
Peter Slezák: Expert in Clinical research

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Foto: private

Peter Slezák
Premier Research, s.r.o.
Large enterprise (50 - 99 employees)
Sector: Clinical research
Position: biostatistical programmer

I worked at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, at the Institute of Normal and Pathological Physiology. I carried out my doctoral studies at the Faculty of Medicine of the Comenius University in Bratislava, specializing in normal and pathological physiology. I worked in basic research in the field of the cardiovascular system, specifically the effect of stress on vascular reactivity. I worked with an animal model of spontaneously hypertensive rats, we used a social crowding stress as a stress model, and we measured a vascular reactivity using a wire myograph.

I switched to the commercial sphere after receiving a job offer in the field of clinical research that I was interested in, so I sent my CV. It was a CRO (contract research organization) position biostatistical programmer. As a biostatistical programmer I am responsible for the production of project-related datasets, tables, listings, and figures (TLFs), performing biostatistical programming quality control (source code review,

double-programming and log review) and validation to support global Biostatistics projects. This work includes development and validation of software programs, macros, and utility tools. The Biostatistical Programmer also prepares specifications for data set analysis, respects and maintains the confidentiality of the processed material and ensures adhering to any regulations concerning security or confidentiality (such as the safeguarding of passwords).

From a professional point of view, I was relatively well prepared for the position, and so the barriers at the beginning were minimal.

After a while in application sphere, an employee having a PhD title is expected to move on to the managerial positions, which are associated with a higher need for soft skills that had been abandoned during the PhD studies. These are mainly team leadership, project management, conflict resolution, time management, communication/argumentation skills, etc.