

Regional Consortium on Health Care Workforce

October 30, 2025

Welcome!

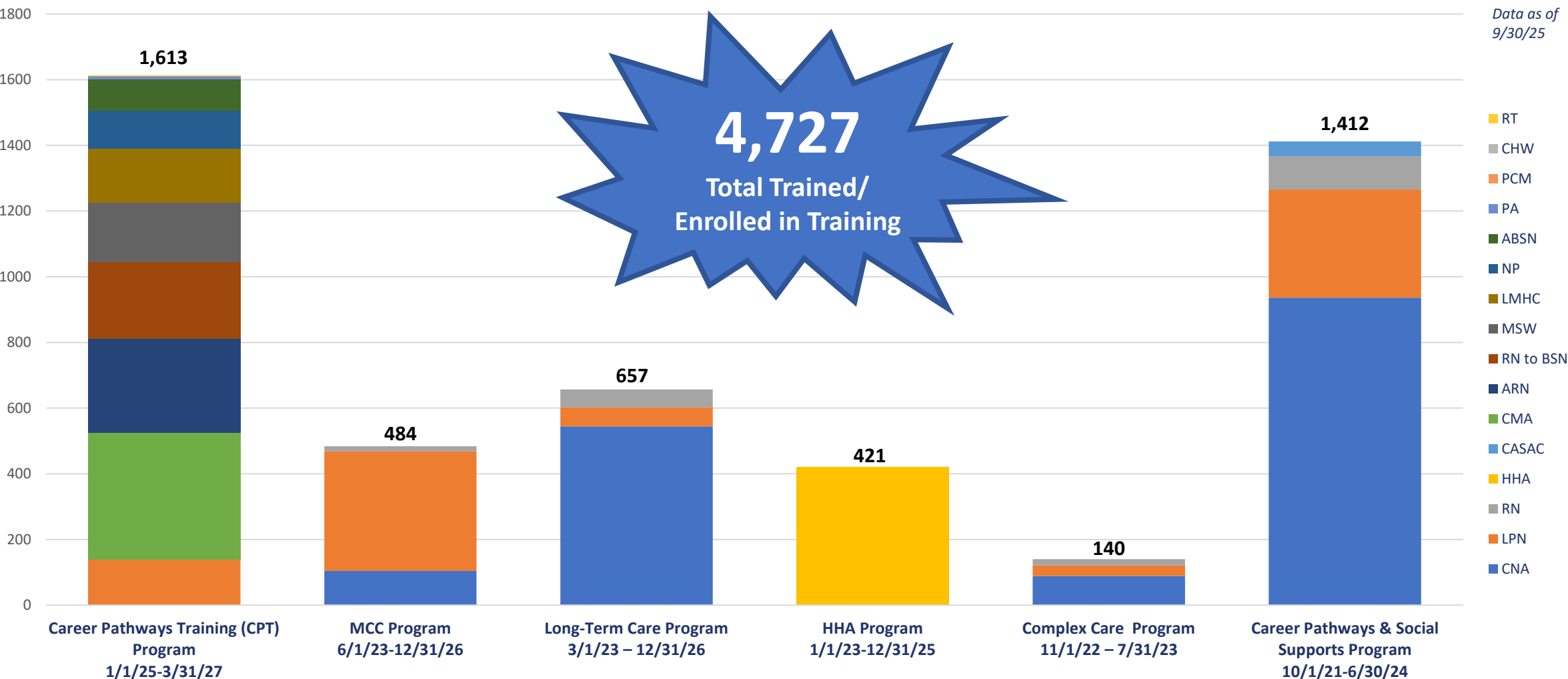
- Please include your name and organization in your Zoom screen and introduce yourself in the chat.
- This meeting is being recorded. We love to see you please keep your camera on. 😊
- Please mute yourself unless speaking.
- To share feedback or ask questions, please use the “raise hand” feature and we will call on you to speak.
- We are reserving the chat for questions, and will call on participants to speak to their questions entered in the chat.

Agenda

- WIO Update: Workforce Programs
 - Carol Tegas, CEO, Finger Lakes Performing Provider System
- Attracting & Retaining a Workforce: Lessons Learned
 - Jill Knittel, President & CEO, JK Executive Strategies
- Workplace Violence and Clinician Burnout: Impact, Causes, Interventions.
 - Michael Privitera, MD, MS, Professor Emeritus – University of Rochester Medical Center

**Carol Tegas,
CEO, FLPPS**

FLPPS WIO Workforce Programs



**Jill Knittel,
President & CEO, JK Executive Strategies**



Attracting & Retaining a Workforce: Lessons Learned

Today's Focus



- Current healthcare workforce trends
 - The Gen Z and COVID effect
 - Elements of a healthy work environment
 - Engagement & Retention Best Practices
 - How leaders build strong cultures
-

Healthcare Workforce Snapshot ('24-'25)



Turnover Statistics:

- **Mental Health Clinicians: 33%**
 - **Home Health Aids: 36%**
 - **RN's: 16.4%**
 - **Overall hospital turnover: ~18%**
 - **Front-line home care workers: 75-79% with many leaving within 100 days**
 - **US Hospitals added 304,000 individuals (~5.4% growth) including ~98,000 RNs in 2024**
 - **Mental Health jobs are projected to grow 3x faster than all US Occupations in the next decade with approximately 84,000 jobs added**
-

Healthy Work Environment



- ✓ Psychological safety
 - ✓ Flexibility & autonomy
 - ✓ Mental health & wellness support
 - ✓ DEI and belonging
 - ✓ Opportunities for growth
-

The Gen Z & COVID Shift



Before (Pre-Gen Z & Pre-COVID)	Now (Gen Z + Post-COVID)
Rigid schedules	Flexibility, autonomy
Top-down communication	Transparent, inclusive leadership
Clinical burnout normalized	Mental health prioritized
One-size-fits-all benefits	Personalized well-being and DEI focus
Experience = loyalty	Culture + values = retention



Employee Engagement Best Practices



- Pulse surveys + follow-up action
 - Transparent leadership communication
 - Peer and manager recognition
 - Career development programs
 - Internal mobility and upskilling
-

Leadership Drives Culture



- Build resilient teams
 - Lead with empathy and clarity
 - Support middle managers
 - Model adaptability and purpose
 - Make space for innovation and wellness
-

Data-Driven Engagement



- Use predictive analytics to flag risk
 - Monitor 1st-year turnover closely
 - Personalize recognition and rewards
 - Track progress—not just performance
-

Job Quality Assessment Survey

- Confidential, free self-assessment tool provides Rochester companies with the data they need to identify challenges and make positive changes in the work environment.
- Built to benchmark not just with industry peers, but with specific occupational titles
- Enough participation within an industry allows for confidential benchmarking relative to job quality for a specific occupational title

Who should take the survey?

1. Employers struggling to attract and retain talent
2. Employers who want to create the best possible employee experience

Learn More:

[Tinyurl.com/JQAInfoSession](https://tinyurl.com/JQAInfoSession)

Take Survey:

www.ROCJobQuality.com

BizServices@rochesterworks.org

Tech & Talent: Partners, Not Opposites



- AI reduces admin load—frees up care time
 - 40% of workforce needs AI reskilling
 - Staff must be included in AI planning
 - Transparency = Trust in tech
-

The Retention Recipe

- Purpose > Pay
 - Well-being > Workload
 - Flexibility > Rigidity
 - Growth > Plateau
 - Belonging > Benefits
-

Final Thoughts



-  Hire for culture + adaptability
 -  Invest early in leadership development
 -  Watch for early warning signs
 -  Build systems for internal mobility
 -  Tailor recognition to role
-

Discussion & Questions

Michael Privitera, MD, MS
Professor Emeritus,
University of Rochester Medical Center

Workplace Violence and Clinician Burnout: Impact, Causes, Interventions.

Michael R Privitera MD, MS

Professor Emeritus URM

University of Rochester Medical Center

Medical Director, Medical Faculty and Clinician Wellness Program, 2015-2022

Chair, MSSNY Task Force on Physician Stress and Burnout, 2015-2019

Faculty, Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Boston MA, 2022-present

Healthcare Workforce Consortium

10-30-25

What is Workplace Violence?

1. Any physical assault, threatening behavior, or verbal abuse occurring in the workplace.
2. Includes but is not limited to beatings, shootings, rape, suicide or attempts
3. Psychological traumas, such as threats to harm, obscene phone calls, intimidation, bullying, incivility, harassment, including being followed or sworn at.

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NIOSH)

Underlined also target of Disruptive Behaviors: “Behaviors that undermine a Culture of Safety”, The Joint Commission, Sentinel Event Alert July 2008

Aggression/ Violence as Continuum

Law /society's common perception of violence:

Severe transgressions against individuals.

Below the line of law/ society usual definitions of violence.
NIOSH/ OSHA Workplace Violence and WHO's definition of violence.
Cause micro-traumas which are additive and cumulative.



Mega-violence examples:

Homicide, assault, threats of harm, terrorism, etc.

