

# The Debate About Certification: The Few, the Proud, The Certified

Manny Roman

Throughout my years in the medical equipment management and maintenance profession, I have heard many arguments for and against certification. The arguments range from “It doesn’t make anybody better” and “I know a certified guy who can’t fix his way out of a paper bag” to “It demonstrates a commitment to the profession” and “I did it for myself.” Let me finally set the argument to rest.

Certification is needed so that we can get the respect that other professionals get from other professionals. Get insulted if you wish. Until we have recognized credentials, we shall continue to be “jacks-of-all-trades.” This is not inherently bad, just not well respected. We must discard the “in the basement, next to the morgue” mentality so that our fellow professions can do the same.

I, and others who want to enhance our profession by advocating certification, want those of you who refuse, to stop arguing against it. Please stop being an impediment to our goal.

If you are happy in the basement next to the morgue, admit it and allow others to move along. If you do not want to spend the money for certification unless you get a raise, say so and get out of others’ ways. If you feel that you have “earned your keep through hard knocks” fine, stop holding down that youngster who wants to take a different path.

If you are afraid that you will not pass the test, admit it and take action to correct that. I would bet that, if we all were confident that we could pass the test, AAMI would be overwhelmed with testing requests. We would all proudly add certified biomedical equipment technician (CBET), certified radiology equipment special-

ist (CRES), certified laboratory equipment specialist (CLES), or some other “C” after our names.

Reacquiring the knowledge to improve your chances of successfully completing the certification examination is relatively simple. Join your local or regional professional association and participate in their certification review courses. If not locally available, contact another association for assistance. The Colorado Association of Biomedical Equipment Technicians (CABMET), has had great success and will help, as will others. Visit [www.cabmet.org](http://www.cabmet.org) for additional information.

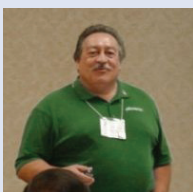
Obviously some of the tested knowledge will have atrophied over the years. Electronics especially may generally be problematic. Well, that is exactly what the review courses will correct. When we at DITEC conduct our CRES review course, people are always surprised at two things: How much they forgot and how easily it can be remembered. We have had great success because it is not a difficult process. It takes study and determination, but the personal reward is great.

Visit [www.aami.org/certification](http://www.aami.org/certification) for additional information regarding the certification process of the International Certification Commission (ICC) and frequently asked questions. Remember, it is ICC Certification with AAMI acting as the secretariat.

If you want to enhance your stature in the profession and feel the rush of satisfaction that comes with successful completion of the certification exam, do something about it right now. Go to [www.aami.org/resources/links/](http://www.aami.org/resources/links/) for a list of local biomedical associations and start the research and study process.

If you are already certified, help those who are not. Let them know that it is okay to want it and to ignore the naysayers. Demonstrate that you are one of the few, the proud, the certified. ■

*Disclaimer: The opinions and conclusions stated in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent AAMI’s official position. If you would like to share your opinions about this article, please e-mail [jwilliams@aami.org](mailto:jwilliams@aami.org).*



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