Multiprofessional Round Table on Entry Level and Advanced Practice

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This session has become a regular event in which delegates can express their opinions and listen to the opinions of others about practice standards and scope within their own country and across Europe and America generally.

The original work of the EANM/ SNMMI International Technologist Committee began when the working committee was first formed in August 2010. The goal of the committee was to determine if there could be Euro-American consensus of what it means to be an entry-level nuclear medicine technologist / radiographer and an advanced level (for lack of a better term) nuclear medicine technologist / radiographer. The definition would be founded in the required skills and competencies one must possess to achieve such a title. It was further queried that if such a determination could be made, could it extend beyond the Euro-American borders and have global recognition. For consideration of a global application, it was understood that input from additional global partners would be necessary.

Throughout the years, the committee has published an article on the work and presented at the EANM and SNMMI (formerly SNM) annual meetings and the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology. At each presentation not only the goals of the committee were presented, but draft works and ideas have been discussed and community information gathered in the effort to reach a consensus on final recommendations that would identify learning outcomes, skills, and competencies that would identify an individual as a nuclear medicine technologist / radiographer and as a nuclear medicine technologist / radiographer at an advanced or higher level (e.g. master's degree) that would serve in somewhat of a physician extender role. Last year, the European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS) entered the discussion and consultations on this matter. In the EFRS pan-European document, European Qualifications Framework (EQF) Level 6 Benchmarking Document: Radiographers, the core learning outcomes for the entry level radiography and radiation therapy are identified in the areas of core knowledge, core skills, and core competencies. This proved to be a positive step for European countries, but it is not embraced by all individuals. In addition the document is not consistent with the entry level expectations in the areas of radiography and radiation therapy in the US, in fact there are skills and competencies in the document that are solely under the purview of nuclear medicine in the US.

Differences in the content and pedagogy of the educational curriculum for technologists / radiographers who perform medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures as well as responsibilities associated with imaging (e.g. radiopharmaceutical preparation, instrument quality control) has always differed among countries. These differences along with workplace expectations, regulations, and cultures have influenced entry level and advanced competencies and skills. With the advent of the EFRS EQF Level 6 document, the delineation of "who can do what" in the workforce have become increasingly blurred.

In Lyon, the multi-professional round-table on entry level and advanced practice will present what has happened since last year with respect to entry-level and advanced-level expectations and its effect on how to move forward. One must ask if the EFRS document which outlines closer integration of standards and scope for similar practice areas contributes to the goal of giving individual countries adequate flexibility for translation into practice, which was one of the anticipated outcomes at the beginning of this project.

Educational objectives

1. Understand the opinions of other technologists / radiographers in relation to entry level and advanced practice
2. Understand the competence work done collaboratively with EFRS and SNMMI TS
3. Understand how other professional groups within nuclear medicine are evolving their roles and what they are encountering