Micro-violence examples:

Incivility
Disrespect
Deprivation of human needs
Disruptive Behaviors (TJC)
Belittlement
Bullying,
Micro-aggression
Micro-insult
Micro-invalidation.
Badgering, hassling, persistent cumulative expectations that effectively bully both leaders and clinicians into compliance.
Non human-centered, poorly designed work procedures, policies, mandates, laws, regulations, must be done, lack of control.
Toxic management behaviors.

Privitera, M.R., Bowie, V. and Bowen, B. (2015) Translational Models of Workplace Violence in Health Care. *Violence and Victims*, **30**, 293-307.

World report on violence and health (2002).
Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization;
Available at:

http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en

Workplace Violence Typology Comparison

Cal / OSHA¹

Type I: Criminal intent-intrusive violence

Type II: Customer/client violence

Type III: Worker-on-worker violence

Type IV: Personal relationship violence

Bowie Expansion²

Type I: Criminal intent-intrusive violence

Type II: Customer/client violence

Type III: Relationship violence:
Worker-on-worker +
Personal relationship violence.

Type IV: Organizational Violence —
against staff, consumers/ clients/
patients (the ways organizations
are structured and managed).

From: Parrinello K, Miller KD. Workplace Violence in the Healthcare Setting –An Administrative Perspective. In Privitera MR Workplace Violence in Mental and General Healthcare Settings. Jones and Bartlett Publishers ©2011 pp 59-71.

1) California Occupational Safety & Health Administration (Cal/OSHA). Cal/OSHA Guidelines for Workplace Security. San Francisco, CA: State of California Department of Industrial Relations, California Division of Occupational Safety & Health; 1995.

2) Bowie V. Defining violence at work: a new typology. In: Gill M, Fisher B, Bowie V, eds. Violence at Work—Causes, Patterns, & Prevention. Devon, England: Willan Publishing; 2002.

Factors Affecting Difficult Relationships

Patient Factors

Psychiatric disorder.
Personality issues.
Subclinical behavioral traits.
Low resources for self care.
Coming in with past struggles to get care, Sensitized to perceiving inadequate help provided.
Entitlement amplification by current “patient satisfaction”/customer service environment of HC Reform.

Clinician Factors

Overwork, Burnout
depersonalization,
emotional exhaustion.
Poor communication skills.
Low level of experience.
Discomfort with uncertainty.
Overly paternalistic.
Not do well with challenge to opinion.

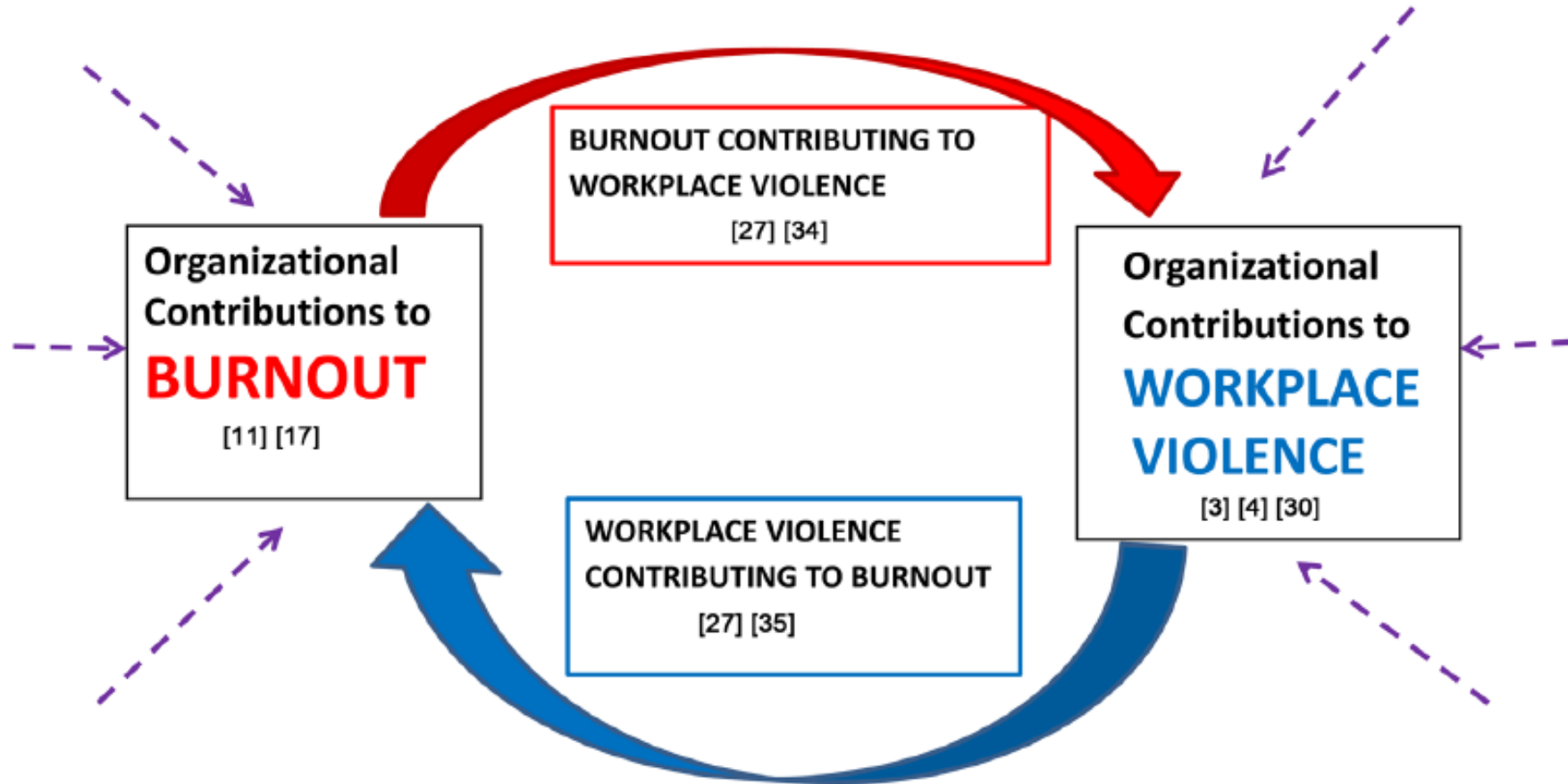
Adapted from Haas LJ, Leiser JP et al.
Management of the Difficult Patient.
American Family Physician 72(10):20163-2068.
November 15, 2005.

Healthcare System Factors

Productivity pressures,
business emphasis.
Value gap between administrators and clinicians.
Changes in HC system financing.
Fragmentation of visits.
Poor design of electronic and systemic workflows.
Outside challenges to clinician authority
Hidden criteria for pre-authorization, etc.
Inadequately addressing clinician satisfaction and engagement.

Poor Organizational Health.

Vicious Cycle of Workplace Violence and Burnout



[3] Bowie, V. (2011) An Emerging Awareness of the Role Organizational Culture and Management Style Can Play in Triggering Workplace Violence. In: .Privitera, M.R., Ed., *Workplace Violence in Mental and General Healthcare Settings*, Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Sudbury, 43-58.

[4] Privitera, M.R., Bowie, V. and Bowen, B. (2015) Translational Models of Workplace Violence in Health Care. *Violence and Victims*, **30**, 293-307.

[30] Bowen, B., Privitera, M.R. and Bowie, V. (2011) Reducing Workplace Violence by Creating Healthy Workplace Environments. *Journal of Aggression Conflict and Peace Research*, **3**, 185-198. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/17596591111187710>

[27] DiMartino, V. (2003) Relationship of Work Stress and Workplace Violence in the Health Sector. Joint Programme on Workplace Violence in the Health Sector.

[35] Estryn-Behar, M., van der Heijden, B., et al. (2008) The NEXT Study Group. Violence Risks in Nursing—Results from the European “NEXT” Study. *Occupational Medicine*, **58**, 107-114. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/occmed/kqm142>

11] Maslach, C. and Leiter, M.P. (1997) *The Truth About Burnout. How Organizations Cause Personal Stress and What To Do About It*. Jossey-Bass Publishers, San Francisco.

[17] Privitera, M.R., Rosenstein, A.H., Plessow, F. and LoCastro, T.M. (2015) Physician Burnout and Occupational Stress: An Inconvenient Truth with Unintended Consequences. *Journal of Hospital Administration*, **4**, 1-8

[27] DiMartino, V. (2003) Relationship of Work Stress and Workplace Violence in the Health Sector. Joint Programme on Workplace Violence in the Health Sector.

[34] Chen, P.Y. and Spector, P.E. (1991) Relationships of Work Stressors With Aggression, Withdrawal, Theft and Substance Abuse: An Exploratory Study. *Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology*, **65**, 177-184. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.2044-8325.1992.tb00495.x>

What is Burnout?

Burnout is a syndrome resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed.

