

Roles and responsibilities



Module 11 Topic 1

What is Medical Writing?

“**Medical writing** is the activity of writing scientific documentation by someone who is a specialized writer (a **medical writer**) and is generally not one of the scientists or doctors whose research it was.”



-
- Medical writing is about communicating clinical & scientific data & information to a range of audiences in a wide variety of different formats
 - Medical writers (MWs) combine their knowledge of science & their research skills with an understanding of how to present information & pitch it at the right level for the intended audience



Examples of Medical Writing

- Journal articles
 - Original research
 - Review articles
 - Editorials, case reports, etc.
- Abstracts
 - Publication in journals
 - Submission to medical meetings
- Posters
 - Presentation at medical meetings



Examples of Medical Writing (contd)

- Slide presentations
 - Original research
 - Symposia
 - Roundtables
 - Advisory boards
- Medical education materials
 - Monographs
 - Training materials
 - Prescribing information



Examples of Medical Writing (contd)

- Regulatory documents
 - Clinical Trial Reports (CTR)
 - New Drug Applications (NDA)
 - Investigational New Drug Application (IND)
- Marketing materials
 - Advertisements
 - Public relations materials
 - Internet documents
 - Patient education

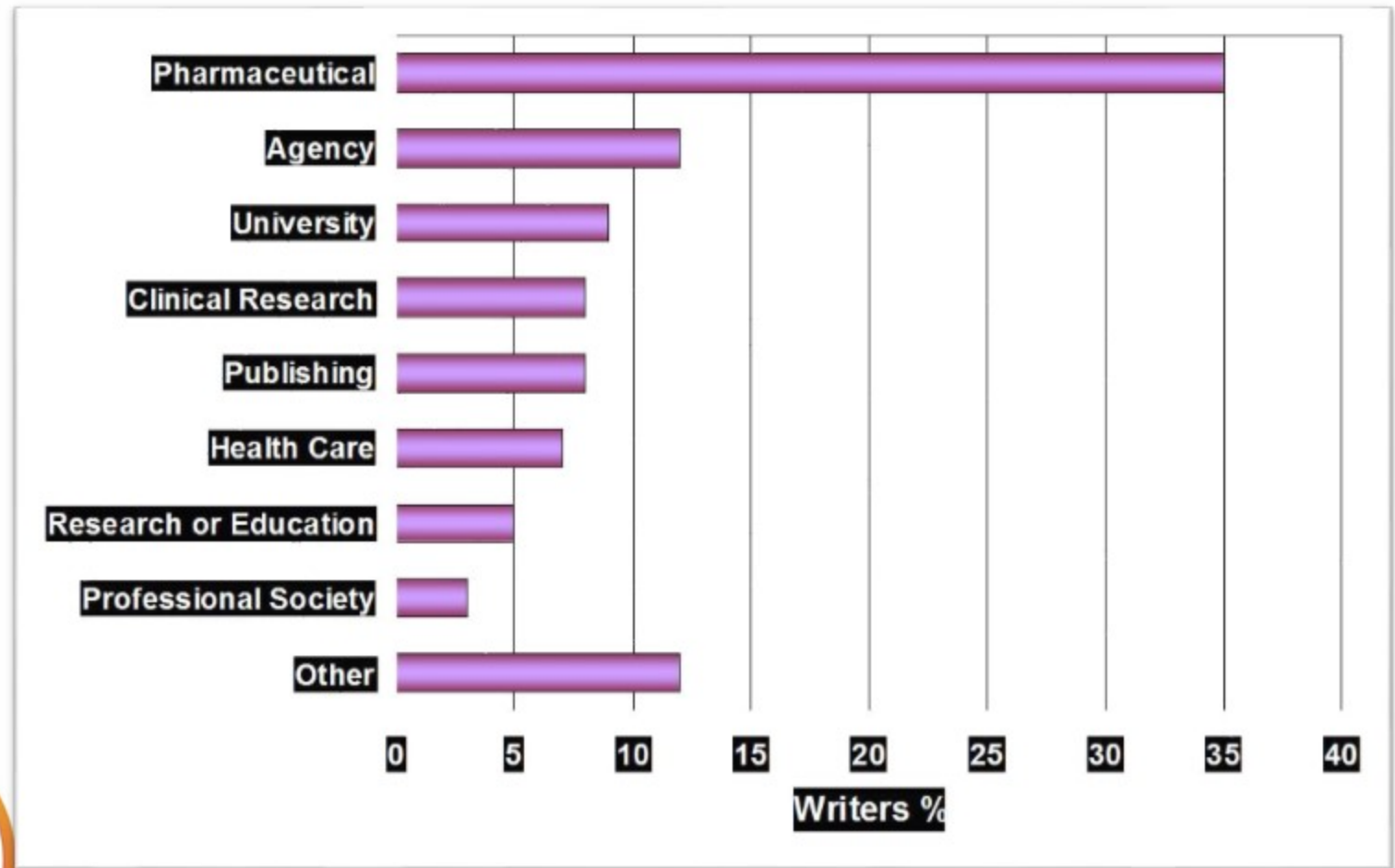


Required Skills for Medical Writing

- Attention to detail
- Excellent writing skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Organizational skills
- Scientific skills



Primary Employers of Medical Writers



Medical Writers - Different Backgrounds

- BSc/MSc – medical/life science
- PhD (and post-doc/lecturers)
- Pharmacy (BPharm/MPharm)
- Pharma / Industry (Experience)
- Medicine (BAMS/MBBS/BDS/MD/MS/DM)
- Other, Science (Mathematics/Chemistry)



What Employees Look For:



