

ASHWIN VENKATESAN

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summary

Results-driven program and portfolio management leader with 20+ years of experience in healthcare, life sciences, IT, and retail. Specializing in establishing and scaling PMOs, most recently launching Sequel MedTech's first PMO to accelerate the commercialization of an FDA-cleared device, and boosting process effectiveness at LGC Clinical Diagnostics by implementing Hybrid Agile-Stage-Gate methodologies, governance frameworks, and automated workflows. Recognized for leading cross-functional teams, embedding quality and regulatory SMEs, and delivering data-driven decision-making through centralized dashboards to reduce time-to-market risks and enhance operational efficiency. At Calyx/Parxel, transformed medical imaging delivery through JIRA standardization, improving on-time delivery metrics and elevating client satisfaction, while also leading product management for MyTrials.com to achieve a substantial increase in delivery efficiency. Earned MSc in Management of Projects and Programs from Brandeis and a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Research Conduct and Management from UC Berkeley.

areas of expertise

Program & Portfolio Management (PMO Leadership & Governance) | Strategic Planning & Execution | Cross-Functional Team Leadership & Collaboration | Operational Excellence & Process Automation (Asana, Workflow Standardization) | Stakeholder & Executive Communication | Risk & Compliance Management (FDA & Regulatory Alignment) | KPI Development & Dashboard Reporting | Resource & Budget Management | Change Management & Transformation Leadership | Mentoring & Talent Development | Product Management & Go-to-Market Launch | Data-Driven Decision Making & Analytics | Vendor & Contract Management

experience

2024 - 2025

SEQUEL MEDTECH

MANCHESTER, NH

Director, Program Management Office (PMO)

Established first PMO at medical device innovator, accelerating commercialization of FDA-cleared flagship device.

- Established company's first PMO by implementing governance, risk management, and cross-functional alignment framework, reducing operational silos and accelerating development of FDA-cleared flagship device.
- Led end-to-end PMO oversight for product commercialization, orchestrating 12 cross-functional teams (i.e., R&D, Clinical, Regulatory, Manufacturing, Supply Chain, Quality) through Hybrid Agile-Stage-Gate framework that enabled rapid pivots and fast-tracked go/no-go decisions.
- Designed and implemented governance frameworks embedding FDA compliance checkpoints, conducting internal audits and third-party reviews to identify and resolve high-priority risks, ensuring complete regulatory alignment throughout product lifecycle.
- Embedded Quality/Regulatory SMEs into core teams to foster quality-first approach and institutionalized standardized RAID logs alongside cross-functional war room to slash critical issue-resolution time.
- Created centralized, automated portfolio dashboards that reduced leadership reporting time by 50% while improving real-time visibility into project status, enabling data-driven decision-making.
- Partnered with executive team to deliver weekly performance reports, achieving 100% strategic alignment on milestones and leveraging scenario planning to minimize unanticipated delays.
- Mentored and scaled 3-member PMO team, ensuring compliance adherence and operational best practices, and positioned individuals as ongoing Program Managers within post-launch strategic initiatives.
- De-risked product launch by designing and executing patient journey simulations across critical touchpoints, mitigating operational gaps, streamlining device replacement protocols, and reducing support-ticket volume.
- Architected end-to-end Hypercare framework, covering issue intake, triage, resolution workflows, and 3rd-party escalation paths, de-risking post-launch support, and establishing standard for future product launches.

2022 - 2024

LGC CLINICAL DIAGNOSTICS

MILFORD, MA

Director, Program Management Office (PMO) and Operational Excellence

Established and scaled PMO and Operational Excellence at leading manufacturer of quality management tools.

