

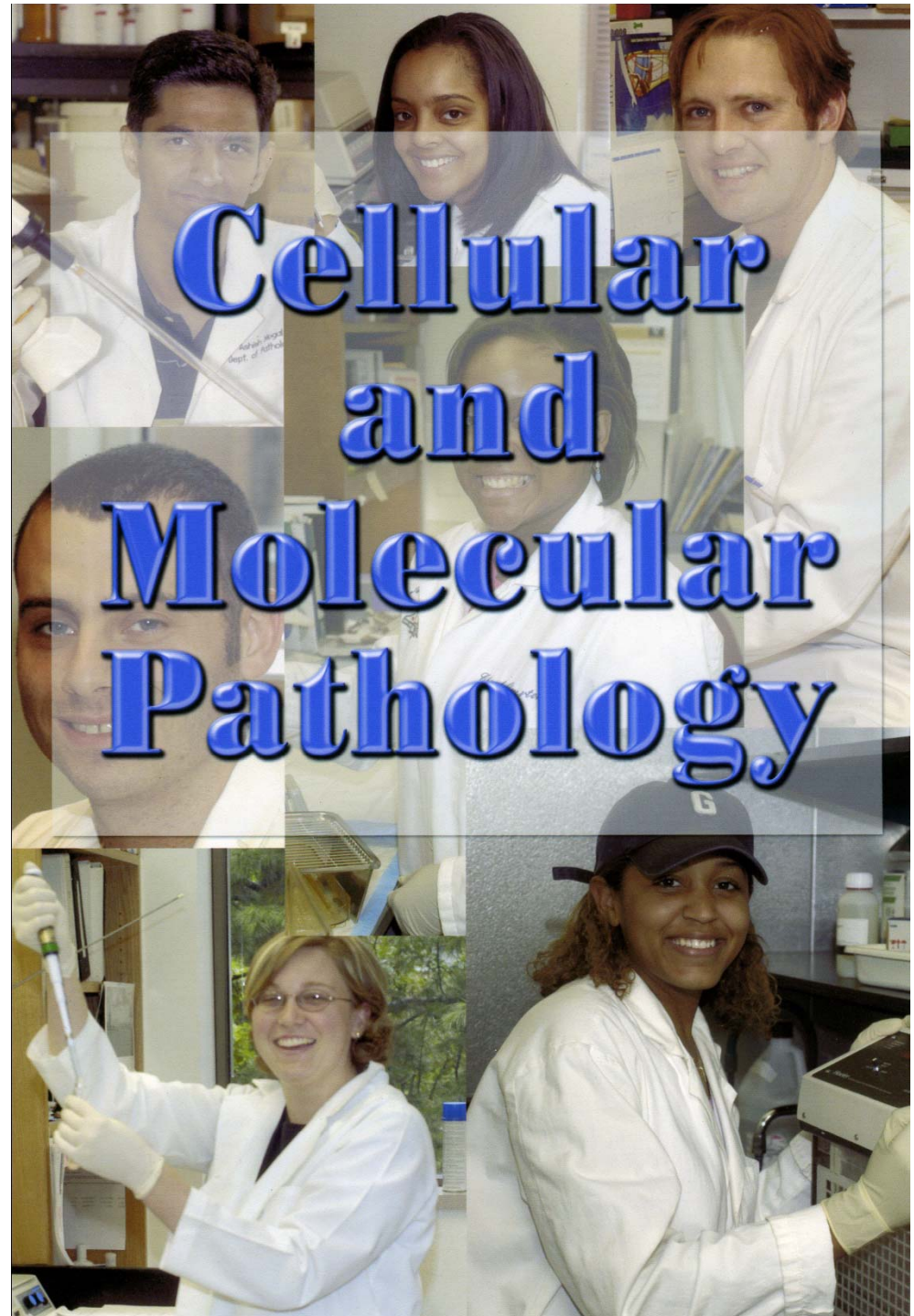
A Day in the Life of a Medical Writer

Chas Bradley, PhD

Senior Medical Writer
Healthways, Inc.

In the beginning...

- Joined Pathology Department
- Dr. Fritz Parl, Principal Investigator
- Studied early protein changes in mammary carcinogenesis



What motivated me to pursue a career in medical writing?

- I became fascinated when I had to prepare...
 - Journal club presentations
 - Abstracts/posters for conferences
 - Required manuscript for graduation
 - DISSERTATION!!!
- Bottom line...I enjoyed the lab work but I LOVED preparing scientific documents.

Next steps...

- Educated myself about the field
 - What types of companies hire medical writers?
 - What type of materials do medical writers write?
- Utilized resources here at Vanderbilt
 - Interviewed medical writer for The Reporter
 - Expressed my interest to Clinical Research Director
- Posted CV/resume onto online job boards

Medical Writing

- Medical writers write, edit, or develop materials about medicine and health.
- Responsible for gathering, organizing, interpreting, and presenting information in a manner appropriate for the target audience.
- Employers and clients include Associations, Contract research organizations, Foundations, Hospitals/Health care systems/Medical centers, Managed care organizations, Medical advertising/communication agencies, Medical education companies, Medical schools, Pharmaceutical companies, Publishers, Universities, Web site developers

Types of Medical Writers

- **PUBLICATIONS/SCIENTIFIC**

- Clinical manuscripts
- Abstracts
- Posters
- Presentations
- Executive summaries
- Patient education
- Grant proposals
- Sales training/marketing
- White papers
- Web content
- Other, e.g. publication planning, gap analyses, literature surveillance

