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PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND MEDICINES DEVELOPMENT

Reflections from Academy Alumni:

Soufiane Lilih



At a certain time in life many individuals make a career switch to the life sciences industry. This can trigger a feeling of losing one's initial purpose, e.g., treating and preventing disease in vulnerable patients. Zooming in and out to look at things from a different perspective, can help confirm the aligned sense of purpose. [1,2]

Being successful in the life sciences industry – whatever defines success for each individual – is determined in the first place by the solid educational background which arises from the predeveloped sense of purpose. [3] Unfortunately, now that one can ascertain that individuals from the life sciences industry are not equally valued as healthcare professionals, having a clear sense of purpose is not enough. [4] To handle this properly, a strong professional identity is essential. The formation of a firm professional identity contributes to the realization and confidence to meet high expectations in the application of knowledge and skills. [3]

This results in an immense career commitment and workplace satisfaction. [3] Consequently, this will contribute to earned respect as a valuable stakeholder in ensuring the safe, effective, and innovative treatments which benefit patients and society. The importance of having a strong professional identity is beautifully summarized in this quote of Gbenga Ogunjimi, *"The purpose of having a clear professional identity is to articulate what success looks like and how exactly to get there."* [5] Read the complete essay [here](#).

Soufiane, a PharmD graduate from Utrecht University (2017), transitioned from pharmacy to the pharmaceutical industry in 2020. Currently at Amarin Corporation, he leverages skills from the 'Medical Affairs in Medicines Development course' to contribute to the launch of a new cardiovascular product. Previous roles at Sanofi as a medical advisor and AbbVie as a medical affairs intern have enriched his expertise. Almost a year into his journey at Amarin, he played a pivotal role in the launch of a new cardiovascular product, showcasing his commitment to advancing healthcare. He graduated from the medical affairs course with excellence and his End Program Assessment essay was one of the highest-scoring essays in the cohort.

MEDICINES LESSONS FOR AI REGULATION

Regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) is imminent in the United States and much of the world. In October, President Biden issued an executive order on AI, and lawmakers hope to pass legislation soon. Several U.S. states have already taken action on AI oversight. The European Union issued draft rules, which will be adopted in the coming months, that differ substantially from U.S. proposals. This range of jurisdictions and rules suggests that there are various possible futures for AI regulation in the United States. The path forward will have important effects on medicine.

This is far from the first time the United States has written rules to safeguard the public as science reached new capacities. Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the National Research Act, which created rules for the treatment of human subjects in medicine.



Like AI regulations, rules for the treatment of human subjects were put in place swiftly during a time of intense public scrutiny of unethical uses of science. In 1972, the racial injustices of the Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis were revealed in the U.S. mass media.⁶

Read more [here](#).

HMA-EMA JOINT REPORT ON COVID-19 LESSONS LEARNED



The European Medicines Regulatory Network (EMRN) has played a pivotal role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic by evaluating and monitoring medicines, including vaccines. A collaborative report from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) assesses the Network's performance, drawing attention to key insights applicable to future health crises. The review outlines the unprecedented challenges faced during the pandemic, the effective response strategies, and recommendations for enhancements.

The expeditious evaluation of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics, along with scientific guidance on specific medicines, facilitated a safe and effective public health response.⁷ Read more [here](#).

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN CHINA: A RISING TIDE

The 9th annual Lancet–Chinese Academy Medical Sciences (CAMS) health conference highlighted China’s outstanding research contributions, encouraged global collaboration, and emphasized significant health challenges, with a particular focus on the escalating issue of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) there. Speakers unveiled concerning evidence indicating substantial gaps in NCD services in China, showcasing the monumental burden the country is grappling with. Lei Zhang’s (Xian Jiaotong University) projections illustrated the economic toll of diabetes surpassing the GDP growth rate from 2020 to 2030. This aligns with existing data indicating a surge in diabetes cases from 35.5 million in 1990 to 118 million in 2021, projected to skyrocket to 257 million by 2050. Winnie Yip (Harvard University) highlighted a rise in hypertension prevalence-



from 25.7% in 2007 to 31.5% in 2017, revealing that only 34.2% of those with hypertension were treated, and a mere 9.2% had their blood pressure effectively controlled. Read more [here](#).⁸

RESEARCH FRAUD: A NEW RECORD FOR RETRACTED RESEARCH PAPERS IN 2023



The topic of research fraud has become increasingly prominent, garnering significant attention due to the exponential rise in the number of papers being submitted for publication. Journal editors are struggling to cope with this surge, making it challenging to conduct the customary verification of results. The proliferation of “open access” journals has further heightened the risk of fraudulent practices in research. A recent [analysis](#) conducted by the journal NATURE sheds light on the gravity of this situation. Read about how integrity experts believe this is just the beginning for challenges faced by journal editors in recognizing and combating research fraud.⁹ Read more [here](#).

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Thanks for reading!

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