How it All Developed: Advance Practice and Interaction with External Societies

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This lecture will give an overview of the recent projects on Technologist Competencies and education. In October 2009 EANM Technologists Committee and SNMMI Technologist Section opened a discussion table on Technologist Advance Practice. The discussion led to the creation of a joint working party having the goal to stimulate debate, on a Euro-American level, about the perceived value or otherwise of advancing practice within individual European countries and America, in order to produce a discussion document with a primary focus on Advanced Practice and a secondary focus on Entry Level Practice. The draft document created by August 2010 was circulated through various international channels and underwent consultation exercises in a great number of conferences, to be discussed. The final paper was able to describe the intellectual background of the topic recognizing the UK perspective driving the document. Advance Practice has to be seen as an evolution and not a revolution, being able to build a clinical career ladder. The document also focused on the value of leadership for implementing advanced practice and acknowledged some real examples of Advanced practices.

After the finalization of the discussion document on Advanced Practice, EANM Technologist Committee had obtained a really strong intellectual instrument to face challenges presented by the difficulty of creating a consensus position paper on Technologist Competencies in Europe. Difficulties were not only related to language and cultural differences between individual countries, but also to the different regulations regarding Nuclear Medicine Technologists role. EFRS, the European Federation of Radiographers involved EANM Technologist Committee in two projects: Medrapet for radiation protection and EQF6 for education. These projects will be the focus of the lecture, together with exemplification of particular European situations. Attending this lecture participants will understand importance of building a wide consensus when discussing delicate topics as Technologists competencies and education, respecting differences between individual countries and specific situations. It important to identify clearly the past and present role of NMT, and how is defined by international bodies and national societies. Clear definition will easier the process of discussing competencies with connected professions like Radiographers and Radiation Therapists.

This lecture intends not only to be a lesson but also a confrontation with different national realities and problems. Questions are welcome and could lead to further research on this fundamental topic.