



PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY AND MEDICINES DEVELOPMENT

In our ongoing series on Professional Identity and Medicines Development, Jocelyn Nava shares an illuminating perspective on how cultivating a sense of purpose shapes both our personal and professional lives in medical affairs.

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JOCELYN NAVA

Academy Alumni Perspectives: Jocelyn Nava

“How do we define purpose? According to McKnight and Kashdan, “Purpose is a central, self-organizing life aim that organizes and stimulates goals, manages behaviors, and provides a sense of meaning.” It is the reason behind what we do, why we look forward to waking up each morning with anticipation and joy. What, then, is our sense of purpose as medical affairs professionals? Without oversimplifying the multifaceted nature of medical affairs, I propose that its purpose is to act as a bridge between science and healthcare practice, helping to bring safe and effective treatments to patients through patient-centered drug development.^{2,3}

Since the creation of the first medical affairs roles by Upjohn Company in 1967, the remit of medical affairs functions has evolved significantly, particularly now in an era of global disease burden, personalized medicine, and advancing technology. The support role traditionally associated with medical affairs has now transformed it into a third pillar in the industry alongside R&D and Commercial.^{2,4,5}

It is evident that having a strong professional identity and sense of purpose leads to confident and competent professionals. With the increasing complexity of medicines development, professionals in this field should actively engage in the development of their professional identity through high-quality education and ongoing interaction with mentors and peers. Such formative experiences help align their sense of purpose with a solid professional identity, empowering medicines development professionals to fulfill their mission of improving patient care and outcomes through patient-centered medicines development. Read Jocelyn’s full essay [here](#).

Jocelyn Nava is a Clinical Research Physician for the Infectious Diseases and Preventive Medicine Departments of Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Spain.

A firm believer of patient centricity, she is committed to ensuring that patients and their families get timely access to better medicines and optimal care through the ethical and meticulous implementation of clinical trials.

LONG COVID: UNDERSTANDING SYMPTOMS, MANAGEMENT, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Post-COVID-19 condition, or long COVID, refers to symptoms lasting for three months or more following acute COVID-19. This condition affects multiple organ systems, including the respiratory, cardiovascular, and neurological systems, leading to a range of symptoms such as fatigue, shortness of breath, chest pain, and brain fog. For many, these symptoms result from organ damage during the initial infection, causing significant and long-lasting health issues that impose a heavy burden on individuals, healthcare systems, and economies worldwide.⁶

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OROPOUCHE FEVER: A NEW AND MYSTERIOUS VIRAL THREAT



Over the past decade, South America has faced severe arboviral outbreaks, including the Zika virus in 2015–16 and recurring cases of chikungunya and dengue, particularly impacting Brazil. Adding to this trend, the region is now experiencing an unprecedented resurgence of the Oropouche virus, posing new challenges for public health.

By August 1, 2024, there were 8,078 confirmed cases of Oropouche fever reported across Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru, with the virus establishing an endemic presence in Cuba. Additionally, a few cases have been identified in Italy and Spain among travelers returning from Cuba, highlighting the potential for global spread.⁷ Read more [here](#).

WHO REPORT ON NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER CARE: AIMING FOR 80% GLOBAL MEDICINE ACCESS BY 2031

Neurological disorders are now the leading global cause of disease burden, posing significant public health challenges. In response, the WHO introduced a neurological disorder report: the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP), aiming to improve care access, prevent new cases, and promote brain health. To meet IGAP's target of 80% of countries providing essential neurological medicines in primary care by 2031, a new WHO report, released on July 22, outlines strategies to enhance access to these medicines. The report identifies key challenges such as stigma, inadequate healthcare workforces, poor drug availability, unaffordable medications, and outdated national medicine lists.



Broader issues include limited health system data, supply chain problems, substandard medicines, and weak pharmacovigilance.⁸

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THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF CIOMS GLOSSARY



CIOMS is pleased to announce the release of the 75th Anniversary Edition of the CIOMS cumulative glossary, with a dedicated focus on pharmacovigilance. This highly valued glossary compiles definitions from across CIOMS Working Group reports on pharmacovigilance and related topics, embodying nearly four decades of CIOMS' strategic influence in the field of drug safety and public health.

CIOMS invites interested individuals and organizations to download the glossary for free or to order a hardcopy at postal cost. To access the glossary or place an order, click [here](#).

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Thanks for reading!

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