Characterized by 3 dimensions:

1. Feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion.
2. Increased mental distance from one's job or feelings of negativism or cynicism related to one's job and
3. Reduced professional efficacy

Medical Error and Clinician Burnout: Both Have Systemic Contributions

- **Majority of errors** in healthcare are result of systemic influences.¹ The Institute of Medicine (IOM) 1999 Report, *To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System*
- **The majority of occupational stressors causing burnout** are result of systemic factors.²
- **The quality paradox:** Many well-intended interventions to improve quality, safety or value, *when taken in total*, are contributing to health system dysfunction by cumulative impact on workload and burnout at the point of care.³
- The higher the **cognitive load** the higher the risk of **burnout**⁴
- The higher the **cognitive load** the higher the risk of **medical error**⁵

1. Kohn, L.T., Corrigan, J., Donaldson, M.S., *To err is human: building a safer health system*. 2000, Institute of Medicine. National Academy of Sciences: Washington, D.C

2. Privitera MR, Attalah F, et al. Physicians' electronic health record use at home, job satisfaction, job stress and burnout. 2018 *Journal of Hospital Administration*. Vol 7, No 4.. 52-58

3. Sinsky CA and Privitera MR. Creating a Manageable Cockpit: A Shared Responsibility. *JAMA Int. Med*. June 2018.; 178(6):741-42

4. Harry E Sinsky C et al. Physician Task Load and Risk of Burnout in US Physicians in a National Survey. *The Joint Commission Journal of Patient Safety* 2020 000: 1-10.

5. Pickering BW, Herasevich V et al. Novel Representation of Clinical Information in the ICU. *Appl Clin Inform* 2010 1(2) 116-131

Actual Human Function Curve in Average Provider/Staff

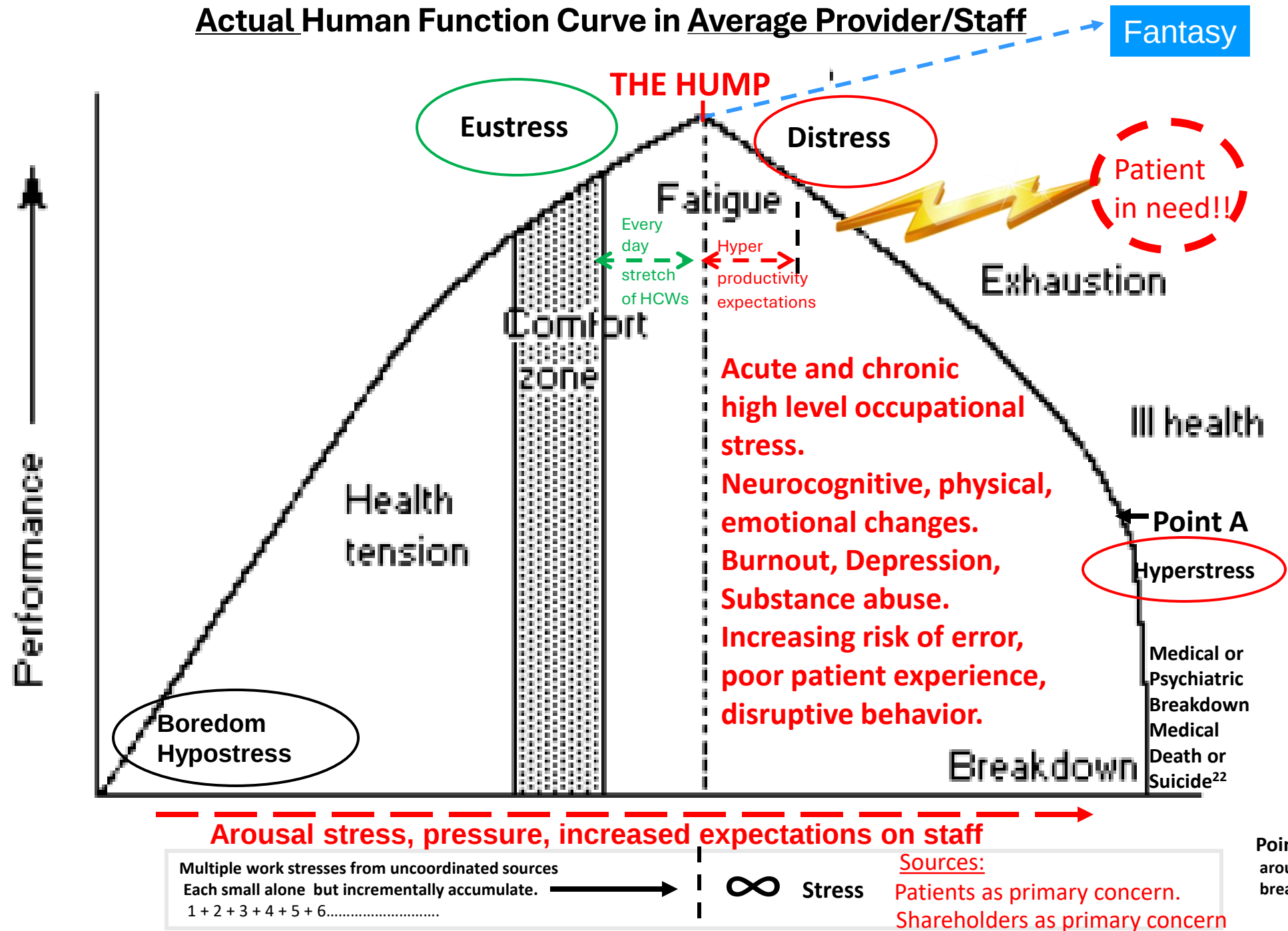


Figure 1. Adapted from: Nixon PGF. The Practitioner. (217):765-770. 1976²³

The Impact of Clinician Burnout

Institutional & Patient Effects

- Increased risk of medical errors (200%)
- Increased malpractice claims
- Disruptive behavior
- Reduced empathy for patients
- Reduced patient adherence to treatment regimens
- Reduced patient satisfaction

Financial Effects

- 27% drop in patient satisfaction scores
- 40% of turnover costs attributed to work stress
- 114% increase of medical claims by employees.
- 30% of short-term and long-term disability costs

Personal Effects

- Higher Suicide Rate among physicians- 400/yr.
- Substance abuse
- Divorce
- Coronary Heart Disease: CHD 1.4 fold up to 1.79 at high burnout levels
- Brain injury from uncontrolled stress
- Reduced career satisfaction

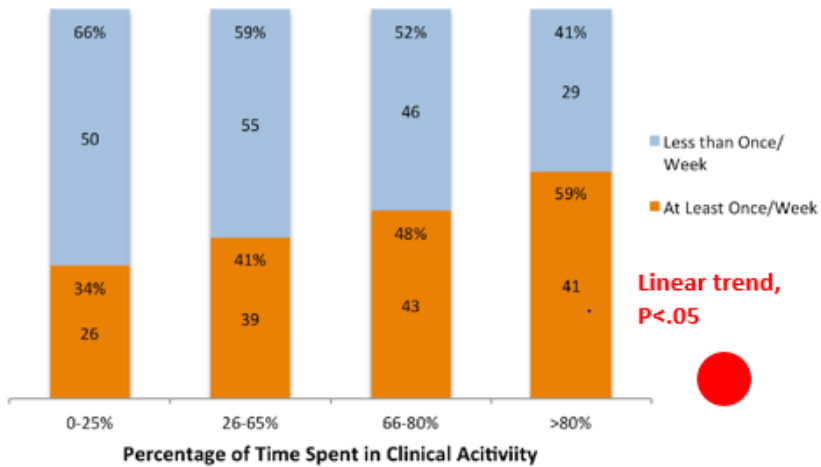
Spearman's rank correlation coefficient **0.628, $p < 0.001$ ***

* Devoe J, et al. Med Care. 2007 January ; 45(1): 88-94.

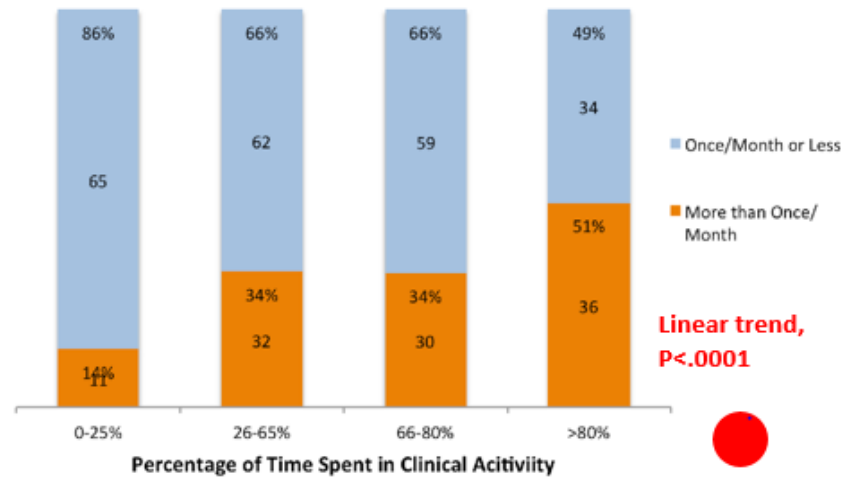
The Greater the % Clinical FTE, the Greater the Burnout (dose related to clinical exposure)

Paradox- Most Frequent Factor that Sustains Sense of Meaning is Patient Care/Clinical Work

