

# POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

*Scientific Communications and Medical Affairs*

*Offered by ECIR Medical Communications, a Clinical Education Alliance Company*

2024–2026





# ABOUT ECIR MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS

ECIR Medical Communications is a **client-centric agency** committed to providing unparalleled scientific communications solutions and customer service. ECIR Medical Communications is a parent company of two subsidiaries, **Luminology Scientific Communications** and **iLuma Medical Communications**.

In January 2023, **ECIR Medical Communications** was acquired by **Clinical Education Alliance**. CEA is a medical education and data analytics company that is expanding into medical communications.

As part of a larger organization, ECIR Medical Communications has gained several advantages, including growth support from a larger agency with access to capital, enhanced benefits, cross-selling opportunities, capabilities synergies, and new opportunities for its employees. We expect the partnership to only enhance the fellowship experience.



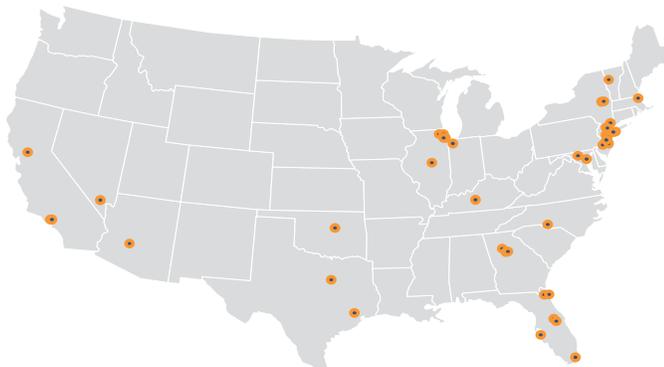
Our leadership is comprised of former pharmaceutical executives, academician and medical communication experts which provides ECIR Medical Communications a 360-degree vantage point to function as an extension of our clients' teams.



With **~2/3** of the ECIR Medical Communications staff having **advanced scientific degrees** and **broad experiences**, we understand the most complex of markets, distilling key differentiators into actionable strategies.



Our core capabilities include **strategic direction, scientific content development, and engagement methodologies** across audiences.



*ECIR Medical Communication is a **fully remote company** with affiliates strategically positioned across the United States.*

**ECIR Medical Communications has retained top talent across the US**



## SELECT CLIENTS

ECIR Medical Communications' post-doctoral fellows will have the opportunity to work closely with our clients to expand their professional network and understanding of the pharmaceutical industry.

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## PURPOSE

This unique **24-month** fellowship provides training and exposure to the various components of **scientific communications and medical affairs**. The program is structured to assist the post-doctoral fellow in acquiring **the skills and experience necessary to excel** compared to other candidates for careers in the pharmaceutical industry. Fellows will engage in activities and environments consistent with those in industry positions such as:

- Medical Science Liaison
- Medical affairs
- Clinical development
- Marketing
- Medical strategy

ECIR Medical Communications' **remote fellowship** exposes the post-doctoral fellows to **cutting-edge virtual capabilities** which are increasingly relevant.



## OVERVIEW

Post-doctoral fellows in the program advance their **clinical knowledge** through the **development of scientific content** targeting multiple clinician types as well as participating in:

- Scientific congresses
- Advisory boards
- Steering committees
- Training meetings
- Other strategic initiatives

Post-doctoral fellows will be able to work closely with clients in the iLuma or Luminology subsidiary as a small team with ample opportunity for mentorship, leadership, and flexibility. The **diverse curriculum** exposes the post-doctoral fellows to a **variety of clients** and projects equipping them with a highly competitive portfolio.





