



## LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVES

### TRANSITIONING INTO MEDICAL AFFAIRS



JOHN PRACYK, MD, PHD, MBA

In the Perspectives series, MAPS Americas Region President, **John Pracyk, MD, PhD, MBA** speaks with leaders from Johnson & Johnson (J&J), where John is Integrated Leader, Preclinical & Clinical Research and Medical Affairs at DePuy Synthes Spine (a J&J company). Rather than publishing each interview separately, John has chosen to organize these interviews by topic, distilling the opinions of J&J thought leaders to demonstrate consensus or offer distinct viewpoints on issues of importance for the practice of Medical Affairs.

This first article in the series asks a logical first question: How did these leaders make their way to Medical Affairs? The routes into Medical Affairs are as diverse as the professionals that it attracts, with many arriving to the function from different settings including academia, strategic consulting firms, integrated delivery networks, and real-world clinical practice, and representing a variety of disciplines including pharmacists, PhDs, physicians, surgeons, nurses, researchers, and health economists, among others.

Here John has collected answers from a handful of top J&J leaders, describing their own unique paths into Medical Affairs.

**Question: What is your personal background prior to Medical Affairs and how did you transition to a nonclinical career?**





## Jennifer Davidson, DO

Vice President, Medical Affairs, Cardiovascular, Metabolism, & Retina, Janssen, J&J

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

Oklahoma State University, BS Biology

University of Health Science, College of Osteopathic Medicine, DO

I have been in pharmaceuticals for ~15 years and started my career as a Medical Science Liaison (MSL) for a small pharma company, then progressed to building MSL teams for multiple therapeutic areas at Shionogi.

I then moved in-house with Shionogi as a Medical Director covering various therapeutic areas including the opportunity to launch an orphan drug.

After several years, I transitioned to a Clinical Development Leader role within R&D.

These roles at small pharma companies allowed me to gain significant hands on experience across all functions prior to transitioning to Janssen.

About 6 years ago, I moved to Janssen, starting in the US Medical Affairs organization bringing all my learnings from previous roles across Medical Affairs and R&D.

My prior roles helped as I came to a large company already understanding all the different functional areas and critical partnerships, which has been instrumental to my success here at J&J.

Currently, I am the VP of Global Medical Affairs for our Cardiovascular, Metabolism and Retina Therapeutic Areas.





## Paul Burton, MD, PhD

Vice President, Chief Global Medical Affairs Officer, Janssen, J&J

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

Kings College London, BSc Physiology

United Medical and Dental Schools of Guys & St. Thomas Hospitals, MD

Imperial College London, PhD

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, MRCS

As a UK trained surgeon, I always wanted to be a cardiac surgeon.

My early education was physiology, and then clinical surgery, but then I pursued a PhD and loved doing research. I thought, if you are going to leave a legacy, then it will be through research.

However, I realized that there was another way; namely, to join the biopharmaceutical industry.

My wife and I came to the US, and I joined a biotech company that was then acquired by Amgen.

I then moved to another small company (Millennium) and then came to J&J in 2005, so I've been here about 15 years, in roles of increasing responsibility (Medical Director, Sr. Medical Director, and now Vice President).

I've had roles in R&D, operations, global clinical operations and then transitioned into Medical Affairs seven years ago.

I began in the US cardiovascular therapeutic area and then added metabolic disease to my remit.

Today, I am VP and Chief Global Medical Affairs Officer for Janssen Pharmaceuticals.





## Husseini Manji, MD, FRCPC

Global Head, Science for Minds, J&J

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

The University of British Columbia, BS, Biochemistry

The University of British Columbia, MD

Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada, FRCPC

Chief, Laboratory of Molecular Pathophysiology & Experimental Therapeutics,  
National Institutes of Health

Director, Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program, National Institutes of Mental  
Health (NIMH), National Institutes of Health

At the NIH, my objective was to understand diseases at the basic cellular molecular level to come up with improved therapeutics for both neurological diseases as well as behavioral health diseases (psychiatric conditions).

We had 18 different sub declarations at the NIH that worked together in trying to understand the human condition to bring the insights to the lab.

To really make a difference for humanity, you must come up with novel treatments. That is the only way you can really impact millions of people, which started me thinking about my own transition.





## Avery Ince, MD, PhD

Vice President, Medical Affairs, Cardiovascular & Metabolism, Janssen, J&J

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

Brown University, BA, Biomedical Engineering

University of Illinois, MD, PhD, Medicine, Cell & Structural Biology

Internal Medicine Residency, Massachusetts General Hospital

Clinical Research Fellow in Endocrinology, Massachusetts General Hospital

I started with my internal medicine residency and then endocrine fellowship at Mass General Hospital with a focus on osteoporosis.