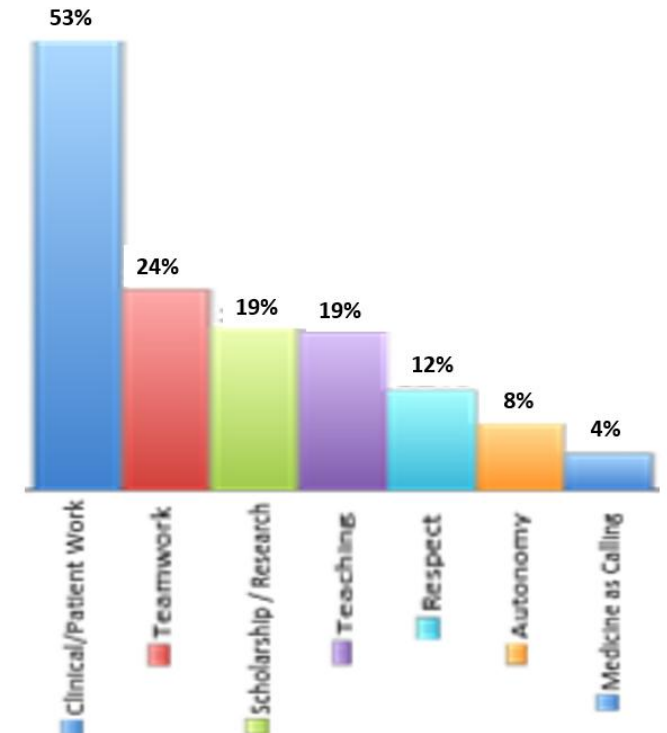
Total Sample: Feeling **Burned Out** - Clinical Activity



Total Sample: Feeling **Callous** - Clinical Activity



What are the top two factors that most **sustain your sense of meaning** in your professional work?



Conclusions:

1. Something(s) are in the way of clinicians taking care of their patients.
2. Write in questions show things in the way:

High expectations from systemic/ organizational (national, state, industry, regulatory) mandates, leadership not aware of personal impact on them- and into their home life, regulations, EMR design, education requirements without allocated time to do them, difficult workflows.

Contributory Influences in US Healthcare Delivery Framework

- 1999-“To Err is Human” (IOM)
- 1990s-Patient Safety Movement- just get it right
- 2000 Leap Frog Group (Business Consortium) influencing healthcare financially-pursuing “value”

- 2003- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Pay for Performance (P4P) “Quality Metrics”
- 2009 Meaningful Use Criteria
- 2010 Affordable Care Act

- **2013 William Spinelli: “Burnout is the phantom limb pain of the Triple Aim*”.**

- **2023 CDC/NIOSH Impact Wellbeing Guide: “Integrate Professional Wellbeing into Quality Improvement”—**
As a quality metric, should be included in payment systems.

Triple Aim 2008

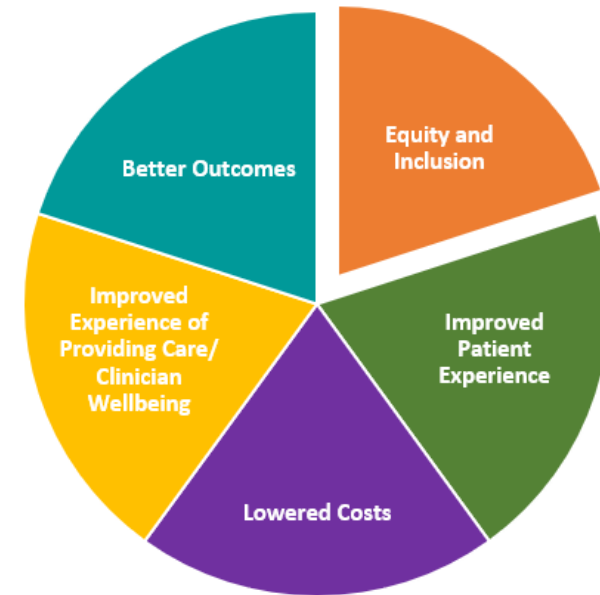


- 2010 Triple Aim Framework comes to payment systems:
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)

Quadruple Aim 2014



Quintuple Aim 2016

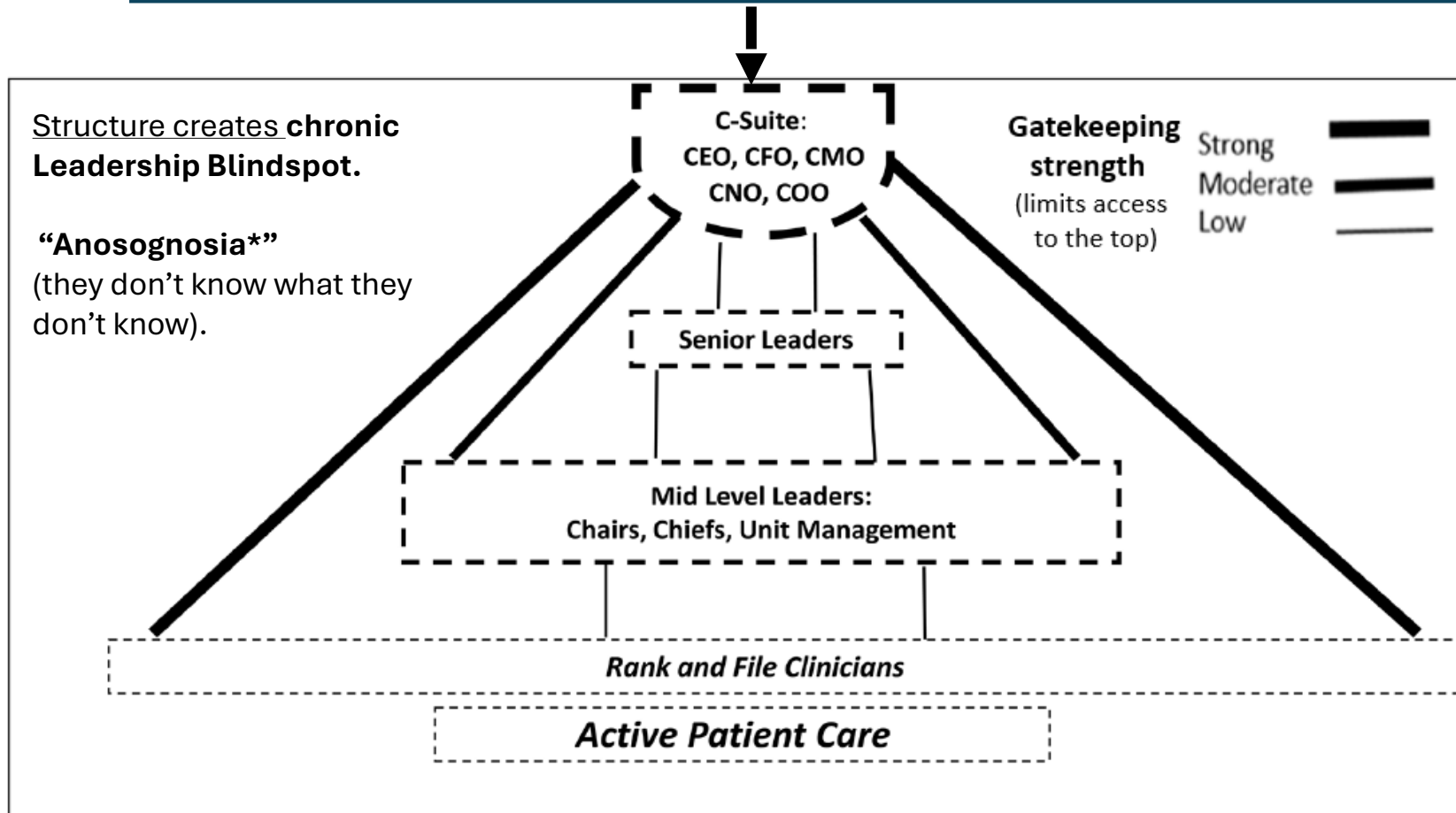


Payment system still remains Triple Aim based → → →

- **Experience of Providing Care (Human Factors/Ergonomics in providing care)**
Important as guide to device design companies, regulators, legislature and other decision-makers

Communication Flow in Medical Centers

National, State, Local Authorities, Regulators, Accreditors, Payers,
Industry thought leaders, Healthcare Consultants, etc.
Directly Influence Healthcare Leadership (C-Suite).



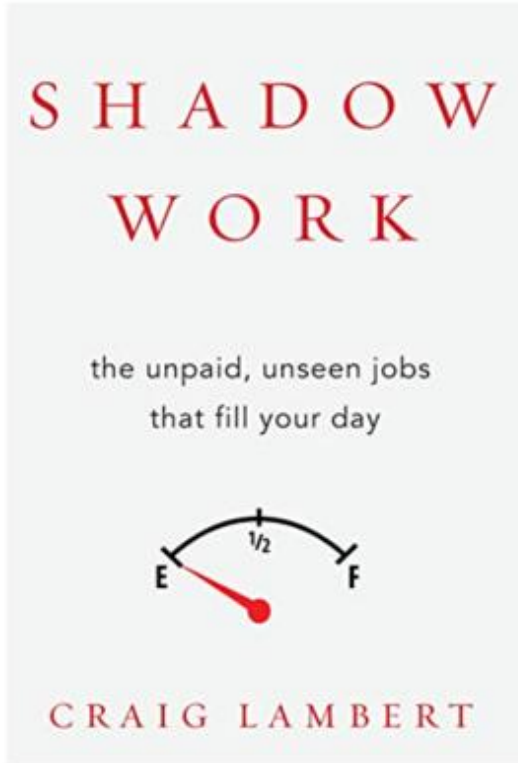
Communication
flow to clinicians
and staff.

