "clips."

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Jessica McDonald is a health reporter for WHYY-FM, the public radio station serving the Philadelphia area. She holds a B.S. in biology and English from Haverford College and recently graduated with a Ph.D. in immunobiology from Yale University, where she took a summer off from research to participate in the AAAS Mass Media Fellowship program. Jessica also does fact checking for Discover Magazine and interned with Science Friday in New York City, writing science stories

for their website. People can find the stories Jessica writes regularly in this stream:

<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/healthscience>. The science and health radio show she contributes to, but mostly support in other ways, is called "[The Pulse](#)," and can be downloaded as a podcast or listened to live or online.

Dylan Harris, PhD, MBA

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Dr. Harris was educated as a molecular virologist and spent nearly a decade researching mechanistic aspects of the viral enzymes of HIV-1 and Hepatitis C (Dana-Farber/Harvard Medical School and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey). Following his academic career and switch to medical writing within the pharmaceutical industry in 2005, Dylan worked in publication planning, authoring numerous clinical publications in peer reviewed medical journals. Subsequently, Dylan moved on to Regulatory writing and managed multiple submissions to FDA, EMA, and other global regulatory authorities for both small molecules and biologics while working at AstraZeneca, Cephalon, Genzyme and Biogen. Dylan has supported regulatory submissions across therapy areas including respiratory, immunology and inflammation, oncology, cardiovascular/diabetes, and neurology. His continued active interest in drug development prompted him to return to school and earn an MBA in pharmaceutical and healthcare business in 2012. He is currently employed as Associate Director of Medical Writing at Biogen.