

## TIBBS Career Blitz - January 2012

### Career Profile of Medical Writer: Sophie Bolick, PhD

#### **What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?**

Medical Writer, almost 1 year

#### **Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?**

University of South Florida, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

#### **Did you do a postdoc?**

NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC

#### **What are your main daily responsibilities?**

Writing various pieces I am assigned (e.g., posters, manuscripts, abstracts, etc)

#### **What are the keys to success in your career field?**

Excellent communication skills (both written and verbal), organization, multi-tasking, detail-oriented

#### **What were the most important factors in choosing your career path?**

I enjoyed writing about the ideas I had for lab projects, more than I liked doing the actual experiments themselves. I knew that whatever career path I chose, it would be one that was writing intensive.

#### **What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?**

Seek out opportunities to write (outside your lab)—it's the only way you will know if this is something you enjoy and are good at. Seek out individuals who write for a living and ask them specifics about their jobs and what advice they might have. Every work environment is different and medical writing is a field with a broad range.