Missing:
Feedback
information
systems to
Leadership and
should encourage
Psychosocial Safety
in Culture.

***Anosognosia**= In neurology is a **lack of awareness of deficits** due to brain injury (often right hemispheric stroke)
Body’s **feedback system** was **damaged**, don’t get needed information to the brain to make best self-protective decisions.

Gap between **Work as Prescribed** and **Work as Done**

$$\text{Work as Prescribed} + \text{Shadow Work} = \text{Work as Done}$$



Work as Prescribed



Job Metrics only pick up:
“productivity” units:

Shadow Work:

Unseen, unpaid jobs that fill their day. **Work not “seen” in system metrics.**

Efforts by staff- behind the scenes- making up for system deficits to keep it functional.

Major source of unnecessary Cognitive Load.

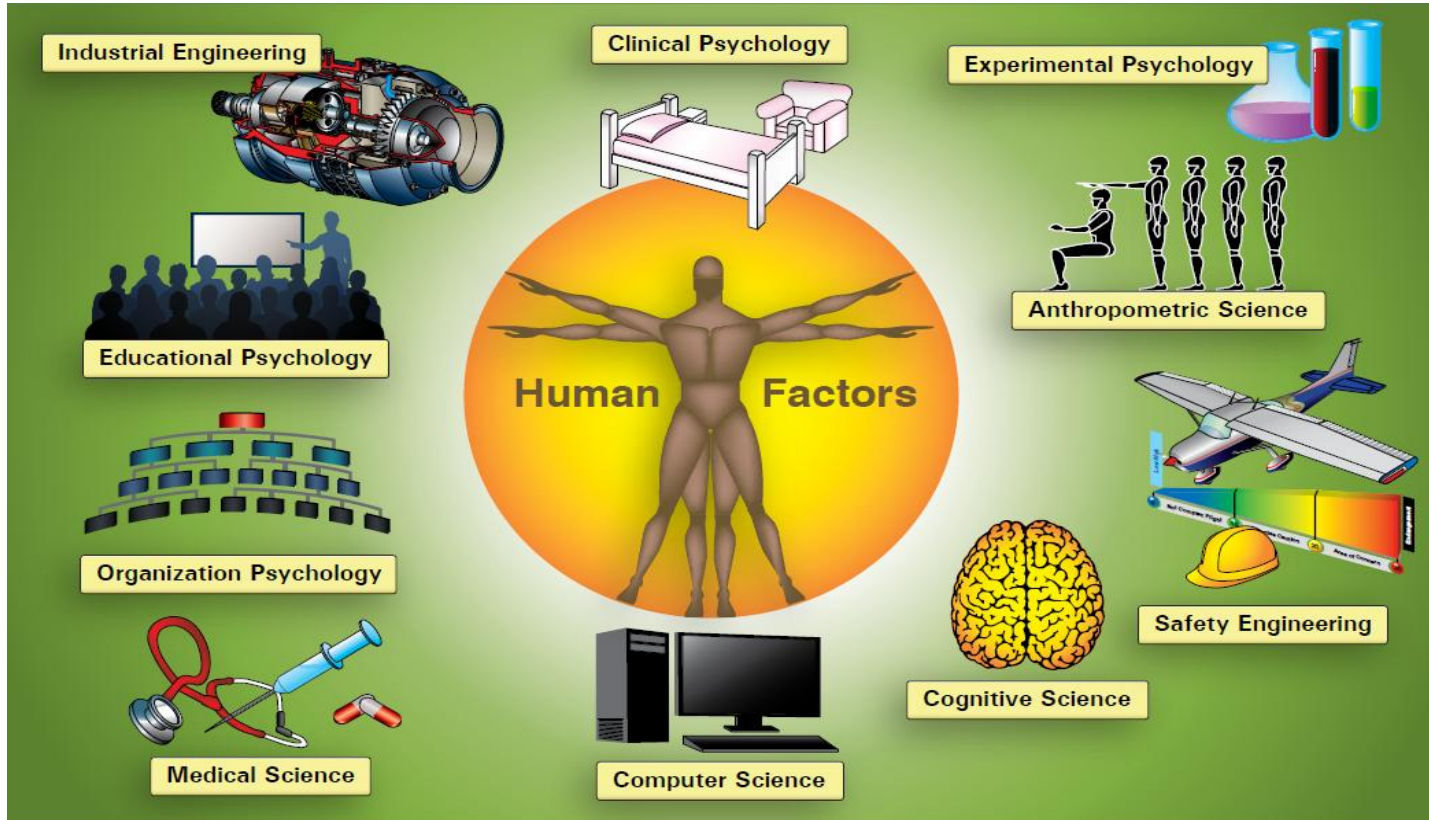
Varies one location to another (due to local management decisions). However, job metrics from one institution to another get compared (inaccurately).

Shadow Work



**Work
as done**

What Are Human Factors / Ergonomics (HFE)?



HFE Definition: The scientific discipline concerned with understanding interactions among humans and other elements of a system.

- **3 Major Types of Ergonomics:**

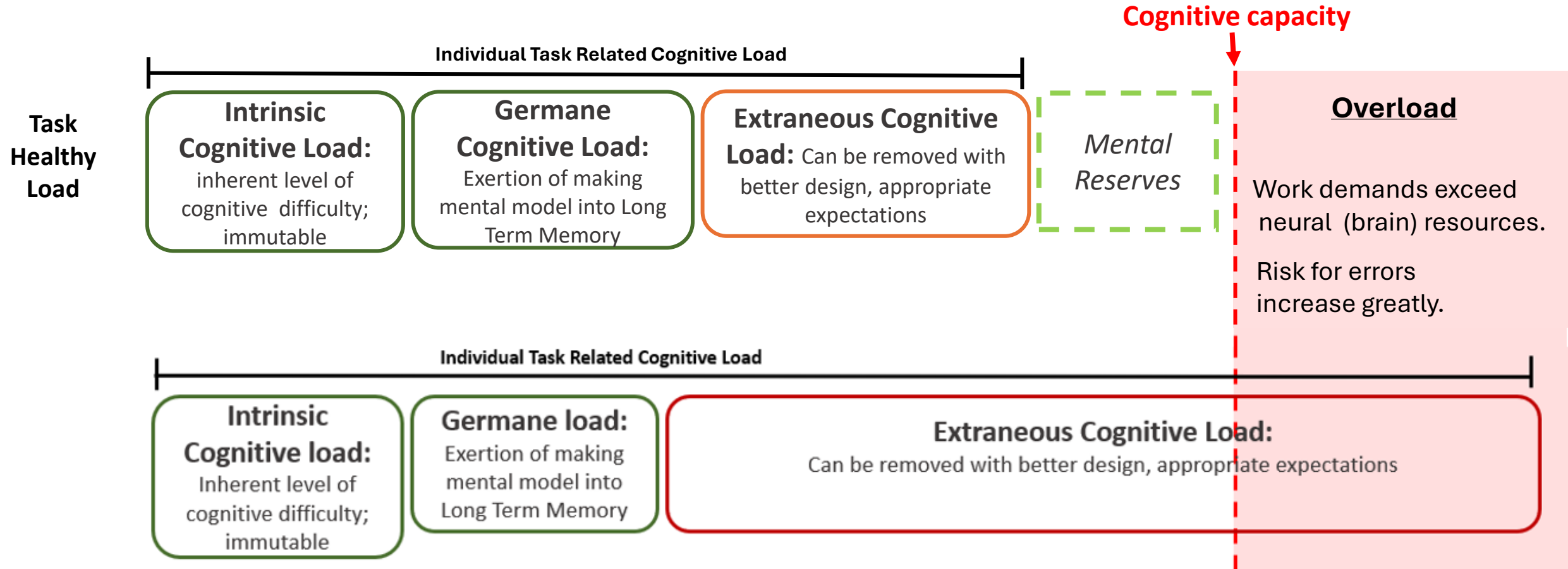
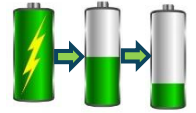
- Physical
 - Cognitive
 - Organizational
- Applies theory, principles, data, and methods to:
 - Optimize **human well-being AND system performance.**
 - **Patient safety** is a component of system performance.
 - **Goal:**
Fit the system to the people
instead of
fitting people to the system

https://www.faa.gov/files/gslac/courses/content/258/1097/AMT_Handbook_Addendum_Human_Factors.pdf

What is Cognitive Load (CL)?

- Measure of information held and processed in Working Memory at one time.
- Total CL has three divisions: **Intrinsic**, **Germane** and **Extraneous Cognitive Load**.
- Higher the Total CL → more brain resources consumed.
- All humans have **limited Cognitive Load Capacity**.
- If exceeded capacity can lead to medical error.

