

CMPP Spotlight

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Q: What is your current role, and how would you describe what you do in 3 sentences?

I'm not into fancy titles and prefer to describe my role simply as Senior Medical Writer because it's the essence of what I do and it's easier to explain to those not in the industry. Once people understand that as a publication professional I contribute to getting scientific breakthroughs into the hands of healthcare providers who then use the information to help patients, they think it's pretty cool.

Q: What motivates you professionally?

I particularly like writing publications because they tell a story, so the work is both scientific and creative. The Introduction sets the stage and says why the research is needed. The Methods describes what was done and how. The Results present what new information was discovered by doing the research, and the Discussion explains what it all means in the grand scheme of things. I feel my contributions to disseminating these stories impact real life by ultimately changing patient care. I am also motivated by the team around me and try to help my colleagues, beyond writing, to meet our common goal of producing high-quality publications. We are all in this together.

Q: How has receiving your CMPP™ certification impacted you?

Having a credential like the CMPP, and having the backing of ISMPP, is a symbol of professionalism, integrity, and high ethical standards. It is also a sign that those who have the CMPP have experience specifically with publications and all that go with them, such as interacting with authors and editors, communicating with publishers, and understanding scientific methodology and data. Passing the exam also proved to myself that I have the knowledge and skills to fulfill the role of a publications medical writer.



Q: What advice would you give someone new to industry, interested in obtaining their CMPP?

Anyone new to the industry should have becoming a CMPP as part of their career path. However, it is important to gain real-world experience first, because the CMPP is not helpful without context. It's also not easy to pass the exam without adequate familiarity with the challenges faced day to day. It's a hard test! I encourage anyone new to reach out to someone who already has their CMPP. I don't know of any of us who wouldn't gladly mentor newbies, especially if obtaining CMPP credentials is on their radar. The more of us there are, the stronger our industry.

Q: What ISMPP/industry projects or initiatives are you currently excited about?

As someone who has been in the industry a long time, I am just happy that an organization such as ISMPP exists because I remember a time when it didn't. Back then, we were often called ghostwriters, and it was difficult as individuals to address this misconception. However, as a unified group, we've been able to show our value on a global scale.

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of work ?

My obsession is all things equestrian. I own a horse and compete nationally in dressage. Establishing a connection with another living being who should be afraid of you (predator/prey), has his own opinions, and is afraid of a stray leaf is rewarding, empowering, and humbling. I can best describe my horse and I as dance partners who trust each other.

Q: Early bird or night owl?

I am definitely an early bird. I usually wake before my alarm goes off at 5:02am, or maybe that's because the cat steps on my head around then. I think much better in the morning, so I try to get my work that needs the most concentration done first thing. Of course, that means I'm fighting to keep my eyes open after 9 pm.

