



Together, let's IMPACT clinical research

# From PhD to Clinical Project Manager

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BCF Career Event Belgium  
27-Nov-2025

# AGENDA.

- Studies
- Career path
- Current role
- Practical advice for job applications and interviews

# STUDIES.

## **MASTER BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

Ghent University

- Major Neuroscience

## **PhD BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

Ghent University Hospital – Neurology department

- Patients with refractory epilepsy
- Electroencephalography (EEG) and event-related potentials (ERP)
- Biomarker for Vagus Nerve Stimulaton (medical device)

## TRAVEL BREAK.



### TRAVEL BREAK

- 7 months
- Asia & South-America
- CV gap. How to sell this break as skills on a job interview:
  - Planning skills
  - Problem solving skills
  - Flexible to changing environments
  - Not afraid to go outside of your comfort zone
  - Social / communication skills
  - Languages

# FRANCE.



## BINDING SITE .

- 7 months
- In-vitro diagnostics company
- Technical support



## KAYENTIS .

- 2 years
- IT company
- Electronic Data Capture (EDC) = data base of clinical trial
- Project Manager



# BACK TO BELGIUM.

## Conect4children.

- Ghent University
- European project between academic and industry partners
- Clinical Project Manager
- Pediatric clinical trials



## TRIUM clinical consulting .

- Clinical Project Manager
- Medical device trials
- Acquired by QbD



XPER.



## XPER. Research

- Clinical Project Manager
- Oversight of clinical studies with medical devices
- Coordination of trial start-up, conduct and close-out activities
- Monitoring and vendor oversight incl. safety management, data management, statistics, central lab
- Many Teams videocalls
- Planning & Trackers
- Travel for on-site meetings



# JOB APPLICATIONS.

Interviewer: do you have any special skills?

Me : look, a turtle!



## PRACTICAL TIPS.

- Look very broad
- First job doesn't need to be dream job
- You don't need to check all the boxes
- What do you enjoy? What do you find rewarding? From what do you gain energy?
- PhD = work experience
- Several skills acquired during your thesis such as communication, presentation, multidisciplinary team work, planning, project management,...

# JOB INTERVIEWS.

Interviewer: So where do you see yourself in five years?

Me: I'd say my biggest weakness is listening



## TIPS.

- Be authentic and honest
- If you don't have a certain knowledge or skill, you can learn it
- Prepare some questions of what you find important
- See if you have connection
- Majority of job interview questions can be prepared:
  - Short introduction on yourself, education and career path, highlight aspects/skills relevant for the position
  - Explain very well why you are interested to work for the company and specific position
  - Same questions: e.g. strengths & weaknesses, how to deal with stressful situations, how you resolve a conflict: give concrete & personal example (STAR)

# Questions?



Together, let's **IMPACT** clinical research

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