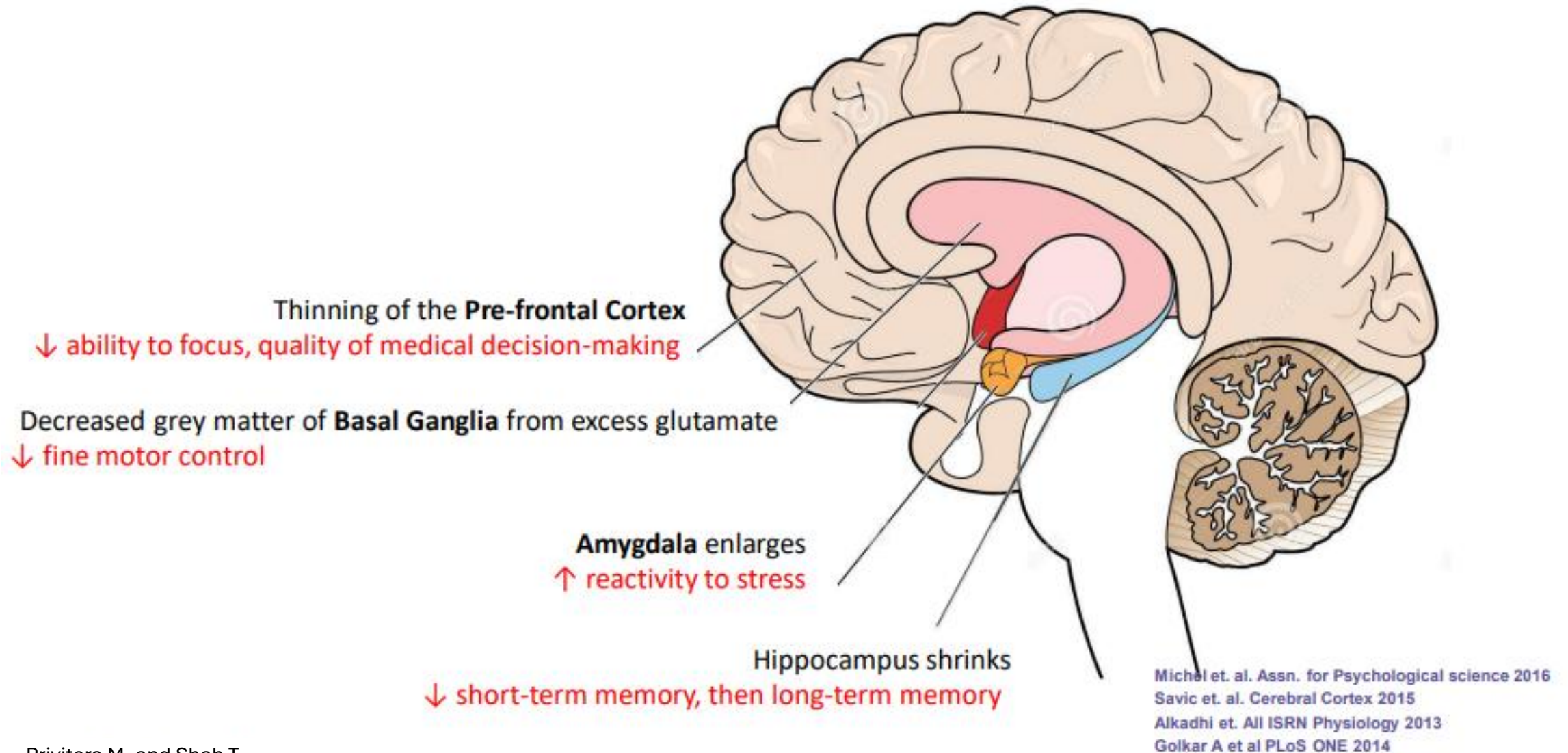
Individual Task-Specific Cognitive Load



These Occur In Overload:

- **Automatic thought-** learned response from stimulus. No differential diagnosis
- **Load shedding-** offload information, first low risk, then random shedding
- **Goal shielding-** not allow new information into brain processing (over-focused on achieving goal)

Brain Biological Effects of Burnout



Neurobiology of Clinician Distress and Burnout (I)

- Burnout linked to **uncontrolled stress** coming from reduction of a clinician's sense of control over their own practice¹.
- **Uncontrollable stress** (*but not controllable stress*) impairs the functioning (and structure) of the prefrontal cortex (PFC)¹.
- **Exposure to chronic stress:** Cascade of events leading to cerebrovascular dysfunction.
- Leads to structural and functional effects like Hypertension HTN): **Endothelial injury, increases wall thickness, vessel resistance, stiffness, arterial atherosclerosis and impairs cerebral blood flow “auto-regulation”**².

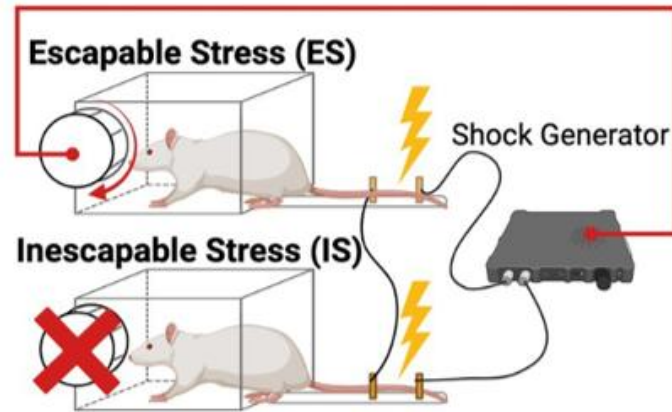
1. Amy F.T. Arnsten, PhD, and Tait Shanafelt, MD Physician Distress and Burnout: The Neurobiological Perspective Mayo Clin Proc.2021;96(3):763-769

2. Nada Elsaid, Ahmed Saied, Heba Kandil et al. Impact of stress and hypertension on the cerebrovasculature.. Frontiers in Bioscience-Landmark 26(12). 1643-1652, DOI:10.52586/5057.

Animal and Human Research

**Brain performance,
anatomy and
physiology affected by:**

- **Uncontrolled stress:**
Out of the control of
the subject to escape
from or end the stress.



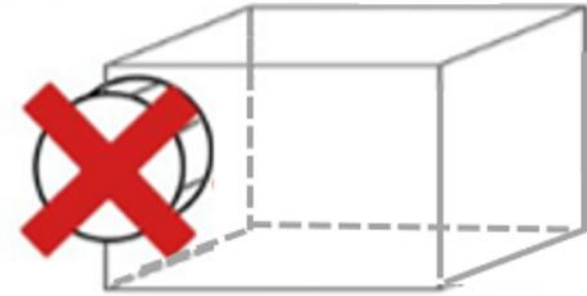
Uncontrolled, inescapable Stress
Rats restrained and given tail shocks