- Established and matured global PMO by defining standardized processes and governance frameworks, boosting PMO effectiveness by 30% and achieving 100% alignment with LGC's global growth pillars.
- Reduced project cycle times by 20% across 22+ strategic initiatives and delivered 80% on-time completion of key milestones through streamlined workflows and KPI-driven oversight.
- Increased operational efficiency by 25% by standardizing, automating, and deploying Asana as primary project management tool, optimizing intake-to-delivery processes.
- Overhauled project intake by replacing outdated PowerPoint charters with Asana-powered web form, standardizing scope, ROI, risk, dependencies, and financial justification, cutting incomplete submissions and follow-up requests by 50%, and eliminating half of redundant review work.
- Automated charter-to-portfolio integration by configuring Asana to generate project plans from approved charters and auto-populate portfolio dashboards, enabling real-time reporting for leadership.
- Implemented automations that saved time in manual tasks and improved project prioritization accuracy.
- Defined and standardized project and portfolio KPIs, driving data-driven decision-making.
- Managed and mentored a team of 3, increasing team productivity by 25% through workflow standardization.

- Oversaw 22+ concurrent cross-functional strategic initiatives, including M&A, site integration, IT, quality/regulatory, and new product development, ensuring coordinated planning and on-schedule delivery.
- Directed Operational Excellence rollout across multiple sites by collaborating with cross-functional teams and site leaders to align programs with organizational goals, driving continuous improvement and business growth.
- Established governance frameworks, enhancing project delivery accuracy, and optimizing resource utilization.

2008 – 2022

CALYX (formerly PAREXEL)

BILLERICA, MA

Associate Director, Delivery Management (2020-2022)

Senior Product Consultant (2018 – 2020)

Senior Program Manager (2014 – 2018)

Program Manager (2012 – 2014)

Senior Project Manager, Professional Services (2011 – 2012)

Project Manager, Technology Services (2008 – 2011)

Directed delivery management and product launch at leading global clinical research organization.

Client Delivery Management (Medical Imaging)

- Led 6 Delivery Managers across U.S., U.K., India, China, and Japan to implement harmonized governance framework, standardizing stand-ups, escalation paths, and toolset automation, cutting time-zone delays by 20%.
- Improved on-time delivery metrics by ~30% by designing rules of engagement and time-boxing common delay areas (feedback cycles, signature approvals, UAT, medical charter reviews).
- Enhanced delivery quality and efficiency by introducing reusability, repeatability, and automation initiatives, eliminating engineering tasks to compress delivery cycles from four weeks to one and minimize defect leaks.
- Directed and coached clinical-application project managers to deliver initiatives on schedule and within budget by establishing clear performance expectations, standardized reporting cadences, and weekly status reviews.
- Ensured 100% compliance with Perceptive Quality Management Systems and relevant regulatory standards by embedding quality checkpoints into each SDLC phase and coordinating regular compliance reviews.
- Implemented PMO best practices, aligning processes with Agile SDLC, by introducing sprint-based planning, backlog grooming, and iterative retros, which improved project predictability and execution consistency.
- Managed and advised cross-functional technologists and support specialists, facilitating daily stand-ups, decision logs, and documented issue-resolution workflows, to accelerate problem-solving cycles.
- Established clear expectations and communication by involving technical SMEs (testing, implementation, database management) in critical system operations activities, ensuring seamless handoffs and reducing rework.
- Oversaw project tracking and controls, forecasting budgets, monitoring profitability, managing resource utilization, and tracking expenses, to maintain fiscal discipline and support data-driven resource decisions.
- Optimized resource forecasting by modeling capacity against project demand, identifying misutilized resources, reallocating staff to high-priority tasks, improving utilization accuracy, and minimizing resource gaps.

Program and Project Management

- Directed project managers of clinical applications to deliver project objectives on schedule and within budget by setting performance expectations, monitoring progress, and facilitating regular status reviews.
- Ensured compliance with Perceptive Quality Management Systems and all regulatory and client quality standards by embedding quality checkpoints into each phase of design, development, and delivery.
- Led PMO best-practice rollout within Agile SDLC, standardizing workflows, introducing sprint planning, backlog grooming, and iterative reviews, to streamline processes and improve project timelines and goals.
- Advised cross-functional technologists and support specialists on communication protocols and decision-making processes, facilitating coordination meetings and maintaining documented decision logs.
- Established clear expectations for system operations by involving technical SMEs in testing, system implementation, database management, and troubleshooting activities, ensuring thorough technical oversight.
- Managed financial project tracking and controls, including budgeting, profitability analysis, resource utilization, expense management, and revenue recognition, to maintain fiscal discipline and inform strategic planning.
- Optimized resource forecasting using PlanView by analyzing capacity against project demand, enabling more accurate resource allocation and improved budgeting decisions.