I transitioned from the endocrine fellowship and went straight into industry, going immediately overseas to China, running both Pharmacovigilance and Medical Affairs for Merck, China.

China quickly exposed me to a variety of broad experiences.

I then ran clinical development and Medical Affairs for Janssen, being based in Beijing for 6 years before transitioning back to the United States.





## Rajesh Mishra, MD, PhD

Vice President, Global Medical & Clinical Sciences, Consumer Health, J&J

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

University of Pune, MS, MD, Master of Surgery, Doctor of Medicine

Southern Illinois University, PhD, Pharmacology

Washington University, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Neurology &  
Cerebrovascular Pharmacology

University of Michigan, Vascular Surgery Research Fellowship

University of Pennsylvania – The Wharton School, Advanced  
Management Program

I trained as a general and vascular surgeon, and then had further training in head and neck cancer surgery.

After completing my PhD in Pharmacology, I started off in the biotech sector with cardiovascular drug development.

I've been in the consumer sector now for the last 15 years across three companies.

I started with Neil pharmaceuticals leading global OTC (over the counter) Medical Affairs in the J&J consumer business.

I then transitioned to a couple of different roles, including some franchise R&D VP roles in smoking cessation and weight control at GSK.

I then moved to Merck Consumer Care as their VP of Medical Affairs & Clinical Research.

I transitioned to J&J Consumer Health nearly 7 years ago in a variety of VP roles to now lead Medical & Clinical Sciences.





## Rajesh Rajpal, MD

VP, Chief Medical Officer, Global Head of Clinical & Medical Affairs, Vision, J&J

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

Virginia Commonwealth University, MD, Doctor of Medicine

The George Washington University, Internal Medicine Internship

Virginia Commonwealth University, Ophthalmology Residency

Wills Eye Hospital, Corneal Fellowship

I am a practicing Ophthalmologist in the Washington DC suburbs. I specialize in corneal cataract and refractive surgery. Initially, I started my group, and at that time refractive laser surgery, LASIK and PRK, was just beginning.

I became a principal investigator for a technology that was a drug and device combination.

Five years ago, I joined that company as their Chief Medical Officer.

That company ultimately went public. We were then acquired, and over the last year, I transitioned with that company and helped them with the integration.

I started having discussions and then joined J&J Vision about ten months ago. So, I've had the opportunity to balance my experience in Medical Clinical Affairs within the vision platform. However, I still practice Ophthalmology one day a week.





## Tony Hong, MBA

VP, Integrated Leader, Preclinical & Clinical Research and Medical Affairs, Cardiovascular & Specialty Solutions, J&J

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

Boston University, BS

University of California, Anderson School of Management, MBA

I began my career working in pharmaceutical clinical research, working in that sector for about 19 years before transitioning to medical devices.

I've been in medical devices now for 10 years, starting off with Biosense Webster's regulatory, health economics and biostatistics functions.

I transitioned as VP of Clinical Research and now am the Integrated Leader, Preclinical and Clinical Research and Medical Affairs for Cardiovascular and Specialty Solutions, which includes Biosense Webster, Accelerant, and Mentor.





## Richard Nettles, MD

VP, US Medical Affairs, Virology, Janssen, J&J

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

Duke University, Internal Medicine Residency

Johns Hopkins University, Infectious Disease Fellowship

While at Hopkins, I had a formative experience as I was caring for people living with HIV in inner city Baltimore.

My first role was in Research and Development at Bristol Myers Squibb where we were developing drugs for HIV, Hepatitis C and Hepatitis B.

I spent six years in that role in both in early clinical development as well as late stage clinical development.

Now, I am the Vice President of US Medical Affairs, Virology, Janssen.





## Mark Wildgust, PhD

VP, Global Medical Affairs, Oncology, Janssen, J&J

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

University of Plymouth, BSc (Hons), Biological Sciences

University of Manchester, PhD, Trace Metal Toxicology

University of Maryland, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Degradable Biocides

As a toxicologist, I liked the academic side of science, but in between my PhD and postdoctoral fellowship, I became a freelance medical writer which helped considerably.

Freelance medical writing is where I found my love of telling the story, especially taking the science, and figuring out how to communicate it so all could understand it intuitively.

I joined J&J working in the medical writing department and the medical education department.

Now, I am in the oncology space and it really allows me to focus on the patient and then take that data and tell the story.

I've spent the last 20 years doing lots of different things, such as helping J&J bring a couple of HIV drugs to market.

I spent the first 10 years of my career on the US side, and now I have spent the last 10 years working on the global side.

I could not do my job today without each one of those elements of that patchwork quilt of experiences that I now draw upon daily.



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