



## PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND MEDICINES DEVELOPMENT

Gabriel Germán Ribón, a graduate of the GMDP Academy's 2023 CMD cohort, reflects on the evolution of professional identity (PI) in his essay. He explores the transition from patient care to medicines development, emphasizing how PI shapes professional behavior, values, and responsibilities. Gabriel highlights the unique rewards and challenges of developing a Medicines Development Professional Identity, focusing on the ethical standards and altruism required to make a meaningful impact in the field.

Continue to page 2 to read more of Gabriel's essay.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Professional Identity and Medicines Development • P. 2

Improving Early Detection of Cancers • P. 3

Looking for Better Definitions • P. 3

Key Highlights from the EMA's 2023 Annual Report • P. 4

The Dual Challenge of Research Integrity and AI: Risks and Opportunities • P. 4

Standardizing Real-World Data and Evidence: Insights from the ICH Reflection Paper • P. 5

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Exciting News: Applications for the 2025 CMD Program Now Open!  
• P. 5

# ACADEMY ALUMNI PERSPECTIVES: GABRIEL GERMÁN RIBÓN QUINTERO

Professional identity, professionalism, professional socialization, and other related terms are often used without a clear definition or with conflicting definitions. The word “professional” has four meanings in current usage: (a) “participating for gain of livelihood in an activity or field of endeavor often engaged in by amateurs”; (b) “of, relating to, or characteristic of a profession”; (c) “following a line of conduct as though it were a profession”; and (d) “one that is professional, especially one that engages in pursuit of an activity professionally.” It is these last three definitions that relate to what research describes as the concept of professional identity.

In the literature, these definitions give meaning to the concept of professional identity by clearly describing what a professional is. In medical education professional identity, or how a doctor thinks of himself or herself as a doctor, is as critical to medical education as the acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to patient care. A physician requires a strong professional identity “both ethically and practically . . . to practice with confidence . . . even if medical students learn all the knowledge and skills required of them, they will find<sup>3</sup> it hard to be successful as doctors until they have developed their professional identity.

But what if we are transitioning into Medicines Development?

This is a challenging career decision since a Medicines Development Professional Identity represents an individual’s self-concept within the pharmaceutical, medical, and health systems. It evolves over time as characteristics, values, and norms of the field become internalized it is very different from working in individual patient care. However, for many of us, the opportunity to develop innovative medicines, communicate their benefits, and, thus, influence the care of thousands of patients at a time is a rewarding alternative.

