

Career Path for SAS Profession in Pharmaceutical Industry

James Meiliang Yue, Gauss Inc., Queens, New York

Abstract

This paper outlines career path for SAS professional in the pharmaceutical industry.
Provides knowledge and skills preparation guidance in career development

Younger generations entered into the job market used to ask me: I am here after I finished a degree in quantitative field. I had SPSS or R in the course work. I learned SAS and I want to be in the pharmaceutical, bio tech or health care industry. How is the career picture? What is the path for career advancement? What kind of experience should I have?

From the organization perspective, SAS skills are useful in many departments. With a Bachelor's degree, jobs like data management and SAS programming are good start. The position allows you be familiar with the data and structure, access and process data, and make tables, listings and graphics. With advanced degrees in master or Ph.D. in statistics or related field, there are more chances to be selected for statistician roles.

The structure of the career paths for SAS programmer are Analyst, Sr. Analyst, Principal Analyst. After senior level, some become managers, who are responsible for group contributions, then Sr. Manager, Associate director. Statistician all have similar path: Statistician, Sr. Statistician, Principal Statistician. For people management roles, there are Associate Director and Director. The management degree is part arts and part science. Some MBA courses will be helpful. There are VPs with SAS technical background in major companies.

There are exchanges in the programmer and statistician roles depending on how much statistics knowledge or computer science knowledge you have. You might switch the two roles.

In the biotech and pharmaceutical industry, the medical knowledge of treatment is a great advantage. Most discussions of projects are beyond SAS, but on the technical documents: protocols, statistical analysis plan or research plans, data review plan, statistical programming plan, metadata, data collection (CRF). The deeper the subjects you are working on, the better to produce quality and meaningful outputs or discovery. Therefore, the therapeutical areas should be carefully chosen and planned. It is like a doctor with a specialty. Many of our professions have medical science backgrounds.

One character of the medical industry is that it is highly regulated. It is important to have sufficient regulation knowledge, especially if you are in the submission function line. The guidelines from the authority you are dealing with, e.g. FDA, should be reviewed from time to time.

To have an overall view of ongoing clinical trials, www.clinicaltrials.gov is a resourceful website.

Human life and diseases are complex. As long as the studies are not ending, neither is your career.

Note:

SAS and all other SAS Institute Inc. product or service names are registered trademarks or trademarks of SAS institute Inc. in the USA and other countries. Other brand and product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective companies.

Acknowledge and Contact Information:

Author would like to appreciate PharmaSUG and SAS users of previous sponsors Novartis, BMS, Pfizer, Roche, Gauss/Rundo .

James Meiliang Yue

Phone: 347 515 6686

[Email: mly8819@juno.com](mailto:mly8819@juno.com)