Professional Comportment: Professional Is as Professional Does

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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 anatinus)

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.

Wilensky’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

What does it mean to practice our trade professionally?

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Beware the trap of the Correct Answer.