

Professional Comportment: Professional Is as Professional Does

A Professional Track Symposium
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Professional

- As an adjective it refers to how one acts.
- As a noun it refers to one's identity.



Platypus

Medical Physics totem animal?

Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus*

- Genetic sequencing reveals both reptilian and mammalian elements, as well as two genes found previously only in birds, amphibians and fish
- ✦ Bill like a duck but rubbery, broad flat tail like a beaver, webbed feet like an otter
- ✦ Mammal, lays eggs mid-gestation, has no teats
- ✦ Semi-aquatic
- ✦ Senses electric fields generated by prey's muscles
- ✦ Venomous spurs on ankles, not fatal but debilitating
- ✦ Shy, emits a low growl when disturbed
- ✦ Stores fat in its tail
- ✦ No agreement as to plural of "platypus"

Medical Physicist

(Alittlothisus

anabitothatus)

- Genetic sequence reveals both physics and medicine elements, as well as two genes found previously only in computer scientists
- Bill like an employee (or contractor)
- Mammal, males marked by grey-striped facial hair
- White coat, pocket protector, no stethoscope
- Senses electric fields generated by RT(T)'s ire
- Venomous self-importance, not fatal but debilitating
- Emits a low growl when disturbed
- Stores fat in its tail
- No agreement as to proper form of address

Polymorphism
invites
neglect and relegation.

Polymorphism
presents
an opportunity for the
agile.

Is Medical Physics a
profession or a trade?

The difference between a profession and a trade is largely in how the specialty is perceived by its practitioners and by others.



Perception may *necessarily* be shaped by turf struggles.

A *professional* Medical Physicist is the third leg of an effective clinical management team.

Millerson's analysis

- A profession involves a skill based on theoretical knowledge.
- The skill requires training and education.
- The professional must demonstrate competence by passing a test.
- Integrity is maintained by adherence to a code of conduct.
- The service is for the public good.
- The profession is organized.

Millerson, G. (1964) *The Qualifying Associations: a Study in Professionalization*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Wlensky's "process of professionalization" of a trade...

- establishment of the activity as a full-time occupation
- establishment of training schools and university links
- formation of a professional organization
- struggle to gain legal support for exclusion
- formation of a formal code of ethics

Wlensky, H. L. (1964). "The Professionalization of Everyone?" *American Journal of Sociology*, LXX(2), pp. 137-58.

What does it mean to practice our trade professionally?

James A. Purdy, PhD

- University of California Davis
- Sacramento, CA



Peggy Landrum, PhD, RN

- Texas Woman's University
- Houston, TX



Ofer Zur, PhD

- The Zur Institute, LLC
- Sonoma, CA



George W. Sherouse, PhD

- Sherouse Systems, Inc.
- Chapel Hill, NC



Beware the trap of the
Correct Answer.