



PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND MEDICINES DEVELOPMENT: ACADEMY ALUMNA REFLECTIONS

We are happy to continue our series on Professional Identity and Medicines Development. Today, we hear from a successful graduate of the Academy's 2022 cohort, Mercedeh Wiggh. For this essay, Mercedeh was asked to **"Discuss Professional Identity and the Sense of Purpose in Medicines Development and their relevance for professionals involved in the field."** Thank you to Mercedeh for allowing the Academy to feature your insights. Continue to page 2 to read a portion of her essay.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Professional Identity and Medicines
Development • P. 2

Moving past the Covid-19
emergency in the USA • P. 3

A WHO pandemic instrument • P. 3

Balto the lifesaving sled dog • P. 4

Professional Identity research in
health professions • P. 4

FDA news: Taking steps to
modernize clinical trials • P. 5

How did the Covid-19 pandemic
begin? • P. 5

PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND MEDICINES DEVELOPMENT: INSIGHTS FROM ACADEMY ALUMNA



“In recent years, the importance of Professional Identity has been acknowledged in a vast number of articles. A search on Pubmed reveals almost nine thousand articles with an increasing trend over time. Several of these articles emphasise the importance of developing a Professional Identity. It has even been suggested that the development of Professional Identity is as important as acquiring practical and theoretical skills during one’s medical education [1].

Although the term “Professional Identity” is frequently used in the literature, a clear and generally accepted definition is lacking [2]. It’s therefore crucial to clarify the meaning and definition of Professional Identity.

To understand the meaning of Professional Identity, a starting point is to investigate the meaning of the separate words. Identity has been defined as “the process by which a person seeks to integrate his various statuses and roles, as well as his diverse experiences into a coherent image of self” [3]. Indeed, this definition includes several important features when defining the term ‘Professional Identity’. The definition includes the word process which is essential in the description of Professional Identity. This means that forming a Professional Identity is an ongoing process and not something that is fixed and ready at a time point. This is important to consider in how a person’s Professional Identity is developed.



Mercedeh Wigg is a pharmacist and Field Medical Lead for Rheumatology in the ABN region (Alps, Benelux, and Nordics) at UCB

Click [here](#) to read her complete essay.

MOVING PAST THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY IN THE USA

The conclusion of the COVID-19 crisis in the United States is imminent. The expiration of the US public health emergency declaration on May 11 and the cessation of other emergency authorizations have effectively brought an end to comprehensive measures supporting the response to COVID-19. These developments hold significant symbolic value as well, representing a milestone in one of the most devastating health catastrophes in the history of the USA. What comes next in the wake of these changes?

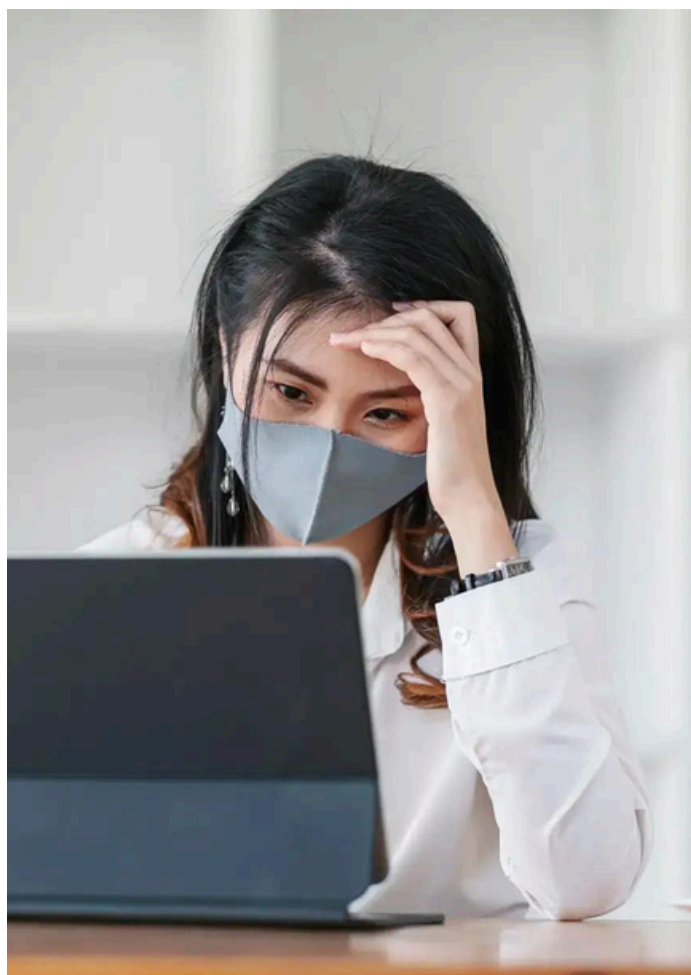
“The Department of Health and Human Services has provided a [roadmap](#) outlining the transition away from the public health emergency. Although COVID-19 vaccines will probably be covered at least until Sept 30, 2024, COVID-19 treatments and testing might require out-of-pocket expenses based on health insurance.