Human



+

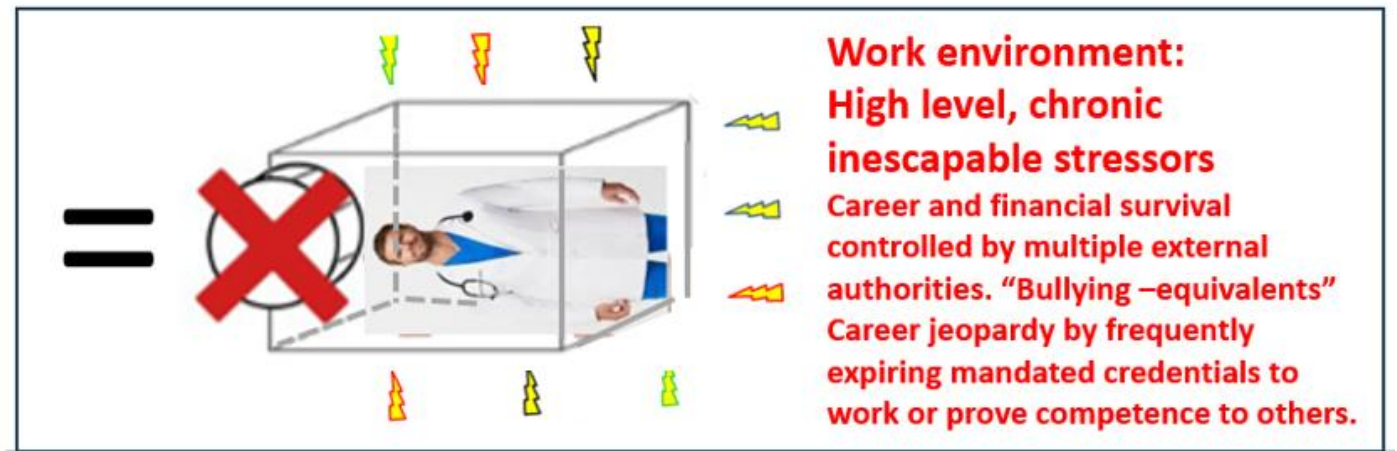
Clinical Career



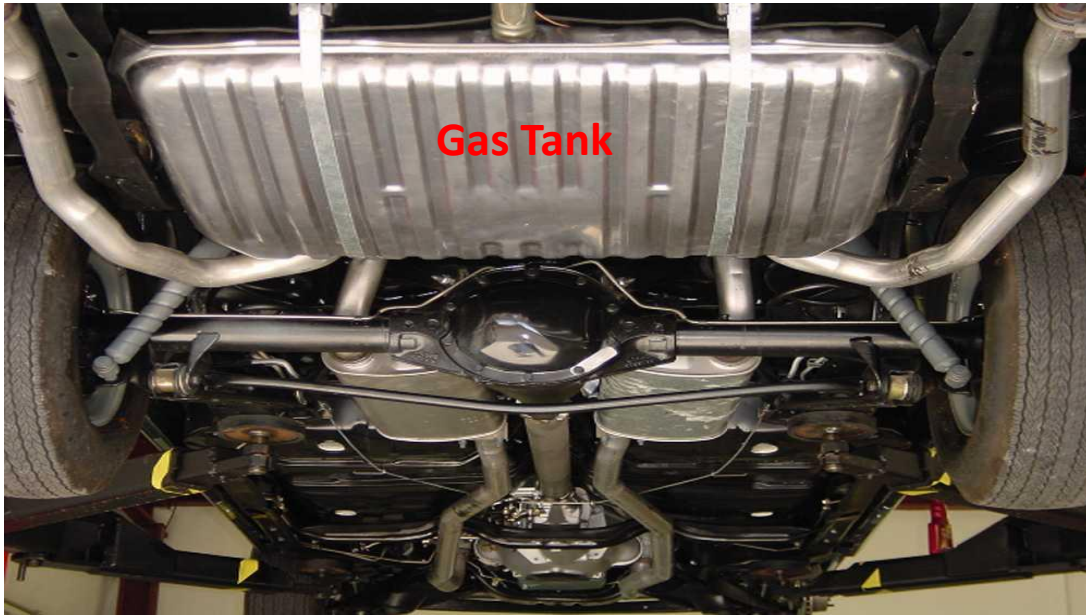
**Career requires high investment.
Creates situation like being restrained, trapped.**

- Calling of Medicine, dedication
- High personal commitment and sacrifice
- 21 years of education
- High training/education debt
- Driven to push self try to overcome odds
- Medical culture of endurance and silence

**High risk for impact on
brain structure and
function.**



Chronic High Occupational Stress Condition at Work- Metaphor



Gas Tank Metaphor

Rested, fed, healthy human clinician.

Large Gas Tank filled:

- Now to face high occupational stressor expectations.



Gas Tank - Shrunken

Burned out, depressed, anxious, sleep deprived, unfed human clinician.

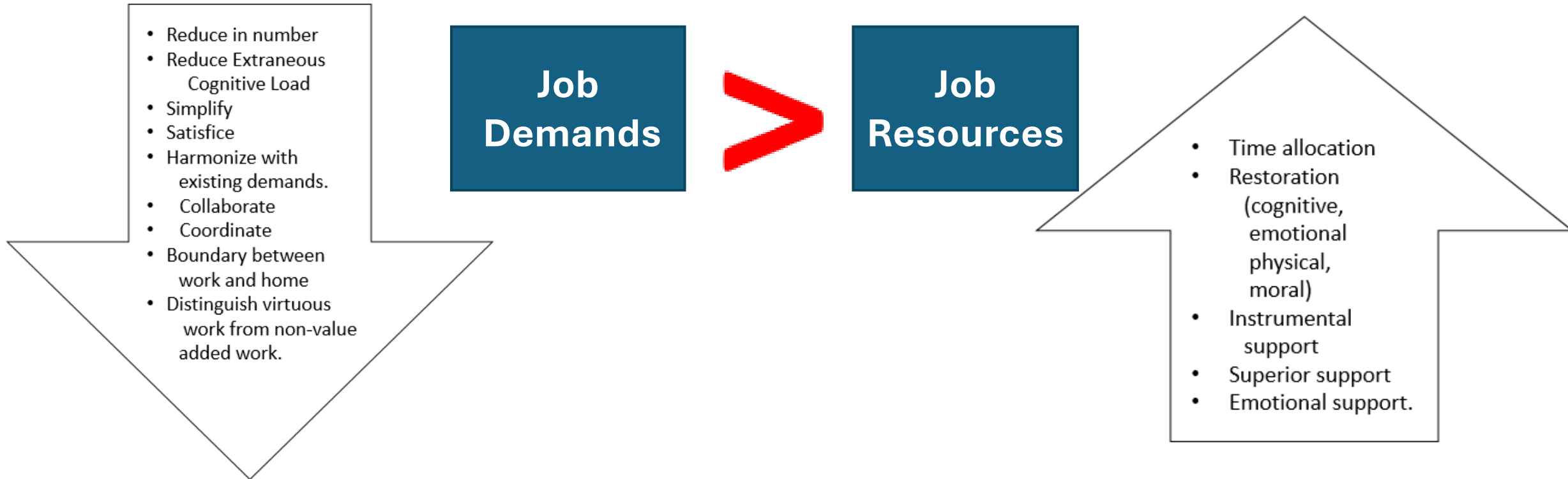
Smaller capacity created by chronic wear-down.
Less brain resource to achieve same expectations.
Starting out with less capacity yet to face high occupational stressor expectations.

Neurobiology of Clinician Distress and Burnout (II)

- Understanding this neurobiology:
 - Helps perspective of clinicians and administrators to relieve or prevent burnout¹
- Helps administrative leaders optimize the work environment to create more effective organizations.¹
- Efforts to restore a SENSE OF CONTROL (“aligned autonomy”) to physicians may be particularly helpful¹.

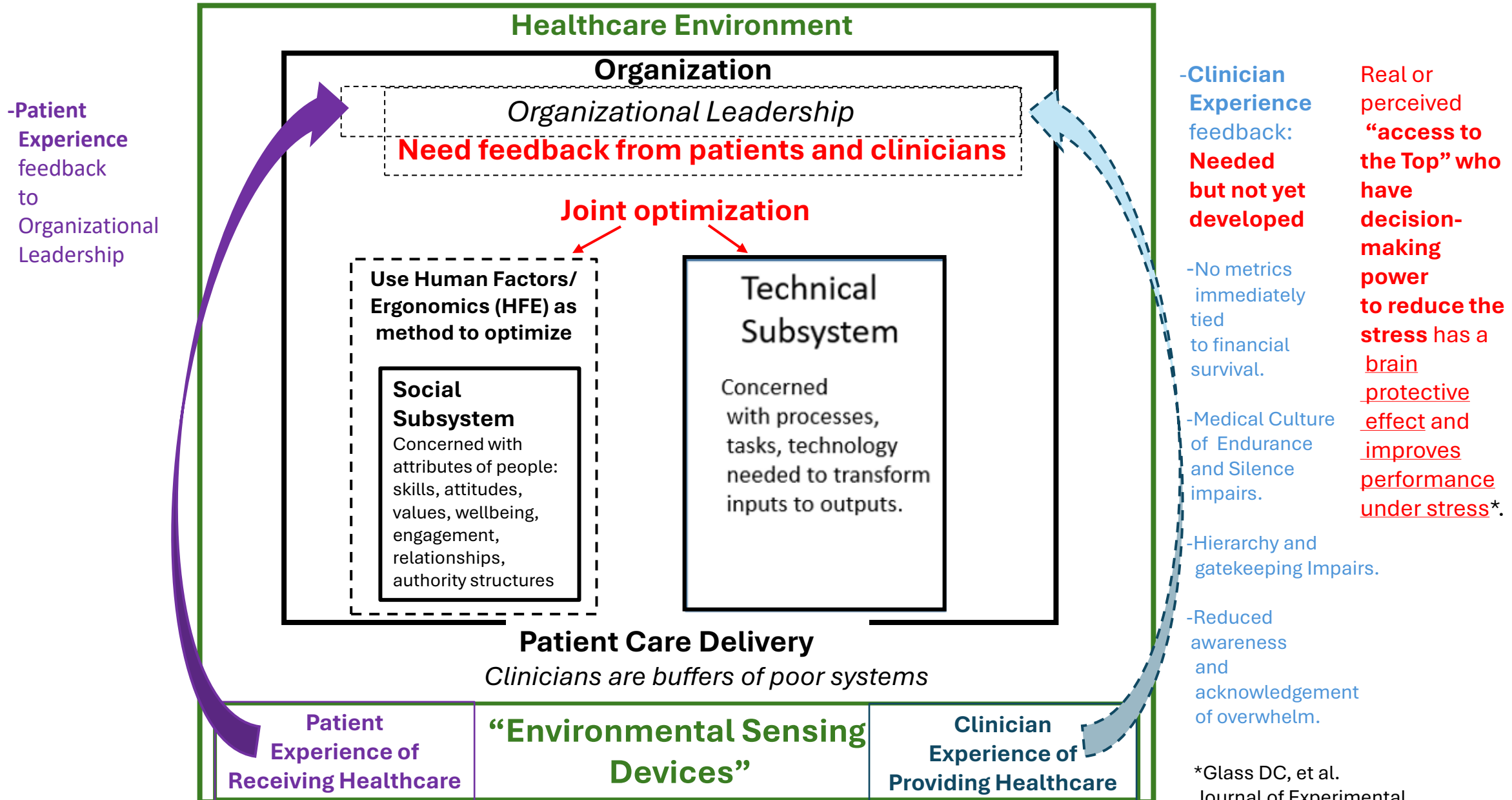
Demand-Resource Model

Burnout



Based upon Demerouti 2001

Sociotechnical System (STS) Perspective: Designing Effective Organizations





Macro Level-

National, state,
industry, regulatory

Healthcare Ecosystem

Well-intended

EMR- not well designed.
Multiple Quality Metrics
Patient Safety Movement.
Mandatory education initiatives
Patients as primary concern



Not so well-intended

Hassle Factors by Insurance
intended to wear down clinician,
For-profit Agendas.
Healthcare as investment vehicle.
Shareholders as primary concern



Meso Level-

Hospital/
Healthcare
Organization

Administrative Task demands:
Mandatories, policies, laws, regulations,
quality metrics, billing, prior auth's,
workflow issues, EMR software

Opportunity for control of **HOW these are implemented.**

Will make a difference to
clinicians' wellbeing and
brainpower needed for taking
care of patients.