1. Proud of what I produce



2. Team works well together



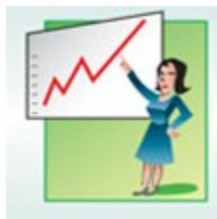
3. Colleagues do a professional job



4. Company has ethical standards



5. Promises made are kept



6. Improvements are recognized



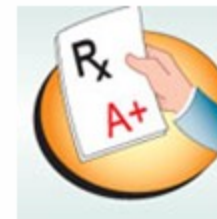
7. Team gives me satisfaction



8. Company provides equipment and services I need



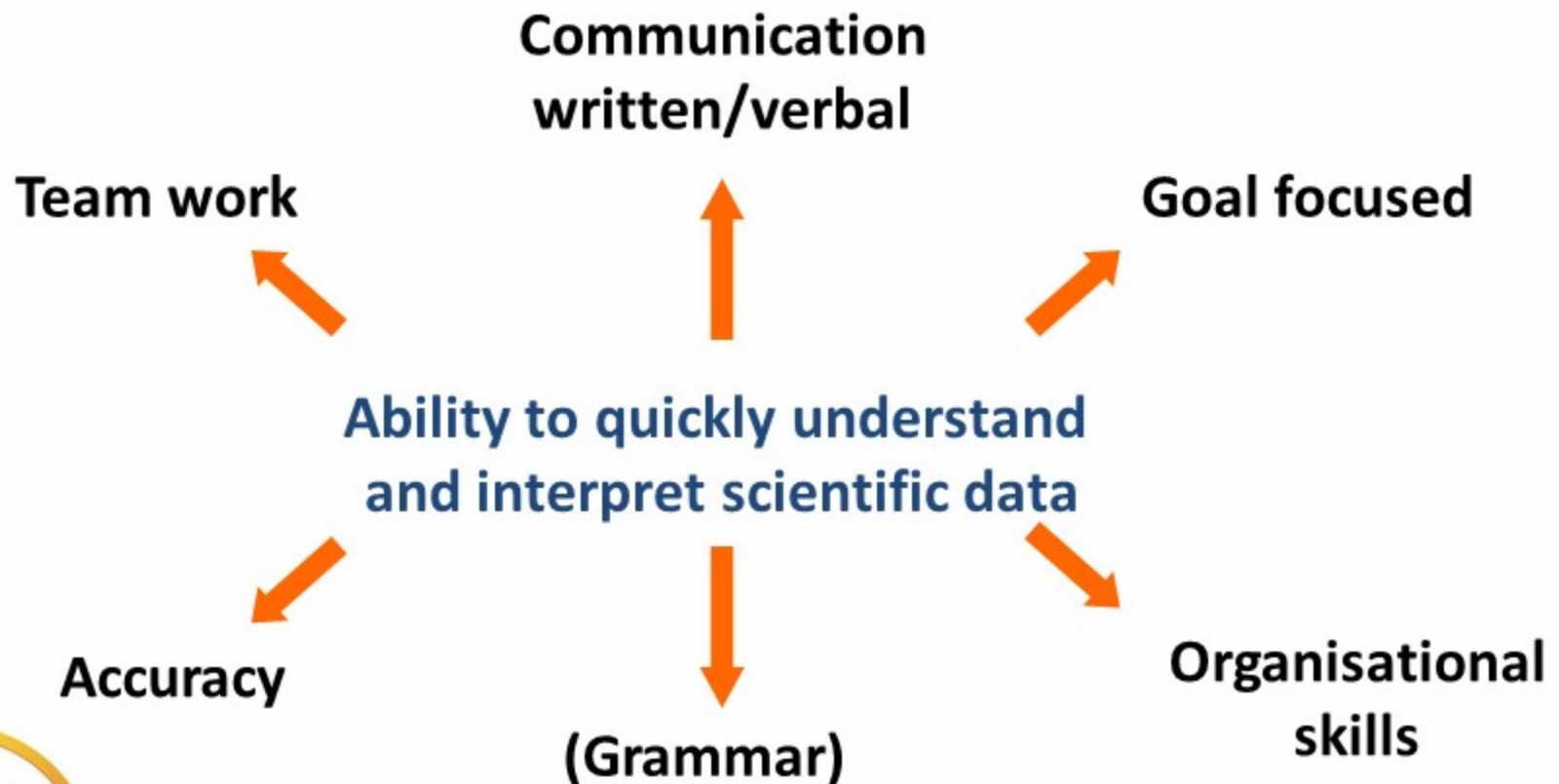
9. Company allows flex time



10. Company provides adequate health care



Key Attributes To Fulfill The Role



Flexibility, commitment, ability to work under pressure,
business awareness



Qualifications and Skills

- Ability to write and enjoy writing!
- Life sciences degree
- Ability to assimilate information quickly
- Enjoy working with huge amounts of data
- Attention to detail
- Work under pressure and meet deadlines
- An understanding of statistics
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word

