

▶ How It All Began: 1998 Competencies Document

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The aim of this talk is to describe the content and the structure of the “*Competencies for the European nuclear medicine technologist*” as well as the context and process of professionalization of nuclear medicine technologists within EANM where this document was produced in the years 1990. Following the informal but periodic work meetings exchanges between European nuclear medicine technologists in the early 1990, then in a formal basis within the EANM Technologists Committee since 1994 and before the establishment of a new class of EANM membership called “*Technologists member*” in 1999, the “*1998 Competencies Document*” represents a major milestone in the professionalization process of these health care professionals. At that time, taking in account the heterogeneity and the diversity of education entry level backgrounds and professional practices in Europe, the “*1998 Competencies Document*” offers a first common definition of the profession and allows the identification and the description of the tasks that can be performed all over Europe by the so-call “*European nuclear medicine technologists*” should they be, at a national level, nurses, radiographers, nuclear medicine technologists and so on. The “*1998 Competencies Document*” defined the “*competency*” as “*having the ability, knowledge and authority to carry out effectively and efficiently the work required*”. On this basis, the nuclear medicine technologist work required is described in nine chapters: *Patient Care and Welfare; Departmental Organisation; Instrumentation with Quality Control; Performance of Imaging; Performance of In-vitro Tests; Radio-therapeutic Procedures; Radiopharmacy; Radiation Protection and Occupational Health and Safety*. However, to describe “*the work required*” it is a necessary issue, but it might not be sufficient to shed light on all the complexity of technologists work activity and its evolution considered as a professionalization process. Some thoughts will conclude this talk trying to clarify the several meanings that the term “*professionalization*” might offer: the political and administrative, the cultural and identity, the educational and cognitive and the management dimensions. In other words, a useful and meaningful description of professional competencies must be aware on which dimension of the term of “*professionalization*” are this description aimed.

References:

1. Competencies for the European Nuclear Medicine Technologists, EANM, 1998.
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3. Jorro, A., Dictionnaire des concepts de la Professionnalisation, 2014, De Boeck Supérieur, Louvain-la-Neuve.