- Gabriel Germán Ribón Quintero

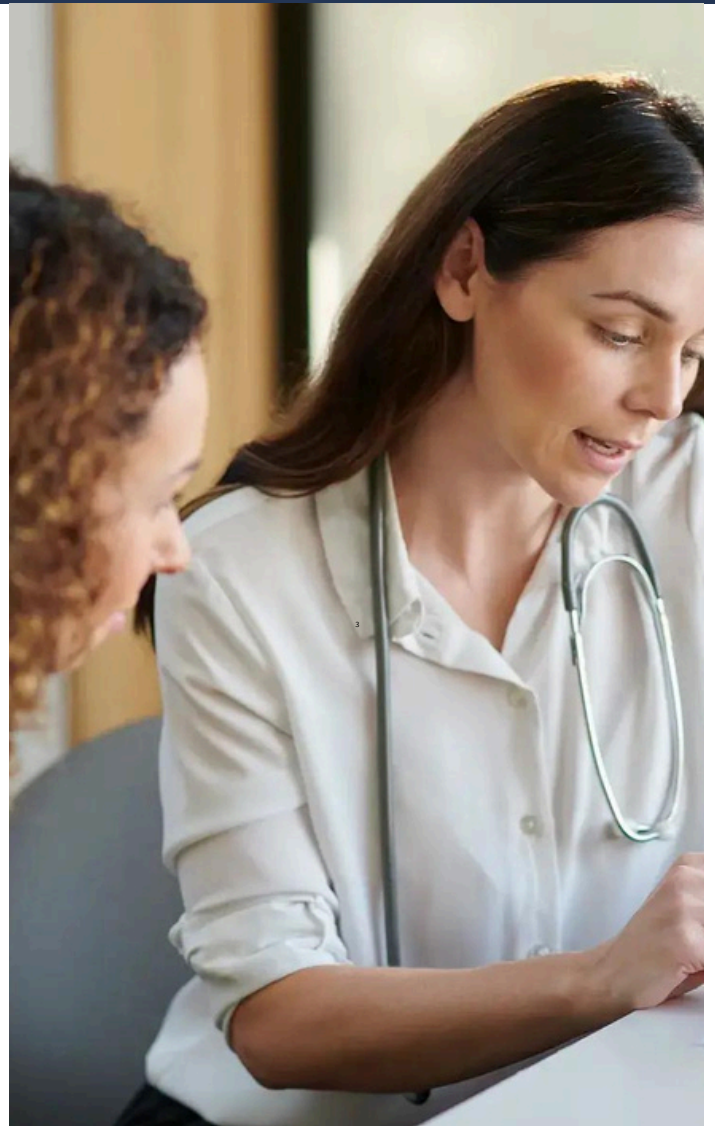


Gabriel Germán Ribón Quintero is a physician with postgraduate training in internal medicine and a fellowship in infectious diseases. He is also professionally certified in medicines development. With over 15 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, Gabriel has worked in multinational environments as a medical manager. His expertise includes providing medical and scientific advice to companies on pharmaceutical products, developing medical-scientific strategies at both the national and regional levels, and fostering relationships with external experts across the country and region. To read all of Gabriel’s essay, click [here](#).

## IMPROVING EARLY DETECTION OF CANCERS

In May 2024, NHS England released a Spring progress update on their Cancer Programme, which was originally launched in 2019 with two ambitious goals: by 2028, to increase the proportion of cancers diagnosed at stages 1 and 2 to 75% of patients and to ensure that 55,000 more people each year survive at least 5 years after diagnosis. The programme focuses on three key priorities: earlier diagnosis, improving treatment and personalized care, and enhancing overall performance.

While the update indicates that progress is being made, the effectiveness of these efforts is still under evaluation. The emphasis on earlier diagnosis is crucial, as it directly impacts patient outcomes. Further action is needed to sustain and accelerate these efforts.<sup>1</sup> Read more [here](#).



## LOOKING FOR BETTER DEFINITIONS



Obesity, which affects over 1 billion people worldwide, lacks a clear “identity” in research, social perception, and the healthcare sector, according to a global analysis published in *The Lancet*. This ambiguity complicates accurate diagnoses and treatments and perpetuates stigma. Experts emphasize that obesity should be recognized as a chronic disease rather than merely a condition leading to other diseases.<sup>2</sup>

Continue reading [here](#).

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EMA'S 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The European Medicines Agency's 2023 annual report highlights its efforts to protect public and animal health in the EU. The report covers key achievements in cancer medicines, data-driven medicine regulation, and transparency. EMA recommended 77 medicines for human use, including 39 with new active substances, and 14 veterinary medicines, nine of which had new active substances.

Notably, two RSV vaccines and the first CRISPR/Cas9 gene-editing therapy were approved. EMA also launched the "Cancer Medicines Pathfinder" initiative to enhance cancer drug development and approval. The report emphasizes the importance of data in regulating medicines and improving transparency through effective communication with the public.



The digital report version offers interactive features, while a print-ready PDF is also available.<sup>3</sup> Access the report [here](#).

## THE DUAL CHALLENGE OF RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND AI: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES



The scientific community is facing a crisis of integrity, marked by issues like mass retractions, manipulated peer reviews, and unethical authorship practices, which threaten public trust in research. Simultaneously, advances in generative artificial intelligence (AI) are raising concerns. At the 8th World Conference on Research Integrity, experts warned that AI could exacerbate problems like undetectable paper mills and the spread of misleading information, given AI's tendency to produce inaccurate or biased content. However, AI also holds significant promise, such as improving research planning, language refinement, and clinical trial recruitment, potentially aiding underrepresented groups.<sup>4</sup> Continue reading [here](#).

# STANDARDIZING REAL-WORLD DATA AND EVIDENCE: INSIGHTS FROM THE ICH REFLECTION PAPER

The reflection paper on “ICH Reflection Paper on Pursuing Opportunities for Harmonisation in Using Real-World Data (RWD) to Generate Real-World Evidence (RWE), with a Focus on Effectiveness of Medicines” was co-developed by the European Medicines Agency, the U.S. FDA, and Health Canada, and adopted by the ICH Assembly in June 2024.

The paper aims to standardize the terminology and formats for RWD and RWE in regulatory submissions and promote the registration of study protocols and reports. This effort, following a public consultation in 2023, marks a significant commitment to harmonizing RWE guidelines, supporting its integration into regulatory decision-making. Future steps will include additional public consultations.<sup>5</sup>



Read more [here](#).

## EXCITING NEWS: APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2025 CERTIFICATION IN MEDICINES DEVELOPMENT (CMD) PROGRAM ARE NOW OPEN!

GMDP Academy is thrilled to announce that applications for the 2025 cohort of the prestigious **Certification in Medicines Development (CMD) Program**, offered in collaboration with King’s College London, are officially open! This world-class program offers professionals in the pharmaceutical medicine field a unique opportunity to deepen their expertise and advance their careers.

If you have any questions or need help with your application, don’t hesitate to contact our admissions team at [admissions@gmdpacademy.org](mailto:admissions@gmdpacademy.org). We are here to support you every step of the way.

[Apply Now](#) to take the next step in your career and explore the scholarship opportunities available to you!

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## Thanks for reading!

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