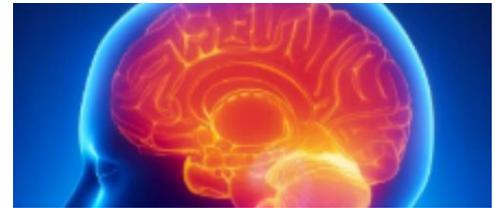
# SELECT THERAPEUTIC AREAS

Post-doctoral fellows will have the opportunity to **build an unparalleled CV** while gaining expertise in a **multitude of capabilities** across various therapeutic areas. Through guidance and involvement in projects with **high impact on healthcare professionals and industry partners**, post-doctoral fellows will develop an **unparalleled professional acumen** for pharmaceutical vocations.

CARDIOLOGY



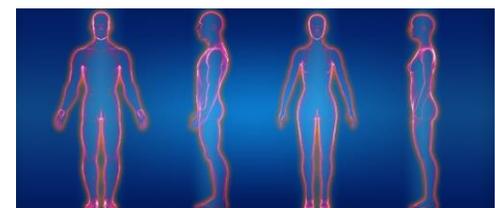
NEUROLOGY



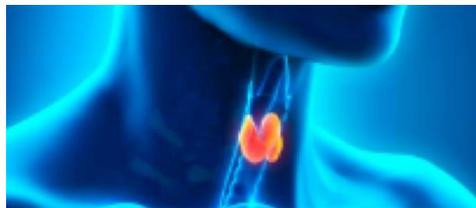
DERMATOLOGY



ONCOLOGY



ENDOCRINOLOGY



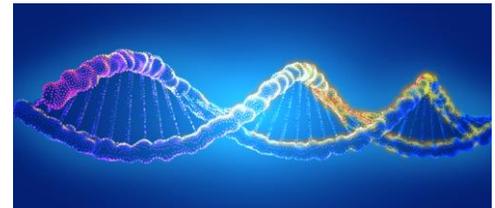
INFECTIOUS DISEASES



GASTROENTEROLOGY



RARE DISEASES



NEPHROLOGY



RESPIRATORY





# ACQUIRED SKILLS

We work with many different pharmaceutical, device and diagnostic companies on a wide variety of project types, ranging from **medical science liaison training** to **commercial/marketing initiatives**. This allows the post-doctoral fellows to develop a unique and differentiated skillset. First year post-doctoral fellows are mentored by the **entire ECIR Medical Communications team**, including senior post-doctoral fellows and alumni with a proven track record of success.

## CURRICULUM

### Year 1 - 2



**Medical Writing and Strategy**



**Presentation and Literature Appraisal Skill Development**



**Advisory Board and Steering Committee Support**



**Business Development Initiatives**



**Medical Affairs Content Development**

*MSL training materials / proactive & reactive slide decks*



**Medical Congress Strategy**



**Medical, Legal, Regulatory Review**

### Year 2



**Project and Personnel Management**

*Management of junior staff, consultants, and interns*



**Marketing and Brand Strategy**



## FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORS

**Dr. Benjamin Epstein**, *Founder and CEO*, **Dr. Ashna Bhatnagar**, *Medical Director*, and **Dr. Adam Brown**, *Associate Medical Director*, oversee the Fellowship Program and post-doctoral fellow's progress. The post-doctoral fellows will be overseen daily by their assigned Medical Directors.



### BENJAMIN EPSTEIN, PharmD

After attending the University of Florida, Dr. Epstein completed a Residency and Fellowship before accepting a position as Assistant Professor in the College of Medicine and Pharmacy. He had opportunities to lecture nationally and internationally and has authored articles published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*, and other prestigious journals. In 2009, ECIR Medical Communications was born under the leadership of Dr. Epstein as CEO. Under his direction, the company has consistently delivered industry-shaping value to companies large and small.



### ASHNA BHATNAGAR, PharmD

After graduating from KGI School of Pharmacy with her PharmD, Dr. Bhatnagar completed the post-doctoral fellowship in medical affairs and scientific communications with ECIR Medical Communications before being promoted to a Scientific Manager then Medical Director. She leads various areas of medical communications including congress strategy, content development, medical education, and medical strategy execution. Ashna is responsible for leveraging scientific acumen and creative strategy in the infectious disease/vaccines, and gastroenterology therapeutic areas. As a co-fellowship director, Ashna ensures the fellows are gaining valuable experiences, fine tuning their communication skills, and getting equipped with the tools needed to be competitive in their future industry careers.