Medicaid determination is being pushed back to individual states; several states have already begun rollbacks, leading to an estimated 15 million newly underinsured or uninsured people.”⁴

Continue reading [here](#).

A WHO PANDEMIC INSTRUMENT



The pandemic exposed deficiencies in national pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response strategies, alongside failures in international collaboration, exacerbating existing inequalities. Disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, inadequate access to medical resources, including vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments, was aggravated by vaccine nationalism. To rectify these shortcomings, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) has initiated negotiations for an international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, alongside amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005). The World Health Assembly is expected to adopt the new instrument and amendments in May 2024, aiming to establish equitable and concrete measures for future pandemic management.⁵

Continue reading [here](#).

BALTO THE LIFESAVING SLED DOG

When it comes to heroic dogs, Balto is high on the list. The famous Siberian husky inspired a [1995 animated film](#) and was immortalized as a statue in New York City's Central Park for being part of a dogsled team that delivered lifesaving antitoxin to a remote Alaskan town that was struck by diphtheria in 1925. And now Balto's DNA is offering new insight into how genetic diversity affects the health of dogs—past and present. In a study published in *Science*, biologists found that [Balto's genome is more diverse](#)—and ultimately healthier—than that of most dog breeds today. His genes also suggest that he and his intrepid canine comrades in the 1920s had multiple traits that made them more fit to travel and survive in a harsh environment. The results reveal shifts over time not only in dogs' genetics and ancestry but also in their genetic health.



Today's sled dogs are even “faster and more durable” than those of Balto's era. Balto's genome analysis is a part of a broader research project called [Zoonomia](#), a large-scale effort to understand the genetic diversity and evolution of mammals.⁶

Keep reading [here](#).

PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY RESEARCH IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS



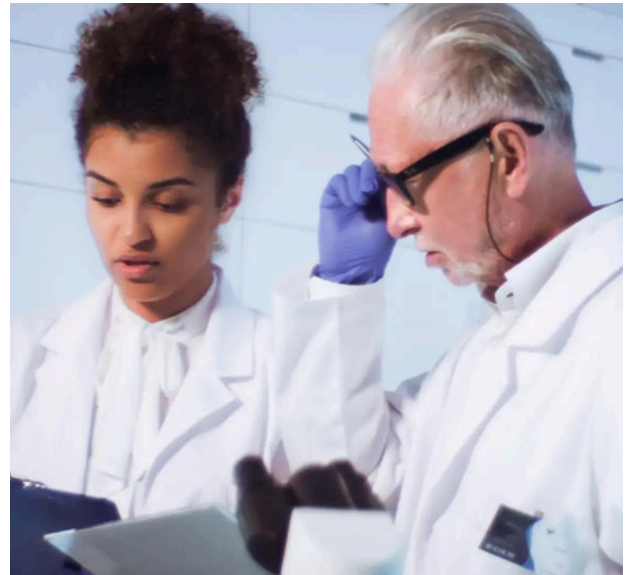
Professional identity impacts the workforce at personal, interpersonal and profession levels however there is a lack of reviews of professional identity research across practising health professionals. To summarise professional identity research in the health professions literature and explore how professional identity is described, a scoping review was conducted by searching Medline, Psycinfo, Embase, Scopus, CINAHL, and Business Source Complete using “professional identity” and related terms for 32 health professions. Empirical studies of professional identity in post-registration health professionals were examined with health profession, career stage, background to research, theoretical underpinnings and constructs of professional identity being extracted, charted and analysed using content analysis where relevant.⁷

Read more [here](#).

