

# Role of Professional Organizations in Promoting Your Biomedical/Clinical Engineering Career

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## I. INTRODUCTION

A biomedical/clinical engineering professional, whether they are a biomedical equipment technician (USA) or biomedical engineering technologist (Canada) or a biomedical/clinical engineer (USA/Canada) should know what factors help grow and enhance their career. Many professionals fail to recognize the important role that national professional organizations like Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI), The Canadian Medical and Biological Society (CMBES), and American College of Clinical Engineering (ACCE) and regional/local organizations like New England Society of Clinical Engineering (NESCE), California Medical Instrumentation Association (CMIA) play in providing opportunities to move ahead in their career.

## II. PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Professional organizations provide valuable resources for career development by providing access to networking, professional development, advocacy, and resources.

As a member of a professional organization, you network with your peers, clinical/biomedical engineering experts and potential employers (directors/managers of clinical engineering) at annual conferences, through committee work, and task forces. This provides job opportunities, mentorship and guidance on new trends and best practices in clinical/biomedical engineering.

The professional organization provides opportunities for professional development which include courses, trainings, seminars that help you develop new skills and keep you up to date with the new trends in clinical/biomedical engineering. For example, AAMI, and ACCE offer certification preparation courses. These skills and knowledge can enhance your resume and improve and enhance your career prospects. Recruiters at organizations look for certifications and other trainings to identify high quality job applicants.

Clinical/biomedical engineering professional organizations advocate for their members and profession as a whole.

They contribute to shaping the direction of the clinical/biomedical engineering profession and ensure their profession is represented in the relevant topics (right to repair, medical equipment safety and ergonomics). They lobby national and state/provincial governments and legislatures to ensure that their member's needs are heard and supported through legislation/regulation.

Clinical/biomedical engineering professional organizations provide resources like the ACCE alarm safety report, AAMI standards, ACCE Body of Knowledge Report which keep the members informed about the latest industry trends and provide access to valuable data that can help them make informed decisions at hospitals or other places of work.

Joining a professional organization can help a Biomedical/Clinical Engineering professional boost their career at any stage.

## III. CONCLUSION

This presentation will draw upon decades of experience the presenters had with the professional organizations (ACCE, AAMI, and CMBES). The presenters have held many key positions (e.g. President ACCE, Chair ACCE Education Committee, Chair, US Certification Commission, Co-Chair AAMI Program Committee) over the course of their careers. It will demonstrate how it helped enhance their biomedical/clinical engineering careers.