



Virtual workforce: A force to reckon with!

The last 2.5 years have been challenging and unprecedented for all of us at various levels. As things slowly return to a semblance of normality, including return to work in the office for many people, I think it is a good time to evaluate the good and the not-so-good of working remotely (which includes, but is not limited to, work from home [WFH]).

Surveys on working from home

Tim Hardman, Catherine Lee, Peter Llewellyn, and Steven Walker present the results from their second survey on working from home, conducted midway through the pandemic. The first survey was published in Volume 30, Issue 1 (March 2021, Social

GUEST EDITORS



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Media) of *Medical Writing*. They raise the important issue of workplace health and safety requirements in case of hybrid working or WFH.

The second article is from **Daniela Kamir, Natalie Gavrielov, and Cheryl Berkowitz** who present the results of a WFH survey among the medical writers at their company, Bioforum, and share the positives of WFH.

Remote working - experience and views

Alejandra Gonzalez Diaz and her co-writers, the medical writing team at P95, share their experience of working as a team across oceans in different time zones in a company that functions fully remotely.

Katharina Friedrich shares her experience of being an employee as well as freelancer, working remotely during the pandemic, and how she coped with the loneliness of working alone.

Wendy Hartig-Merkel discusses how the pandemic acted as a catalyst for digitalisation in Germany and remote working became a reality in that country.



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Remote working done right

Working remotely requires an infrastructure set up that compliments the work and allows for seamless productivity. **Alison Kirsop and Peter Kirsop** share their experience of optimising IT services at home and how to keep the IT gremlins away!

Effective communication is a pillar of any business and perhaps is more pertinent when we work remotely. **Tiago Silva and colleagues from Trilogy Writing and Consulting** share good practices for remote meetings, including meetings with regulatory authorities.

If working remotely requires adjustments, leading a team remotely calls for ingenuity. **Shima Shaikh, Sapna Chhabra, and Ashwini Somayaji** – all managers of medical writing teams – share their knowledge on leading teams virtually and on maintaining effective employee engagement.

An interesting article from **Bilal Bham and Lesley Taylor** is up next where they tell us how they went about setting up a medical writing business and how they built up their companies remotely.

Finally, we conclude the feature articles with one from **Ana Fernandes and Laura Tobias Prezado** on the do's and don'ts of remote work for both employees and employers.

As we get back to offices at some places, hybrid working and remote working are here to stay. Perhaps we'll develop clarity in the coming months on policies that keep employee engagement intact and provide a safe and healthy remote working environment.

I would like to thank the authors for their contributions. I hope you all enjoy the various perspectives on remote working shared by medical writers from across the globe. Happy reading!



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About the Guest Editor

Archana Nagarajan, PhD, has been a medical writer and consultant for almost 4 years. She has an extensive scientific research background and experience in writing medical communications and regulatory documents. She is also a supporting member of EMWA's sustainability SIG.