**First impressions by a new graduate entering regulatory affairs**

1. What is regulatory affairs (RA) and how did you get involved?

Hi there. My name is Ian Abernathy. I've been working at ESPL regulatory consultancy for about a year now. Reg. affairs is a business which helps anyone from big pharma to small startups or universities get their drug or their device on the market. We help with strategies. We help with clinical and non-clinical writing as well as the trials that come along with those, and we help with getting all legislation in order for it to be sold in a country.

I study(ied) medicinal chemistry at Glasgow University and while I was there I worked part time for ESPL just mainly doing admin stuff but I realized this is actually a job where I could use my degree in and I asked whether they had a graduate scheme open at which point in the summer of 2018 I decided that this is a career path I was gonna follow it and I have really really enjoyed it ever since.

1. What interests you about regulatory affairs?

I think the thing that interested me most about working on regulatory affairs, it's just the pure breath. Not only do you work on devices but you work with medicines as well. You work in a variety of different sectors, and a variety of different products, doing a variety of different tasks. So you're always doing something new. I remember when I did my interview that my team leader said to me, he said “I've been working this job for 18 years now I'm still coming across things that are new” and that really excites me – you’re doing a job that you're never gonna get bored in.

Another thing is just being on the cutting edge of science. There are novel ideas, novel technologies and things that I've been taught at University, are just getting proven wrong all the time and being on the forefront of science being in that incredible environment is something that I don't really want to leave anytime soon. You also meet some really interesting people you meet experts in their field and there are so many learning opportunities.

1. What would you say to prospective students?

I think the first thing that I would say to a student who might be interested in reg Affairs is that there is a career path out there for you. I always thought studying chemistry that I would have to work in a lab, and that's just not true. There are grad schemes out there in device development, in clinical trials and reg affairs as well. So there's always an opportunity to work in this space.

There are so many benefits working in this space. There's the flexible hours, the close-knit community that we're in, whether it’s between companies or within your own company and the being on the cutting edge as I said earlier is is amazing always learning something new and having all these learning opportunities. They are looking for people that are hardworking ,that have the ability to adapt, that are progressive and innovative but if you're not being challenged then your job is going to be boring so I think this is a really really fun and interesting job.

1. What interests you in the device space?

There's such a wide variety of devices in the device space. Everyone always seems to think of EpiPens or asthma inhalers as medical devices, whereas there's so much more than that. There are projects such as biofilms, which go over wounds which help in a physical mode of action; there are creams, even condoms are medical devices. And then with our society growing in technological advances things like software and AI can now be used in a clinical environment and all these things will pose some really interesting and challenging questions that we'll have to answer. So I think this makes a super exciting time to be in reg affairs.

**First impressions by a new graduate entering regulatory affairs**

How would you answer these questions?

1. What is regulatory affairs (RA) and how did you get involved?
   1. How long has he been at ESPL?
   2. What does ESPL do?
   3. How did Ian get a job at ESPL? What were the steps?
2. What interests you about regulatory affairs?
   1. What two main ideas does Ian develop?
3. What would you say to prospective students (interested in getting into RA)?
   1. What are the different possibilities?
   2. What are the benefits of working in this area? Name at least 3
   3. What qualities should you have to work in this area?
4. What interests you in the device space?
   1. What do people usually think of as devices?
   2. What are interesting, innovate projects in this area?

Now listen to the video. How does he answer the questions?