### Adam Brown, PharmD, BCPS, BCCP

Dr. Adam Brown joined ECIR in 2022 after 10 years of acute care clinical practice in the Texas Medical Center, 6 years of which were as a clinical practice faculty member at the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy and UTHealth McGovern Medical School. He also has prior experience as an MSL. He holds a PharmD degree from Texas A&M University and completed a 2-year Pharmacotherapy Residency with the Texas Tech University School of Pharmacy. He is dual board certified in Cardiology (BCCP) and Pharmacotherapy (BCPS) and has instructed both pharmacy and medical trainees in cardiovascular therapeutics, drug literature evaluation, and interprofessional education. As a co-fellowship director, Adam brings extensive value to the program and helps to ensure that the fellows are prepared for a successful future in the industry.

# CURRENT POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

Read what our current post-doctoral fellows have to say about the program.



## SECOND YEAR POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

*"Throughout my journey as a fellow at ECIR, I've witnessed the transformative power of collaboration, mentorship, and professional development. I've had the opportunity to develop and refine skills in the medical affairs field as well as serve as the internship program lead. As I look ahead, I am eager to continue growing alongside my teammates as we continue to pave the way for our future career."*

**TIFFANY LIN**  
PharmD



*"ECIR is an excellent place to build the professional and communication skills necessary to function in medical affairs and scientific communications. Fellows work closely with their preceptors and teams in order to provide tailored services to their clients thereby allowing them to gain unique insights into the agency-side of the pharmaceutical industry."*

**MAXIMILIAN VITAS**  
PharmD



## FIRST YEAR POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

*"My continuing journey as a fellow at ECIR Medical Communications has been a transformative experience. I have honed skills in crafting compelling medical content and conveying complex concepts. The mentorship I've received and the exposure to impactful medical advancements have equipped me with valuable tools for success in the field of medical communications."*

**YELENA SAHAKIAN**  
PharmD, BCPS



*"ECIR's fellowship program offers a unique and exciting opportunity to learn about medical affairs through the world of agency. Each day I am presented with new opportunities that help advance my skillset and I am truly honored to be learning from such a great team!"*

**Namra Malek**  
PharmD



*"ECIR provides fellows the opportunity to gain experience across a variety of therapeutic areas. Since the start, I have been able to work on business impactful projects, contribute to business strategy, and become an integral part of the team."*

**Kathryn Lamas**  
PharmD, MBA



*"I am so grateful to be a part of this dynamic and zealous team and fellowship program! From Day 1, I have felt like a valued member of ECIR. This fellowship program offers an extensive range of learning opportunities, while also personalizing the experience to my own interests and goals."*

**Akina Nana**  
PharmD



*"I am still impressed every day by the many opportunities the ECIR fellowship presents to me. Working with a variety of large and small pharmaceutical companies allots me experiences and networking that can't be found in other fellowships."*

**Logan Langley**  
PharmD





## KEY DATES

SEP05



WEBINAR  
8:00 PM EST

SEP11



ROLLING  
ADMISSIONS  
BEGIN

SEP28



WEBINAR  
8:00 PM EST

OCT31



APPLICATION  
DEADLINE

NOV



OFFER  
LETTERS

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Four post-doctoral fellows will be selected on a nationally competitive basis. Candidates must have completed a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE-accredited institution before July 1 of the fellowship term.

### INTERVIEW PROCESS

Interviews will be conducted via rolling admission **beginning September 11**. Please note that ECIR Medical Communications will not be attending ASHP Midyear in 2023.

If you are interested in the fellowship and would like to be considered for an interview, **please fill out the application** complete with **your CV, letter of intent, unofficial transcripts, and, optionally, any previous work samples** using this [link](#). Additionally, **two letters of recommendation** may be sent upon request **after the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of interviews**.

