iJOBS Career Panel: Regulatory Affairs
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Abla Tannous, PhD
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I have been a regulatory medical writer for the last 3 years. Before that, I was doing research as a scientist for over 13 years in molecular and cellular biology, and proteomics. I obtained my PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2015 after which I continued to do a postdoc at Rutgers University for 4 years. As a postdoc, I employed quantitative mass spectrometry to map the mammalian subcellular proteome. Next, I moved on to the pharmaceuticals industry as a research scientist for about two years at BioAegis Therapeutics where I also performed medical writing. I joined Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) as a scientific writer in 2021. At BMS, I am a scientific writer for various types of regulatory/clinical documents such as clinical study reports, submission documents to regulatory authorities and other.

Mary Lynn Mercado , Ph.D
Senior Group Head, Regulatory Writing
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Mary Lynn Mercado is a Senior Group Head in Regulatory Writing at Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. She has over 14 years of experience in the biopharmaceutical industry in Medical Writing, during which she has supported regulatory submissions across multiple therapeutic areas. Mary Lynn is the Deputy Topic Lead for PhRMA on the ICH Clinical electronic Structured Harmonised Protocol (CeSHarP) M11 Expert Working Group. She also co-leads the TransCelerate Clinical Content & Reuse (CC&R) workstream. Additionally, Mary Lynn has a PhD in Pharmacology and over 10 years of experience in Neuroscience research and drug discovery.

Bahar Demirdirek, PhD
Physiologist & Clinical Research Associate

Bahar Demirdirek, Ph.D.
Director
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Bahar is currently a Director, Global Regulatory Lead, Oncology in Global Regulatory and Sciences Group at Bristol-Myers Squibb. In this current role, Bahar is leading the global regulatory strategy for early and late phase projects from initial clinical trial applications to marketing applications. Previously, she was the analytical lead for numerous projects in Product Development Group at Bristol-Myers Squibb. In addition, she is part of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Network of Women and leading the HBA-BMS partnership team. Also, she is currently HBA Women in Science Affinity Group Global Chair and has been an HBA volunteer for 10 years.

Bahar holds a PhD in Chemistry from Rutgers University, New Jersey and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey.

Helen Kang, PhD
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I received my Ph.D. in Immunology & Microbial Pathogenesis at the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences in New York, NY. I am currently a Manager in Global Regulatory Strategy at Regeneron in Tarrytown, NY.