In an industry where time can translate into big financial gains, clinical trial specialists know how to move new therapies from the lab to the marketplace more effectively.

Kim describes the content of the UMNJ certificate program as “dead on” in terms of teaching her what she needs to know to do her job. “This program is not like other company certificate programs, which are more basic,” she says. “This is a very intensive, intensive program and requires a real commitment.”

Bringing Drugs to Market

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One of our current MS students in Regulatory Affairs, who is close to completing her degree but has no prior industry experience, was just hired for an entry level position as a Regulatory Affairs Specialist at a medical device company in southern New Jersey.

Students who complete one of the 15-credit certificates can apply all of those credits towards the master’s, moving them a giant step closer to attaining a graduate degree. That’s what Lisa Palladino Kim did. With an undergraduate degree in psychology from West Chester University, in Pennsylvania, she worked in the mental health field for five years before joining Merck’s Clinical Neurosciences Department in Pennsylvania about 12 years ago. During those 12 years, she gained experience primarily from three departments: clinical, data management and operations. Currently, as a Global Trial Operations Specialist, her focus is creating strategies and tactics for patient recruitment and retention, as well as managing a group of consultants who provide operational feasibility, and she describes herself as largely “self-taught,” that is until she heard about the UMNJ program.

It took her two years, basically one course at a time, to finish the program. “I was able to use the credits from her graduate education should position her to excel in this rapidly developing field.

Kim states, “so there is definitely a market for what I do, but the competition for jobs is strong.” Her graduate education should position her to excel in this rapidly developing field.

For more information on this program, call: 973-972-6482 or email: biopharma@umdnj.edu. Or go to the Website: http://shrp.umdnj.edu/dept/biopharma.