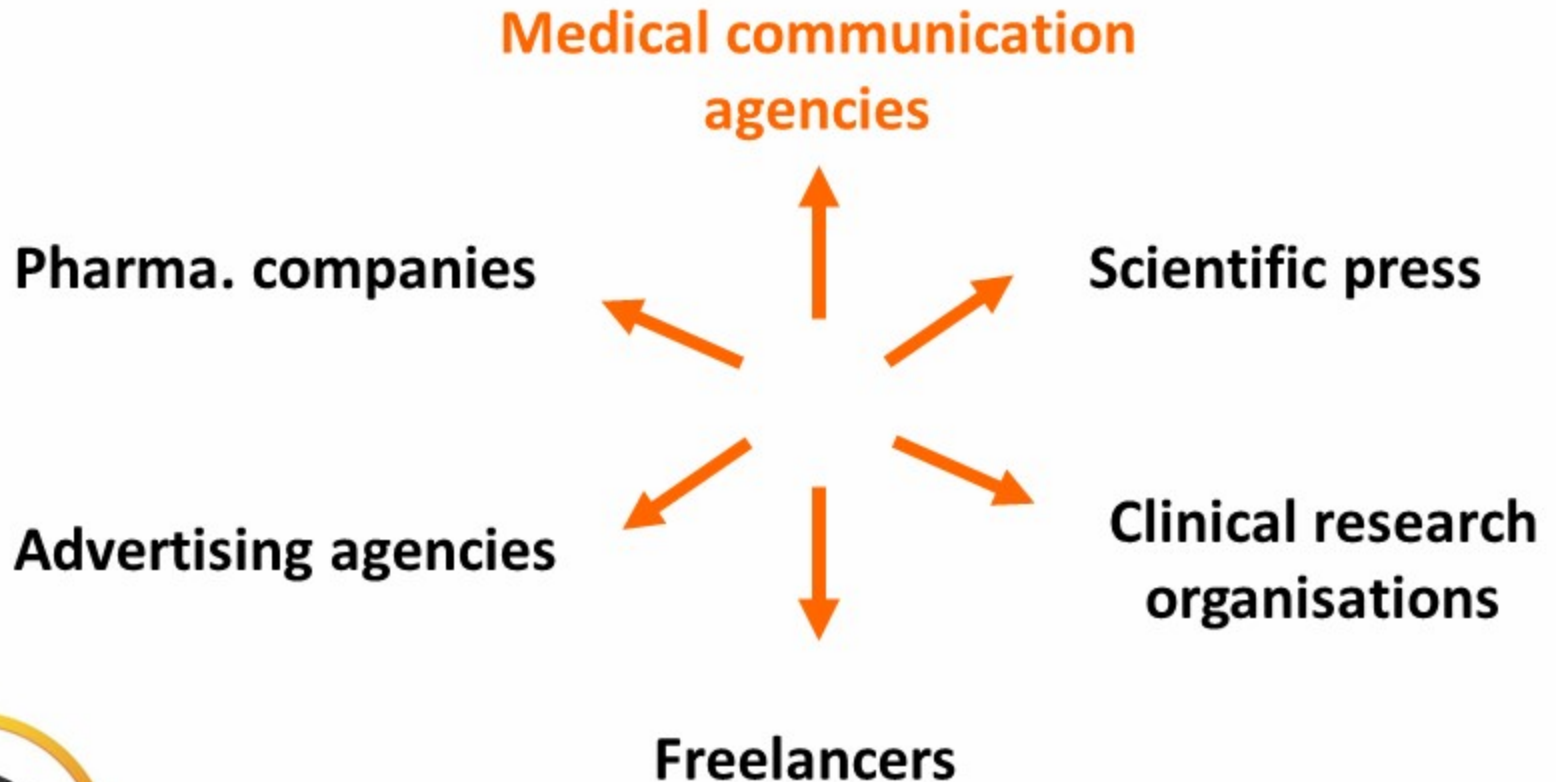


