



Celebrating Women in Science

11th February 2023

#February 11

#IDWGS

Innovate. Demonstrate. Elevate. Advance.

As we acknowledge the International Day of Women and Girls in Science today, we would like to share our journeys in the world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science continues to reflect on the gender gap in the STEM industries and the issues of women in these industries.

To encourage other women and girls into STEM subjects, it is important they hear the stories of those who are already working and enjoying these industries. Some people take different paths, as you can see from our team.

Here are the stories from our women in science!

Vanessa
Head of Health Economics and HTA

I started out reading for a degree in Molecular Biology, followed by a PhD in Oncology. I didn't see myself in academia for the long haul, so headed straight to Accenture's pharma practice where I spent 3 years, including coding the MHRA's product licensing & AE reporting systems (turned out I rather liked coding!).

From there, I moved into industry doing in/out-licensing where I started my Excel modelling work, valuing products to support negotiations. Since I was responsible for in-licensing in Europe, I needed to understand what price products were likely to achieve, leading me to develop an interest in Health Technology Assessment & Health Economics. I studied for a PG Cert in International HTA & pricing and reimbursement while on extended maternity leave, and the rest is history!

Abbey
Senior Consultant, Strategic Market Access

I always thought I would work in science but saw myself completing a PhD and moving into academia through a traditional research route. After graduating with my MPhil in Public Health, I worked in academia for a short period before deciding to give a stint in industry a go.

Thanks to a few other women in science, I found that I enjoyed the additional commercial challenges that come as part of a team working in industry, and eventually transitioned onto a path in market access when an opportunity with Cogentia presented itself.

I'm very happy to have joined the company, working alongside many other incredible women on the journey!

Warda
Consultant, Health Economics and HTA

Having studied undergraduate economics, I had a somewhat unconventional route into science. I only discovered what health economics was in the final year of my undergrad degree - pretty good timing as I wasn't sure what jobs to apply for as the financial industry route didn't appeal to me!

After studying some very basic health economics as part of a module in university I knew I wanted to pursue this further and thus applied for an MSc in Health Economics soon after. That led me to where I am today, a very content woman in HEOR.

Jo
Consultant, HTA and Strategic Market Access

After discovering my passion for writing about science and medicine during my PhD, I moved into the pharmaceutical industry to work as a medical writer.

I started in regulatory writing, then moved into medical communications, and now specialize in HTA and market access writing.

Hope
Analyst, Strategic Market Access

Following the completion of my chemistry degree, I worked as a graduate at a pharmaceutical company in the medical device sector. Here I gained an awareness of various disease areas and developed an understanding on the stages of a product's lifecycle which led me to question how life-changing therapies are brought to market.

A career change to market access has provided me with the chance to use my interest in science, work on multiple projects on products in different development stages and meet many talented women along the way.