FDA NEWS: TAKING STEPS TO MODERNIZE CLINICAL TRIALS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released a draft guidance with updated recommendations for good clinical practices (GCPs) in an effort to modernize the design and conduct of clinical trials. The goal is to make clinical trials more agile and efficient without compromising data integrity or participant safety. The draft guidance is based on the International Council for Harmonisation's (ICH) updated E6(R3) draft guideline, which aims to incorporate technological and methodological innovations into the clinical trial process.

The FDA believes that a more robust clinical trial ecosystem capable of producing reliable evidence efficiently will support better decision-making in developing medical products for patients.



The draft recommendations propose a significant step forward in achieving this goal.⁸

Read more [here](#).



HOW DID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC BEGIN?

The release of long-awaited surveillance data by the China CDC reveals that SARS-CoV-2 was indeed present at the Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan at the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, shedding light on the initial epidemiological link to the market and highlighting the potential role of animal-to-human transmission, while addressing concerns over the laboratory leak hypothesis.

Understanding how the global COVID-19 pandemic emerged in late 2019 in Wuhan, China has been a subject of intense interest, given the concern that ongoing coronavirus research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) could have enabled a laboratory leak of SARS-CoV-2.

However, most of the initial COVID-19 cases were epidemiologically linked to Huanan Seafood Market (HSM), where animal-to-human transmission might have occurred. Consequently, the market was closed in December 2019 and the China CDC performed surveillance testing for the virus during January–March 2020. Now, their findings have been published.⁹

Continue reading [here](#).

REFERENCES

1. Wilson I, Cowin LS, Johnson M, Young H. Professional Identity in Medical Students: Pedagogical Challenges to Medical Education, Teaching and Learning in Medicine, 2013; 369-73
2. Fitzgerald A. Professional Identity: A concept analysis, Nursing Forum, 2020; 447-472
3. TProfessional Identity. (2019, May 14). EduTech Wiki, A resource kit for educational technology teaching, practice and research. [The Business Case for Purpose. Harvard Business Review. The Business Case for Purpose – SPONSOR CONTENT FROM EY \(hbr.org\)](#) (accessed: 17 Nov 2022)
4. Lancet. (2023). Moving past the COVID-19 emergency in the USA. The Lancet, 401(10386), 1399. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(23\)00848-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(23)00848-6)
5. Driece, R., Matsoso, P., Da Silva Nunes, T., Soliman, A., Taguchi, K., & Tangcharoensathien, V. (2023). A WHO pandemic instrument: substantive provisions required to address global shortcomings. The Lancet, 401(10386), 1407–1410. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(23\)00687-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(23)00687-6)
6. Young, L. J. (2023, April 27). The Lifesaving Sled Dog Balto Had Genes unlike Those of Dog Breeds Today. Scientific American. https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-life-saving-sled-dog-balto-had-genes-unlike-dog-breeds-today/?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=82a1380b74-briefing-dy-20230428&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-82a1380b74-47677880
7. Cornett, M., Palermo, C., & Ash, S. (2022). Professional identity research in the health professions—a scoping review. Advances in Health Sciences Education. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10459-022-10171-1>
8. Office of the Commissioner. (2023). FDA Announces Additional Steps to Modernize Clinical Trials. U.S. Food And Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-announces-additional-steps-modernize-clinical-trials>
9. Crits-Christoph, A., Gangavarapu, K., Pekar, J. E., Moshiri, N., Singh, R., Joshua, L. ., I., Goldstein, S. A., Suchard, M. A., Popescu, S., Robertson, D. L., Lemey, P., Wertheim, J. O., Garry, R. F., Rasmussen, A. L., Andersen, K. G., Holmes, E. C., Rambaut, A., Worobey, M., & Débarre, F. (2023). Genetic evidence of susceptible wildlife in SARS-CoV-2 positive samples at the Huanan Wholesale Seafood Market, Wuhan: Analysis and interpretation of data released by the Chinese Center for Disease Control. Zenodo (CERN European Organization for Nuclear Research). <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7754299>

Thanks for reading!

The GMDP Academy Newsletter is published bi-monthly and is compiled by the following:

Medical Editor: Domenico Criscuolo

Media Manager: Whitney English

Editorial Board: Pravin Chopra, Jacob Coots, Honorio Silva, Peter Stonier

Operations Office: Amanda Schmitt, Gustavo Silva, Kit Vale

CONTACT US:



420 Lexington Ave. Ste. 300
New York, NY 10170

(332) 333-2438