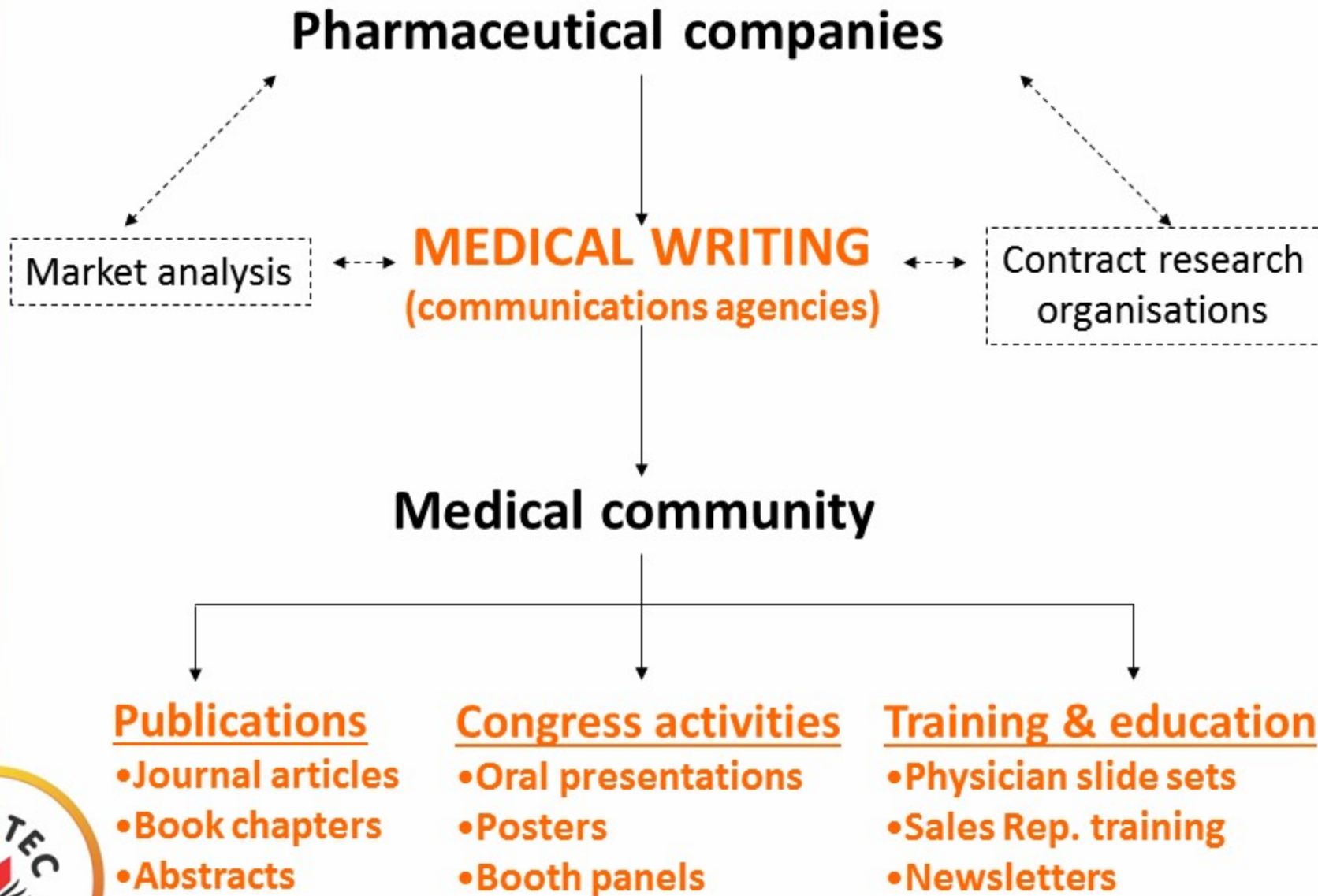
How to Get Started?

