



Kunika van der Meer – Wakamatsu

- **Current Role:** Regulatory Affairs Professional, J&J
- **STAR Programme:** Regulatory Affairs
- **Programme Year:** September 2023

From Reorganization to Regulatory Affairs: How Kunika Restarted Her Career with ECCRT's STAR Programme



Before the STAR Programme

Kunika is a medical doctor by training who had already accumulated over 14 years of experience in clinical trial operations and health project management. Despite her rich background, a company reorganization in early 2023 abruptly ended her contract, leaving her at a career crossroads. Eager to return to vaccine-related work and stay in the clinical research field, she explored her options at the BCF Career Event in Utrecht.

"I had been out of regulatory affairs for a while and wasn't sure I'd find a desirable job after months of training."



Why ECCRT?

Kunika discovered ECCRT at the career event, where conversations with alumni piqued her interest in the Regulatory Affairs STAR Programme. Having prior RA experience, she was intrigued but cautious. After several online discussions with ECCRT's Virginie, who helped her tailor a career path aligned with her goals, she committed to the programme.

The mix of expert-led classroom learning, practical internship, and strong job placement support convinced her that the ECCRT STAR Programme could be the key to restarting her RA career.



Experience During the Programme

Kunika joined the RA STAR Programme in September 2023 in Brussels. The intensive week of classroom lectures exposed her to the latest in pharmaceutical regulations and clinical R&D, surrounded by like-minded peers and industry leaders. After the course, she began a one-year internship at Johnson & Johnson in Leiden as a Clinical Trial Application Submission Manager trainee.

ECCRT's continued mentorship and regular check-ins ensured she stayed on track and gained hands-on experience that was directly applicable to her field.



Where Are You Now?

As of January 2025, Kunika is a full-time Regulatory Affairs Professional at Johnson & Johnson, supporting both pharmaceutical and medical device clinical trial regulations. The internship turned into a job, and she continues to thrive in a fast-paced regulatory environment she loves.

"Thanks to ECCRT, I went from career uncertainty to finding joy and purpose again in regulatory affairs."



Final Word of Advice

"Whether you're a fresh graduate or an experienced professional, the STAR Programme gives you a unique chance to reboot or accelerate your career. The mix of theory, hands-on experience, and mentorship is unbeatable. Don't hesitate —take the leap!"