

Professionalism In Science

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The term profession is defined as “what one does if some level of training or education is required.” Professionalism means that one is paid for their services. Professionalism is how well one performs those services. The purpose of this presentation is to emphasize how we, as scientists, should perform at the highest possible level of our capability the duties for which we are paid. Likewise, we should not attempt to perform tasks for which we are unqualified. A true professional will also pledge to keep current with new developments in the area of that person’s scope of expertise. Professionals in science, as well as all other areas, should pledge to advance the level of professionalism and increase the level of competence of those practicing their profession. To demonstrate professionalism, many use credentialing organizations to ensure that they have a “Code of Ethics” established by the leaders of that profession. Many professionals such as accountants, medical doctors, veterinarians, etc. have used professional credentialing organizations for many years to demonstrate to the public that they are qualified to perform specific duties or jobs as “Professionals.” These professionals have been widely accepted by most knowledgeable individuals as ones they can trust to be properly educated and current in their particular area of expertise. Many commercial, private, and governmental agencies now choose to use only “Board Certified Professionals” because of the ever increasing levels of knowledge, technology, and regulatory issues facing them. The mere fact that one has an academic degree may not be adequate in today’s society to truly illustrate that one is a “Professional” in the true sense of the word. As scientists, we should all consider how well we perform our duties for our employers, and for the public at

large. The advancement of science will be greatly enhanced if all scientists are properly educated, keep current, have high standards and ethics, and demonstrate the attributes of “True Professionals” to all with whom they associate. There are two organizations available for individuals in the field of meat or muscle foods science to associate with if they desire to obtain nationally and internationally recognized credentials. Those organizations are the American Registry of Animal Scientists (ARPAS) and the American College of Animal Food Science (ACAFA). However, one must belong to ARPAS as a Professional Animal Scientist (PAS) before being eligible to apply for “Board Certification” and “Diplomate” status with ACAFA. Both organizations require the successful completion of an appropriate testing exercise in order to become credentialed. There are also requirements for continuing education to maintain that status. In addition to meats, these organizations also offer “Professional” status (PAS) in the following areas: beef, dairy, swine, horses, companion animals, laboratory animals, sheep and goats, poultry, poultry products, dairy products, and aquaculture. “Diplomate” and “Board Certified” status is offered through the following colleges: American College of Animal Food Science (meats, muscle physiology, poultry products, and dairy products), American College of Animal Genetics, American College of Animal Nutrition, American College of Animal Physiology, and the American College of Applied Animal Behavior Science. More details about these organizations, requirements for membership, application forms, etc. may be obtained from the AMSA home page (<http://www.meatscience.org/links.html>).

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