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Career Perspectives

with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences



Dr. Jan Möller

Doctorate:

Pharmacology, Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, 2020

Current Position:

Senior Medical Manager – Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG

What plans and ideas did you have during your doctorate?

During my PhD, I initially envisioned a long-term academic career. I enjoyed research, publishing, and mentoring students, and I could imagine leading my own research group one day. Over time, however, I became increasingly interested in how scientific insights translate into real-world medical decisions and patient outcomes. That shift in perspective opened the door toward Medical Affairs and ultimately guided my transition into the pharmaceutical industry.

What does your current professional life look like?

My current role combines scientific expertise with strategic cross-functional work. I develop and implement medical strategies for cardiology products, advise marketing, market access, and sales teams, and collaborate closely with global colleagues. A significant part of my work involves interpreting clinical and real-world data, engaging with medical experts, supporting studies, and preparing scientific communications such as publications, advisory boards, and congress activities.

What role do skills gained in your PhD studies play in your current job?

The skills I gained during my PhD are fundamental to my daily work. Critical data analysis, scientific rigor, problem-solving, and the ability to communicate complex concepts clearly are essential in Medical Affairs. My doctoral training also strengthened my resilience, independence, and ability to navigate uncertainty — all of which are invaluable in a fast-moving, cross-functional environment.

What do you enjoy most about your current job?

What I enjoy most is the direct impact my work can have on patient care. I can translate scientific evidence into meaningful strategies, collaborate with leading clinicians, and contribute to shaping therapeutic landscapes. The combination of scientific depth, strategic thinking, and teamwork is highly motivating and makes the role both rewarding and intellectually stimulating.

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