

## How I Found My Calling in Nuclear Medicine

Sometimes, the most unexpected moments can lead to life-changing decisions. My name is Sean Dang and my journey into nuclear medicine began quite by accident during a mundane traffic jam. I was stuck in my car, listening to a Dave Ramsey radio show, trying to pass the time. As I inched forward in the bumper-to-bumper traffic, a listener called into the show and shared her career story. She introduced herself as a Nuclear Medicine Technologist. The title alone piqued my interest—come on, it does sound really cool and smart!

As she described her daily responsibilities, the advanced technology she worked with, and the impact she had on patients' lives, I found myself completely captivated. Here was a career that combined cutting-edge science with compassionate patient care, and it sounded like something out of a sci-fi movie. The more she talked about the field, the more intrigued I became. By the time the traffic started moving again, I knew I had to learn more about this fascinating profession.

Before this serendipitous moment, I had explored various professions. I worked as a special education teacher, a pharmacy technician, and an interpreter. Each role offered unique experiences and valuable skills, but none truly captured my interest. As a special education teacher, I cherished the opportunity to support and guide my students, but I often felt a pull towards the medical field. My time as a pharmacy technician introduced me to the world of healthcare, yet it lacked the dynamic and hands-on aspect I craved. Working as an interpreter allowed me to bridge communication gaps, but it didn't fulfill my desire for a more technical and scientific career.

I began researching nuclear medicine and discovered a world where technology and healthcare intersect in the most innovative ways. The idea of using radioactive materials to diagnose and treat diseases was both thrilling and intellectually stimulating. I was particularly drawn to the potential for early diagnosis and targeted treatments, which can significantly improve patient outcomes.

My curiosity led me to apply for a Nuclear Medicine Technology (NMT) program. Throughout my studies, I found myself increasingly passionate about the field. During my clinical experience, I've been fortunate to receive a wealth of positive feedback from patients, which has been immensely gratifying. In fact, my clinical instructor mentioned that I broke the record by receiving five positive reviews in just two weeks. This feedback has reinforced my commitment to providing excellent patient care and has motivated me to continue striving for excellence in the field of nuclear medicine. My goal is to become a nuclear medicine ambassador, sharing my newfound enthusiasm with others and encouraging them to explore this exciting career path. The more I learned, the more I realized that this accidental discovery was a perfect fit for me.

In hindsight, that traffic jam was a blessing in disguise. It introduced me to a career that not only challenges me intellectually but also allows me to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. Choosing nuclear medicine was an unexpected turn, but it has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. Sometimes, the best paths are the ones we stumble upon by accident.