In science communication and publishing, you will help explain science to others. Many communications careers involve scientific writing in the form of journal articles, popular press articles, press releases and case study documentation. Writing can vary from highly technical descriptions for physicians to big picture concepts for the general public. Moreover, science communication involves other forms of media such as illustration and animation.

Alumni Spotlight

What did you do as a trainee to prepare for your current career?
While many aspects of training were important to build a strong scientific background, the one aspect that is useful every day in editorial is having developed the ability to understand and evaluate research papers.

What are the typical things your job entails each day?
Running a journal involves everything from commissioning new articles, managing the review process for articles, providing input on new manuscripts, discussing new ideas with fellow editors and the journal’s editorial board, selecting cover art and articles to press release or highlight on the website/social media. Editors also involved in other scientific exchange projects such as organizing symposia, hosting webinars, etc.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?
I enjoy constantly thinking about new advances in the field, and I also enjoy the interactions with scientists, be it as authors, reviewers or advisors. I find most rewarding the ability to highlight interesting science to the community, and to help bring new ideas to the discussion.

Interview courtesy of the University of Chicago.
Sample Job Titles

- Communications manager/officer/director
- Public relations manager/officer/director
- Media director
- Press officer
- Science/medical/technical writer
- Editor/journal editor
- Copy editor
- Publisher
- Journalist
- Broadcaster
- Filmmaker
- Scientific animator/illustrator

Professional Organizations

American Medical Writers Association (AMWA)
http://www.amwa.org

Association of Medical Illustrators (AMI)
http://ami.org

National Association of Science Writers (NASW)
http://www.nasw.org

Society for Technical Communication
http://www.stc.org