



Nerissa C. Kreher, MD, MBA
Chief Medical Officer, Entrada Therapeutics

**Career Pathways for
Pediatric Endocrine Fellows**
January 14, 2022



PedsENDO365 PART 2: Career Pathways for Pediatric Endocrine Fellows

What is your current role?

How did you prepare for the job you hold? (educational background: PhD, MPH etc):

Chief Medical Officer, Entrada Therapeutics

- Responsible for Clinical Development, Medical Affairs, Regulatory and Patient Advocacy Relations
- When I started in biotech/pharma I had my MD and Masters, Clinical Research (that I attained during fellowship through a T32 NIH grant)
- Received my MBA during my career (a biopharma company paid my tuition)

How did you get to where you are - during and after fellowship what role did you start at, how did it progress?

What other skill sets are important?

- 15 years in biopharma now – Started as Medical Director, Medical Affairs
- Moved into Clinical Development, promotions (Sr. Director, Exec Director, VP, then to CMO – 6th year as a CMO)
- Moved from larger companies into smaller, private companies and gained experience “taking companies public”
- Leadership skills and cross-functional team work are critical!



PedsENDO365 PART 2: Career Pathways for Pediatric Endocrine Fellows

How did you end up in that job/role?

- NETWORK!
- Being honest with self about what I did and did not want from my career (I knew I wanted to do Clinical Research, not clinical practice)

Who inspired you?

- Barbara Lippe was the only ped endo I knew working in biopharma (Full Professor at UCLA previously)

What did you have to accomplish to get what you wanted?

- Accepting the unknown
- Believing in my ability to learn and adapt

What do you wish you knew about the position or office before you took the job?

- SO MUCH! That is was even an option!
- Intellectual stimulation that is involved day-to-day (“forever learner”)



PedsENDO365 PART 2: Career Pathways for Pediatric Endocrine Fellows

What additional training or school work do you wish you had done to better prepare you for your career path?

- Don't have anything specific – lots of learning on the job throughout my career

How many and what types of individuals work in your unit?

- 100 person company, 4 direct reports, 5 team members
- Statisticians, clinical operations, other MD/PhD Medical Directors, Drug/Patient Safety, Regulatory, Non-clinical (tox, pharmacology, DMPK), CMC

Challenges along the way or now?

- Different environment than clinic – MD has a different role – get used to not being final decision maker

Who do you report to?

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



PedsENDO365 PART 2: Career Pathways for Pediatric Endocrine Fellows

What additional training or school work do you wish you had done to better prepare you for your career path?

- Don't have anything specific – lots of learning on the job throughout my career

How many and what types of individuals work in your unit?

- 100 person company, 4 direct reports, 5 team members
- Statisticians, clinical operations, other MD/PhD Medical Directors, Drug/Patient Safety, Regulatory, Non-clinical (tox, pharmacology, DMPK), CMC

Challenges along the way or now?

- Different environment than clinic – MD has a different role – get used to not being final decision maker

Who do you report to?

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



How do you spend your time?

- Cross-functional meetings, thinking about clinical development strategy (trial endpoints, safety, etc)
- Presenting to investors
- Travel to congresses, conferences, regulatory mtgs

What are the misconceptions, if any, the average fellow has about your career path?

- It's NOT the "dark side"!
- We need MDs/DOs in pharma/biotech to help develop medications to help patients
- Research experience is not an absolute requirement to get a job in biopharma

What advice do you have for a fellow who is considering this career path?

- NETWORK! Talk to people that work in biopharma (MSLs, etc)
- Be curious
- Learn to use LinkedIn