- **REGULATORY**

- Clinical study reports (CSR)
- Study protocols
- Investigator Brochures (IB)
- Investigator New Drug (IND)
- New Drug Application (NDA)

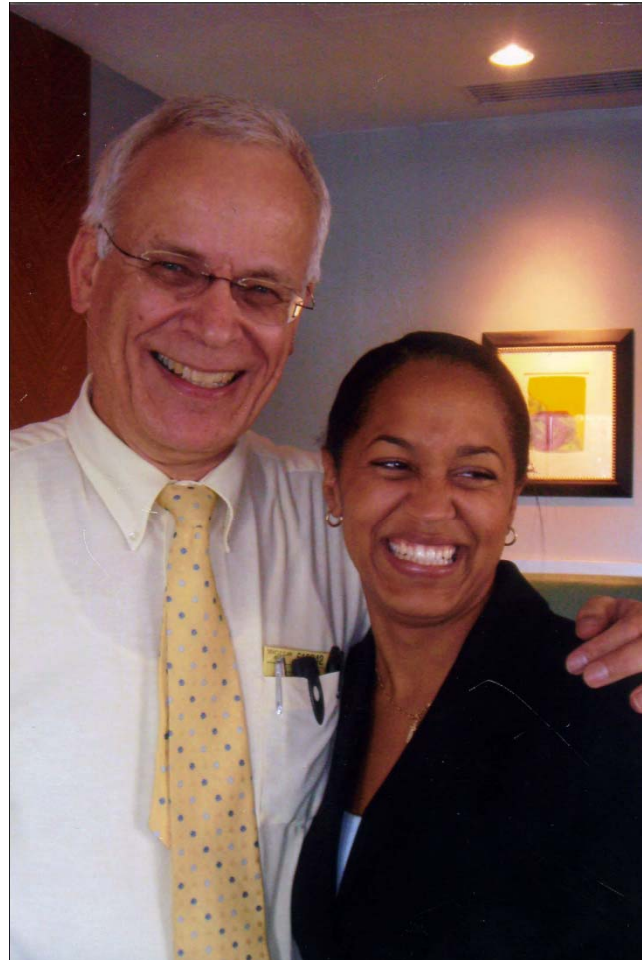
Medical Writing Resources

- American Medical Writers Association (AMWA)
- Start compiling potential writing samples (peer-reviewed publications, Powerpoint presentations, abstracts, posters)
- Post resume on online job boards
- Utilize executive recruiters to help you find positions
- APPLY, APPLY, APPLY
- Network at various career fairs, conferences, symposiums, etc.

Perks of Medical Writing

- Flexible work environments, e.g. work-at-home
- Part-time, contract work is feasible
- Occasional travel
- Huge demand for medical writers
- Work within an interdisciplinary team (statisticians, medical directors, marketing, science)
- Advantage of using your scientific background
- Lucrative career

Defense day...



Salary

- Salary is based on education, experiences, place of work, job description, and other factors.
- Based on 2007 survey conducted by American Medical Writers Association (AMWA), the mean full-time salary for medical writers is \$82,232.
- Annual AMWA medical writer salaries have increased at a rate that outpaces inflation.

Pharmaceutical/Biotech/CRO/Health care affiliations

- Precise Publications, LLC
 - Pfizer, Inc.
 - Genzyme Biosurgery, Inc.
- SRA International, Inc.
- Baxter Healthcare, Inc.
- Healthways, Inc.

Selected Publications

- **Review Articles**

- Brittberg, M. Cell Carriers as the Next Generation of Cell Therapy for Cartilage Repair: A Review of the Matrix-Induced Autologous Chondrocyte (MACI[®]) Procedure. *AJSM*. 2010 Jun;38(6):1259-71.
- Pickar JH. The Endometrium – From Estrogens Alone to TSECs. *Climacteric*. 2009 Dec;12(6):463-77.

- **Primary Articles**

- Pinkerton JV, Utian WH, Constantine GD, Olivier S, Pickar JH. Relief of Vasomotor Symptoms with the Tissue Selective Estrogen Complex (TSEC) Containing Bazedoxifene/Conjugated Estrogens: A Randomized, Controlled Trial. *Menopause*. 2009 Nov-Dec;16(6):1116-24.
- Kagan R, Williams RS, Mirkin S, Pan K, Pickar JH. A Randomized, Placebo- and Active-Controlled Trial of Bazedoxifene/Conjugated Estrogens (BZA/CE) for Treatment of Moderate to Severe Vulvar/Vaginal Atrophy in Postmenopausal Women. *Menopause*. 2010 Mar;17(2):281-9.
- Freeman E, Halbreich U, Grubb G, Rapkin A, Skouby S, Smith L, Mirkin S, Constantine G. An Overview of Four Studies of a Continuous Oral Contraceptive (Levonorgestrel 90 µg/Ethinyl Estradiol 20µg) on Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder and Premenstrual Syndrome. [In preparation]
- Holgate S. A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Phase II Trial Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Etanercept in Patients with Moderate-to-Severe Persistent Asthma. [In preparation]
- Kim, H, Hsu, P, Barba, M, Sulaiman, W, Robertson, D, Vlahos, B, Khandkar, R, Nab, H, Koenig, A. Comparison of Etanercept with Usual Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drug (DMARD) Therapy in an Asian Population: The APPEAL Trial. [In preparation]

Contact Info

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