- Contract Research Organizations/ Companies willing to take on those with aptitude
- Written a thesis
- Published papers
- Be prepared to take a test
- EMWA
- Training Positions for Regulatory Staff

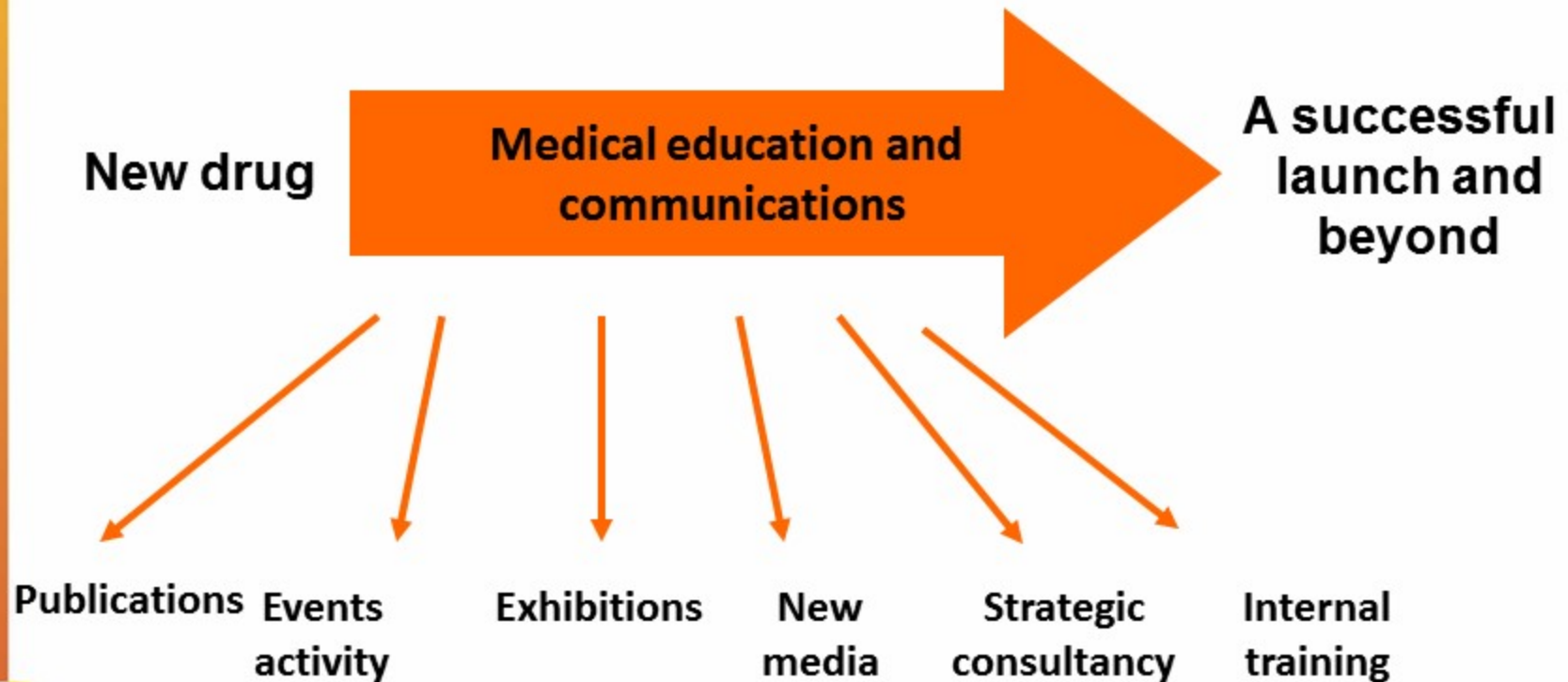


Medical Writers





Product/publication managers clinical scientists



Medical Writers - Central To The Team



Typical Day...

- Working with 5 different pharmaceutical companies
- Writing on 8 different drugs:
 - Diabetes, incontinence, fertility, cardiovascular disease...
- Liaise with clients to ensure information about drug is communicated most effectively
- Work with 'author' to ensure we're writing what they want to say
- Liaise with in-house studio to ensure all art-work contains client's branding and colours
- Dealing with 50-100 emails per day



Career Structure