### WEBINAR

An informational webinar and Q&A will be held on **September 5** and **September 28** at 8-9 PM EST. Only eligible candidates (i.e., graduating in 2024 or already graduated) for the 2024-2026 fellowship recruitment cycle should register for the webinar. To attend the webinar, please sign up using this [link](#). Webinar login information will be sent to those who sign up, or you may email us at [recruitment@ecirmed.com](mailto:recruitment@ecirmed.com) for more information.

*\*\*Please allow 15 minutes to download Microsoft Teams if necessary\*\**

## CONTACT



For questions regarding ECIR Medical Communications, the fellowship, or the application process, please contact the current first year post-doctoral fellows at: [recruitment@ecirmed.com](mailto:recruitment@ecirmed.com)

### FIRST YEAR POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS:

- Kathryn Lamas, PharmD, MBA
- Logan Langley, PharmD
- Namra Malek, PharmD
- Akina Nana, PharmD
- Yelena Sahakian, PharmD, BCPS



# FELLOWS CORNER

The skillset and professional network our post-doctoral fellows develop propels them into the career of their choice. The following is a list of positions offered to recent program graduates with 100% graduate placement.

## **Associate Medical Director**

*ECIR Medical Communications*

## **Pharmacovigilance Specialist**

*Novartis*

## **Product Manager, Marketing**

*Genentech*

## **Medical Science Liaison**

*AbbVie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen, Merck, Novartis*

## **Commercial Development**

*Genentech*

## **Pharmacy Quality Improvement**

*Duke University*

## **Global Strategy Lead: Congresses and Medical Education**

*Pfizer*

## **Medical Affairs Training Professional**

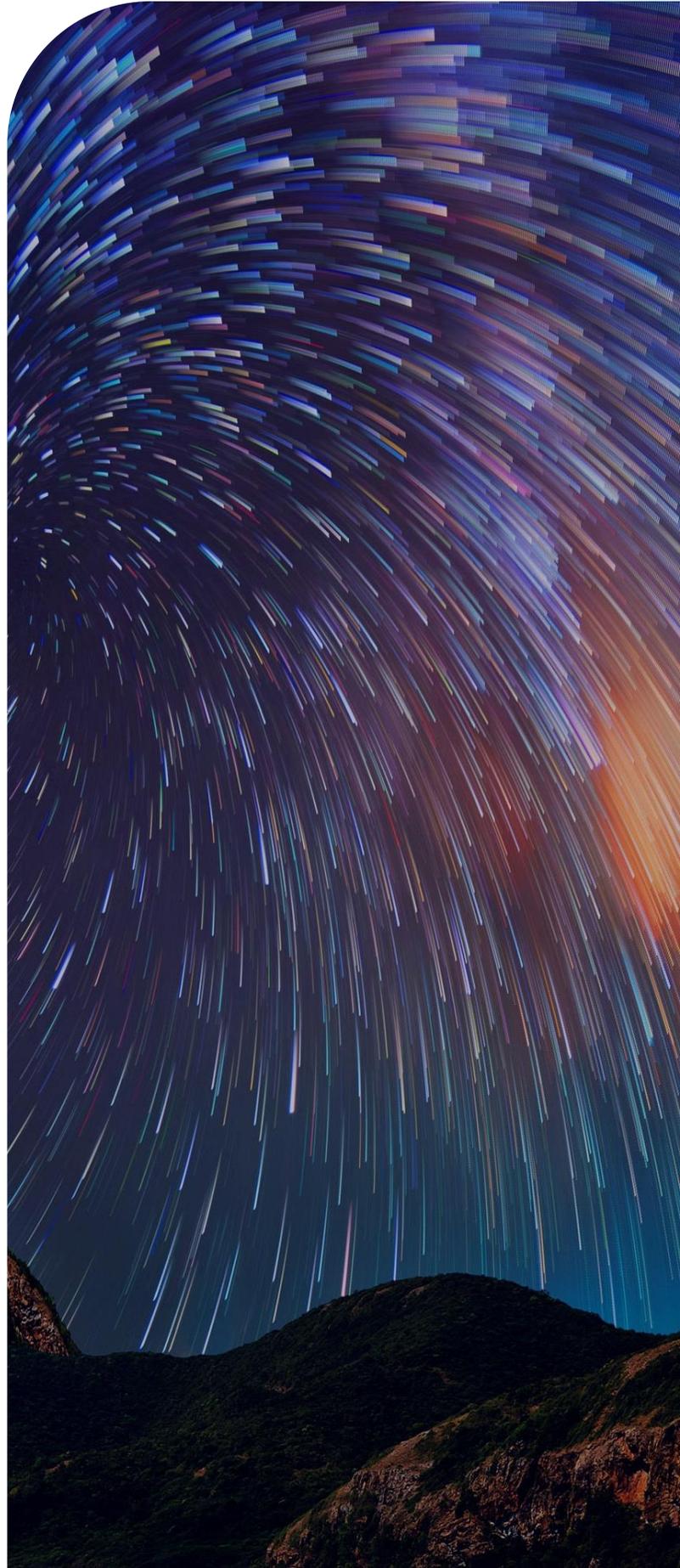
*Horizon Therapeutics*

## **Associate Director of Medical Affairs**

*Regeneron*

## **Senior Manager of Global Medical Affairs**

*Otsuka Pharmaceuticals*





“ I am confident that being accepted into the ECIR Medical Communications fellowship program will always be the most pivotal moment of my professional career. From the moment I began my fellowship, I was granted extensive autonomy over my work but was still given the appropriate amount of guidance by experienced team members when necessary. From day one, I felt like an integral team member and within my first month, I was trusted to travel with my team to conduct an in-person commercial strategy meeting. My foremost requirement for a prospective fellowship program was that I would be afforded experiences