Lalitha Gopalan, DVM, PhD | Freelance Medical Writer

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Medical writer with 10+ years of experience in oncology and translational research (DVM, PhD). Expertise in translating high-dimensional pre-clinical and clinical data into impactful manuscripts, CME needs assessments, regulatory documents, and scientific slide decks. Adept at independently tailoring complex scientific narratives for diverse audiences, including key opinion leaders, healthcare professionals, and non-technical stakeholders. Domain expertise in oncology, rare diseases (NF1, PNF), solid tumors, and zoonotic diseases.

DOCUMENT EXPERTISE & FREELANCE SERVICES

- **Therapeutic areas:** Oncology, immunotherapies, solid tumors, rare diseases, and translational medicine.
- **Publications:** Drafting original research and review articles, developing abstracts and conference posters, formatting citations, and preparing journal submission packages. Journal-specific editing, AMA manual of style, and good publication practice (GPP).
- **Pre-Clinical & Regulatory Writing:** Data analysis for pre-clinical trials data analysis, IACUC protocol development, and technical study documentation for medical devices. Translating *in vitro* and *in vivo* data into regulatory-ready reports. Experience in regulatory document development for FDA submissions (NDA/IDA/INAD/PMA), and synthesizing oncology guidelines (FDA, NCCN, ASCO, ESMO).
- **Medical Education (MedEd):** Comprehensive CME Needs Assessments, including executive summaries, proposed activities, agendas, learning objectives, clinical gap analyses, literature reviews, and expected outcomes.
- **Scientific Communications:** Scientific storytelling, high-dimensional data visualization, literature reviews, figures/panel development. Translating complex data into clinical slide decks, presentations for donors/reviewers, and plain-language summaries (PLS) for non-technical audiences.

SELECTED FREELANCE MEDICAL WRITING EXPERIENCE

Freelance Medical Writer | *[January 2026] – Present*

- **CME Needs Assessments (NAs) & Gap Analyses:** Developed comprehensive CME NAs in oncology, synthesizing 50+ clinical references per document. Identified actionable clinical gaps that directly contributed to securing educational grant funding.

- **Manuscript & Review Article Preparation:** Developed first-author manuscripts for translational oncology projects. Coordinated figure and table production and provided full editing and submission support (methods, results, legends, cover letters) with strict adherence to *AMA style* or specific journal style.
- **Scientific Decks & Posters:** Produced clinical slide decks for conference presentations and designed clear, visually engaging posters integrating publication-quality figures for broad audiences.

RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC & COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Fellow – Cancer Immunology & Translational Research
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center | Jan 2023 – Jan 2026

- Translated high-dimensional flow cytometry immuno-oncology and exosome biology data from research in plexiform neurofibromatosis into concise study narratives, internal reports, and presentation-ready scientific storylines.
- Contributed to primary manuscript and abstract development by integrating mechanistic rationale, experimental design, statistical analysis and clinical limitations.
- Designed and generated structured results summaries and multi-panel publication-quality figures from spectral flow and imaging datasets.
- Led IACUC-compliant preclinical trials to test VCP-inhibitor and flash proton therapy, coordinating data across research and clinical stakeholders.

Graduate Research Assistant – Translational Cancer Research
The Pennsylvania State University | 2017 – 2022

- Synthesized multimodal study outputs (imaging, histopathology, RNA-seq data) into coherent translational narratives for large-scale ovarian cancer biomarker studies.
- Authored peer-reviewed publications and communicated complex study outcomes to mixed technical audiences and industry partners via presentations and reports.
- Led preclinical trials on 400+ laying hens as an animal model for spontaneous ovarian cancer; studied parallels to post-menopausal women's cancer biology.
- Performed ~300+ ultrasounds and Doppler flow studies to monitor ovarian tumor progression and vascular changes, enabling early detection.
- Implemented a novel technique combining Doppler ultrasonogram with a photoacoustic system for identifying tumor edges for biopsies, leading to advancements in understanding tumor biology and treatment efficacy.
- Independently collaborated with a medical device company (Actuated Medical), authoring pre-clinical study protocols, executing product testing, and synthesizing functional assessment data into final reports.

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Gopalan L**, Sebastian A, Praul CA, Albert I, Ramachandran R. Metformin affects the transcriptomic profile of chicken ovarian cancer cells. *Genes (Basel)*. 2022;13(1):30. doi:10.3390/genes13010030
2. **Gopalan L**, Ramachandran R. EpCAM as diagnostic marker in chicken ovarian cancer. Manuscript submitted for publication. *Biol Reprod*. 2026.
3. **Gopalan L**, Sebastian A, et al. Transcriptomic profiling of ALDH+ stem cells in ovarian cancer. Manuscript submitted for publication. *Poult Sci*. 2026.
4. **Gopalan L**, Na Y, et al. Valosin-containing protein contributes to plexiform neurofibroma formation. Manuscript in review. *Cells*. 2026.
5. **Gopalan L**, Hall A, et al. Efficacy of FLASH proton therapy in mouse model of plexiform neurofibromatosis. Manuscript in development. Planned submission 2026 (end) -2027.
6. **Gopalan L**, Hall A, et al. Immune-exosome signaling in mouse model of plexiform neurofibromatosis. Manuscript in development. Planned submission 2026 (end)- 2027.

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **6-week Medical Writing Mentorship with**— Emma Hitt Nichols
- **AMA Style Mastery Course**
- **Design & Interpretation of Clinical Trials** — Johns Hopkins University
- **Data Analysis with Python** — IBM

EDUCATION

- **PhD (Animal Science)** — The Pennsylvania State University, USA (2022)
- **Master of Veterinary Science (M.V.Sc.), Animal Reproduction** — Bombay Veterinary College, India (2013)
- **Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (B.V.Sc. & A.H., DVM Equivalent)** — Bombay Veterinary College, India (2011)

TECHNICAL & SOFTWARE SKILLS

- **Writing & Reference Management:** Microsoft Office Suite, Overleaf (LaTeX), EndNote, Zotero.
- **Data Visualization & Graphic Design:** GraphPad/Prism, designing multi-panel layout styling, and journal-specific formatting.
- **Programming & Analysis:** R (tidyverse, ggplot2), Python (pandas, matplotlib, seaborn).
- **Image Analysis:** Fiji (ImageJ), CellProfiler, NIS-Elements; capable of executing full visual data pipelines from raw image processing to journal-ready figures.

Portfolio for writing samples:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1d_wpy833MmqldPBf2UeofaNBhp3udB21?usp=sharing