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Career Perspectives

with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences



**Dr. rer. nat. Christine
Beuschel-Dang**

Doctorate:

Neurogenetics, Institute of Biology, Freie Universität Berlin, 2022

Current Position:

Medical Science Liaison Manager (MSL) in the field neurology;
Sanofi-Aventis Deutschland GmbH

What does your current professional life look like?

An MSL is like the bridge to the experts in the country. My job is to stay in contact with the key opinion leaders in a particular medical field with the focus on neurology and Multiple Sclerosis. It is like an exchange of information about what is needed in a field, and what new information I can offer from research. Thereby, MSL is part of the research and development of a company, more exactly in the section Medical Affairs. My days can look quite various. I have a home office-based position with a lot of travelling through Germany, and especially in my region. Thus, some days are at the laptop, some travelling with train or car. Overall, I can work very independently and self-determined.

How did you find your current job?

I heard about the tasks of an MSL from a friend and found it quite exciting. You are working in science but also in industry, and at the same time you are not a salesperson. Another friend put me in touch with someone at Sanofi. Coincidentally, they told me that they were currently expanding and looking for people. Then, I applied as soon as the job went online on the Sanofi careers portal.

What are you currently working on?

There are several substances in the pipeline of neurology in phase 3 and before the launch. Thus, there is a lot to do. I inform doctors directly about the research and possible new mechanisms of action, or I'm organizing events where Multiple Sclerosis and other neurological diseases are discussed. Additionally, I'm supporting our Clinical Study department in their communication to the study centres. Plus several other little things.

What was the biggest challenge in starting a new job after your PhD studies?

The biggest challenge was preparing the application documents: The way of speaking and the focus of university science is very different from industry. You first must "translate" your own skills and your experiences for your CV and application letter. Also, the wording of human resources is important. A little change of words can change the whole meaning of a recommendation letter.