in a wide variety of projects and topics. ECIR Medical Communications ensured this goal was met, and within one year I found myself traveling to four congresses, developing executive summaries for 12 advisory boards, driving content for several MSL training decks, and a slew of other activities. Due to the immense number of projects I was allowed to lead, I can confidently attest that two years of experience as a fellow fluently translated to several additional years of applicable experience on my CV. I am immensely grateful for my time at ECIR and for the enduring friendships I made during my time as a fellow.

ALEXANDRIA HENRY, PharmD  
Sr. Manager, Global Medical Affairs, Otsuka

“ Looking back, joining ECIR was easily the best decision I could have made for myself, both personally and professionally. The fellowship awarded me the flexibility to expand my therapeutic knowledge while taking immediate ownership of impactful projects. My success within the role was directly attributable to the mentorship I received from some of the most amazing experts in this field. As evidenced by the impressive list of career paths taken by previous fellows, I am confident that this program is the perfect first step for any role within pharmaceutical industry. Without hesitation, I would recommend the ECIR fellowship to every highly-motivated student who understands that hard work never goes unnoticed.

KEVIN MAHAR, PharmD  
Associate Medical Director, ECIR Medical Communications

“ I loved being a fellow at ECIR for a number of reasons, most notably because I truly felt like I was part of a collaborative team from day 1. My contributions were valued, and I was given autonomy, yet my fellowship directors were always available to support and guide me. This built in me the confidence to take ownership of meaningful projects, verbalize new solutions or ideas, and interface directly with clients on a daily basis. The fellowship afforded me the opportunity to work with different pharmaceutical companies, across multiple disease states, and in various sectors of pharma. This “trifecta” of experience made me an extremely marketable candidate for my current role as Global Strategy Lead – Congresses and Medical Education at Pfizer, where I work cross-functionally to develop and execute medical strategy across our portfolio. I definitely owe my success at Pfizer to my experiences and time spent at ECIR under such amazing leadership.

CASSIE BOZEMAN, PharmD  
Etrasimod Global Strategy Lead – Congresses and Medical Education,  
Pfizer