



GMDP ACADEMY EXPANDS ACCESS TO EXPERT-LED WEBINARS

The Academy of Global Medicines Development Professionals is making expert insights more accessible by opening select webinars from its Certification in Medicines Development (CMD) program to the public. This initiative allows a broader audience to engage with industry leaders on key topics shaping the future of healthcare and medicines development.

The next open-access webinar, *Digital Technology and Behavioral Changes*, will take place on March 25 at 8 AM EST with Academy Faculty and esteemed expert Dr. Mark Lightowler.

Register [here](#) to join the discussion!

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PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY & MEDICINES DEVELOPMENT



Academy Alumni Perspectives: Nikunj Shah's Personal Reflection

Professional identity (PI) is the sum total of various attributes of an individual that they use to describe their profession or their professional group. These attributes include values, beliefs, motives, personal experience, vision, a sense of oneness with the profession, and ethical standards. Thus overall, PI concentrates on an individual's professional capacity due to ones' set of knowledge and beliefs [1].

In medicine or healthcare, the end goal of every professional involved in medicine development is to improve patients' lives. Thus, PI plays a vital role in medicine development. Having an unclear PI or not having that sense of purpose among physicians leads to shallow commitment, poor quality care, moral distress, stress, low self-confidence, poor decision-making, etc [2].

The attributes that directly or indirectly affect patients' safety, health outcomes, and lives are mainly the values of PI every physician brings to the table especially counting on their self-confidence, positive attitude, ability to make decisions even under stress, increased work satisfaction, sense of achievement and belonging [3]. Therefore, a physician needs to have a clear PI and a sense of belonging to their profession. Being in the medical affairs role within companies does not give us a free hand at not having these attributes. This is mainly due to the impact of PI extending to all professionals within medicine development and/or medical affairs function as the work they do ultimately impacts patients' lives.

It is vital to set roles with clear outcomes so that it helps in developing that sense of purpose and PI in our profession. This can be brought about by various factors such as a commitment to ethically serve our customers, constant learning, developing professional networks and communities and having a unified vision and value for all medical affairs professionals.

Nikunj completed his masters in Biotech from Nottingham Trent University, UK and PhD in Molecular Virology/Immunology from University of Zurich, Switzerland. Professionally, he has worked in medical communication and publication space. Further to this, he worked as an MSL and in strategic medical affairs in Abbott for 4 years and since the past 4 years associated as a Senior Medical Manager and team lead supporting the Global and US medical teams in content review for Pfizer and is based in Mumbai, India. The GMDP Medicines Development course has immensely helped in understanding and asserting the value of medical affairs team in the pharmaceutical-biotech industry. Click [here](#) to read his complete End of Program Assessment essay.

5 WAYS GMDP ACADEMY'S YEAR-ROUND ENROLLMENT CAN ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER

1

Enroll When It Works For You

Gone are the days of waiting for the next intake period. With our rolling application process, you can apply at any time—just make sure to submit your application two weeks before your desired module's start date. This means no unnecessary delays and a learning schedule that works for you.

2

Customize Your Learning Experience

No two careers in Medicines Development are the same. That's why our modular learning structure allows you to focus on the areas most relevant to your professional growth. Whether you're interested in clinical trials, regulatory affairs, or digital health, you can select targeted modules without committing to a full certification program.

3

Learn From Industry Experts

Each module is designed and taught by leading professionals in Medicines Development, ensuring that you gain insights from real-world experts. You'll be learning alongside industry peers, benefiting from networking opportunities and knowledge-sharing in a high-caliber educational environment.

4

Stay Competitive in a Fast-Changing Industry

The pharmaceutical and healthcare industries are rapidly evolving, with new regulatory frameworks, technological advancements, and medical breakthroughs shaping the landscape. With year-round access to education, you can continuously adapt to industry changes and position yourself as a knowledgeable and competitive professional.

5

Balance Career, Education, and Life

Professional development shouldn't come at the expense of your current responsibilities. Our flexible enrollment and modular approach allow you to integrate learning into your career progression without disruption. You can take one module at a time or work toward a broader certification at your own pace.



With GMDP Academy's year-round enrollment, you control your learning journey. Explore our academic calendar and find the perfect time to enroll in a module that aligns with your aspirations.

Advance your expertise today—on your terms.

ENHANCING DIGITAL LEARNING FOR HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Challenge: Addressing Health Emergencies with Digital Learning

Health emergencies, including pandemics, natural disasters, and armed conflicts, expose critical weaknesses in medical response systems due to strained resources, inadequate training, and fragmented communication channels between healthcare providers and emergency responders. Digital learning platforms, such as Project ECHO and Health Tech Without Borders, have been instrumental in providing emergency care training. However, without a structured framework to identify high-risk regions in advance, the full potential of digital learning remains underutilized. Discover key strategies for using digital learning to enhance crisis response [4]. Read more [here](#).



ADVANCING CANCER CARE: BREAKTHROUGH THERAPEUTICS AND TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE



Researchers at the University of Washington are pioneering new cancer therapies that not only eliminate cancer cells but also restore healthy tissue—offering new hope for patients. As personalized medicine evolves, the demand for skilled professionals in drug development is rising [5]. **How are these breakthroughs shaping the future of treatment, and what role can you play?**

Discover how the GMDP Academy's Certification in Medicines Development (CMD) program equips professionals with the expertise to drive innovation in drug discovery, clinical trials, and regulatory affairs. [Read more.](#)

MODULE 1 WRAPPED: WHY IT MATTERS NOW MORE THAN EVER

Two weeks after Module 1 wrapped, its lessons are proving more relevant than ever. As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, the topics covered—ranging from patient-centered innovation to AI ethics in drug development—are shaping some of today’s most pressing industry conversations.



PATIENT-CENTERED INNOVATION IN ACTION

Programs like the [FDA’s Patient-Focused Drug Development](#) [6](PFDD) and the growing use of [Patient-Reported Outcome Measures](#) [7] (PROMs) are transforming medicine development, ensuring treatments align with real-world patient needs.

THE URGENCY OF PHARMACOVIGILANCE

With safety concerns around weight-loss drugs and long-term effects of COVID-19 treatments, post-market monitoring is under the spotlight. [The Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee](#) [8] (PRAC) continues to assess emerging safety signals.

CLINICAL TRIAL ETHICS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

As AI-driven drug development accelerates, ethical questions around data integrity, informed consent, and transparency have never been more pressing. Updates to the [Declaration of Helsinki](#) [9] reflect the need to address AI’s growing role in medical research.

GLOBAL MARKET ACCESS CHALLENGES

Recent supply chain disruptions and [drug pricing](#) debates are shaping the future of market access, highlighting the need for professionals who can strategically manage a medicine’s lifecycle from development to patient delivery [10].

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Thanks for reading!

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