

What do you require for clinical research?



career counselling

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I am 25, pursuing the chartered accountancy programme. After this, I intend to go for cost and works accountancy or company secretarship. I always had a passion for medicine. I have worked in researching an antidote for venoms and biological toxins, using my money. However, I have a non-medical background and not sure of my chances of getting into medicine/ pharmacology in India. Please help.

- Parameshwari Juyal

It is very creditable that you have worked in researching important medicine-related information on your own. It is unfortunate that you were unable to take up the study of medicine. However, it is virtually impossible to get into medicine now, particularly because you have no science background.

Moreover, as you will understand, medical work deals with life and death. Therefore, it is important that those who get into this profession are not only interested in the discipline, but also have the appropriate educational qualifications to be able to study possibly one of the most challenging study programmes.

However, there are many other areas you can work in — particularly if you wish to work in a medical-related field. Clinical research does not require a science background. It involves the testing of various medical formulations on different patients. You will also need to have good communication skills so as to interact with, and gain the confidence of patients and subjects taking part in the trials. Career prospects in the clinical research industry include working as a clinical investigator, or research associate at a hospital conducting clinical investigations or a clinical research organisation. Jobs are also available in the pharmaceutical industry. Many companies, including GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, and Pfizer have dedicated clinical research departments.

Another field is hospital administration. With large companies like Apollo, Max, Fortis, Wockhardt, Tata and several others setting up state-of-the-art hospitals and clinics across the country, there will be an increased requirement for trained professionals for the efficient administration of these facilities.

You may also consider working with NGOs.

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