Product Management & Launch ([MyTrials.com](https://www.mytrials.com))

- Led rollout of MyTrials.com eClinical platform over 3 years, reducing specification review and sign-off time by 30%, cutting development and validation timelines by 50%, and improving delivery efficiency by 60%.
- Owned and executed product roadmap for [MyTrials.com](https://www.mytrials.com), aligning engineering sprints with business growth targets and client needs, and prioritized features using weighted scoring model, driving 30% faster adoption.
- Collaborated with business development, finance, and engineering teams to define standardized processes and engagement models, streamlining handoffs and improving cross-functional efficiency.
- Designed and tracked KPIs for software usability (e.g., trial site adoption rate, query resolution time), using insights to reprioritize backlog and boost customer satisfaction by 35%.
- Governed SDLC processes for validated clinical systems by creating audit-ready documentation and applying risk-based testing strategies across 80+ releases, ensuring compliance with regulatory and client requirements.

- Established structured feedback loops between clinical teams and engineers, holding regular post-launch review sessions and capturing enhancement requests, which reduced critical bug resolution time by 50%.

Data-Driven Decision Making

- Designed KPIs for project efficiency, profitability, and delivery, tracking on-time delivery, planned vs. actual deliveries, delivery commitments vs. SLAs, and OLAs, to establish consistent performance measurement.
- Managed reporting and analytics for over 80 monthly releases, delivering timely insights to 90+ stakeholders.

Strategic Account and Client Relationship Management

- Translated complex technical requirements into clear, actionable deliverables, enabling clients to make informed decisions and understand project functionality, driving 50% increase in successful project outcomes.
- Drove client satisfaction and retention by proactively addressing issues and identifying growth opportunities.
- Spearheaded strategic account management initiatives by delivering tailored solutions and executive updates.

2005 – 2008

STAPLES

FRAMINGHAM, MA

Senior Programmer and Technical Lead, Enterprise Data Warehouse

Optimized enterprise data warehouse operations at leading office retail company.

- Improved forecast accuracy by 18% through refined capacity planning and proactive resource balancing.
- Enhanced on-time delivery metrics by 12% by standardizing development workflows.
- Reduced resource overallocation by 20% by coordinating with Accenture and Keene leads to aligning project activities, accurately estimating durations, and optimizing resource schedules.
- Led project to transition production support activities, defining and managing project activities, overcoming staff resistance by communicating benefits, and delivering transition on time and within budget.
- Directed Accenture support transition under accelerated timelines, coordinating cross-vendor teams, prioritizing tasks with senior leadership, and maintaining strict budget controls, to complete a 6-month scope in 3 months.
- Developed training materials (including video modules) to onboard high-turnover offshore and onsite teams.
- Participated in end-to-end testing (smoke, unit, QA, regression) to identify and facilitate code fixes.
- Facilitated regular cross-regional planning sessions with domestic and international partners, coordinating project scopes, dependencies, and priorities, to ensure seamless integration of technical deliverables.

2003 – 2005

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

SHREWSBURY, MA

Technical and Business Consultant

Led technical and business consulting projects for clients in a variety of industries.

- Selected clients: Blue Cross Blue Shield (Pittsburgh, PA), Arch Insurance (New York, NY), ING (Hartford, CT), Schering Plough Healthcare (Kenilworth, NJ)

education

2011 – 2012

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

BERKELEY, CA

Graduate Certificate in Clinical Research Conduct and Management

2006 – 2008

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

WALTHAM, MA

Master of Science (MSc) in Management of Projects and Programs

1998 – 2004

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (WPI)

WORCESTER, MA

Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Management Information Systems

certifications

2024

Product Management Certificate | **Pragmatic Institute**

2013

Agile Project Management | **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**