Remove ECL, optimize GCL.
**ICL remains and meets
requirements.**



Each authority is silo of operation. No over-arching authority aware of total combined mandatory requirements , laws, policies, guidelines imparted—**except at level of hospital leadership**

Healthcare Ecosystem



Macro Level-

National, state,
industry, regulatory

Well-intended

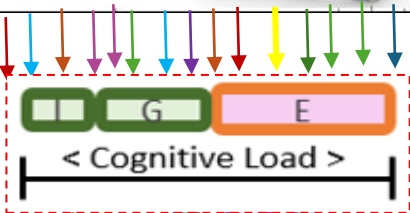
EMR- not well designed.
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Many
Authorities
In Healthcare



Not so well-intended

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intended to wear down clinician,
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Administrative Task demands:

Mandatories, policies, laws, regulations,
quality metrics, billing, prior auth's,
work flow issues, EMR software



Meso Level-

Hospital/
Healthcare
Organization

Hospital
Leader
Pathway

Business as Usual

Apply HFE 2

Human Factor
Based Leadership

1



Programs to
Reduce Extraneous
Cognitive Load



Micro Level-

Individual
clinician with
patients and staff

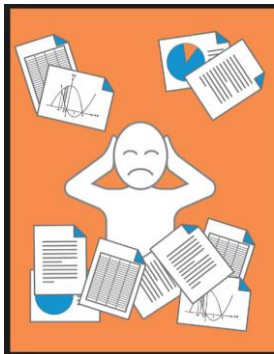
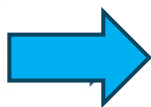


Staff have more
brain power
for clinical work.

Work outside of Work minimized.
Off time protected. **Physical emotional
and cognitive restoration.**



Individual Clinician Based approach



Organization-Based approaches



Burnout Interventions: Need Both

Individual-based Interventions

- **Recognition of Burnout despite Culture of Endurance and Silence**
- **Individual interventions must be paired with organizational interventions**
- **Normalize boundaries between work and home despite technology-> Policy and culture supportive.**
- **Multiple individual interventions**
 - Mindfulness-based stress reduction
 - Gratefulness
 - 3 Good Things etc.
 - Peer Support program
 - Clinician ombudsman to have work/life balance representation

Organizational Interventions

Address Experience of Providing Care

- **Leadership:**
 - Style and concern is key
 - Commitment to action
 - Understand and act upon the front-line problems
 - Encourage stronger administrator/physician partnerships
- **Measure Burnout/ Wellbeing/Satisfaction**
- **Relate these to quality of care, reduction of errors, malpractice and patient satisfaction**
- **NIOSH/CDC “Impact Wellbeing” Guide**

***CDC/NIOSH: Impact Wellbeing™* Guide:**

Taking Action to Improve Healthcare Worker Wellbeing

Explore the Guide's Six Actions



[Action 1](#)

Review Your Hospital's Operations



[Action 2](#)

Build Your Professional Wellbeing Team



[Action 3](#)

Break Down Barriers for Help-Seeking



[Action 4](#)

Communicate Your Commitment to Professional Wellbeing



[Action 5](#)

Integrate Professional Wellbeing into Quality Improvement



[Action 6](#)

Develop Your Long-Term Professional Wellbeing Plan

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/healthcare/impactwellbeingguide/index.html>

Brewing Legal issues: Employer Duty to Reduce Burnout, Uncontrolled Occupational Stress.

The Duty to Prevent Emotional Harm at Work: Arguments From Science and Law, Implications for Policy and Practice

Journal of Business Systems, Governance and Ethics

Vol 5, No 3

Martin Shain
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Corporate Responsibility for Systemic Occupational Stress Prevention

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Suing for Emotional Distress at Work

Can I File a Workers Comp Claim for Burnout?

November 21, 2022 By [James Hoffmann](#)



Healing the Healers: Legal Remedies for Physician Burnout

Sharona Hoffman

2025 National Working Group: Duty to Protect Healthcare Workers From Uncontrolled Stress.

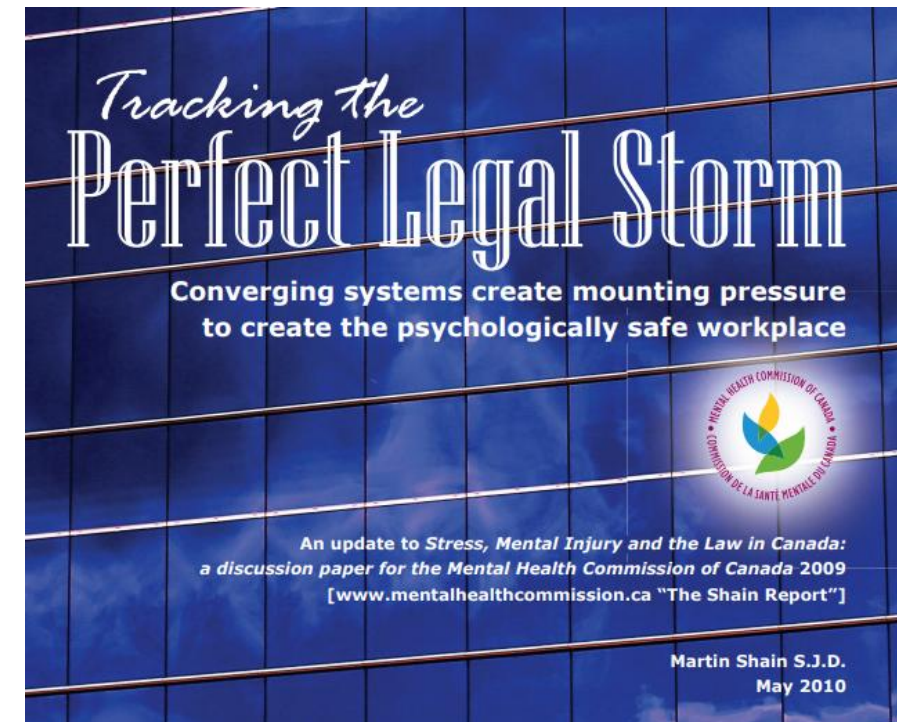
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Atalan on Economic impact of
Burnout, Lorna Breen Heroes
Foundation, UPMC contributors.

Case Research Paper Series in Legal Studies
Working Paper 2018-10
September 2018

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Health Care System Causing Dangerous Burnout Among Doctors and Nurses



Overlap of Organizational Contributions to Burnout and Workplace Violence (WPV): Is This an Opportunity to Sustain Prevention of Both?

- **Burnout** in healthcare workers (HCW), effect on patients and institution is experienced **DAILY**.
- **Workplace violence (WPV)** has a spectrum of forms.
 - In extreme forms it generally is **LOW FREQUENCY /HIGH IMPACT** occurrence.
 - Concern acutely rallies but trails off due to competing demands
- Efforts to reduce Burnout are more likely to sustain because of impact **DAILY**.
- Efforts to reduce WPV as **LOW FREQUENCY** event are harder to sustain despite best intentions.



Could efforts to reduce the common factors of organizational contributions to Burnout and WPV be a strategy to sustain prevention of Both?

Common Factors: Organizational Contributions to Burnout and Workplace Violence

Organizational Contributions to Burnout

Job Characteristics

Job Demands:

- Quantitative: Workload, overtime, time pressure.
- Qualitative: Role conflict, extraneous cognitive load demand (detracting from germane and intrinsic cognitive load needed to do the work).
- Role ambiguity.

Job resources:

- Lack of information, poor communication.
- Lack of control on schedule and workflow issues (little participation in decision making).
- Lack of autonomy, lack of social support.

Organizational and management environment:

- Organizational context shaped by larger social, cultural and economic forces.
- Emotion-work variables: requirement to display or suppress emotions on the job, being “professional”, “self-effacement” despite stressors from systems, patient, personal or staff issues.
- Requirement to be emotionally empathic.
- Violation of psychological contract.

How one is treated by the employer and appreciation of what the employee puts into the job- crucial in maintaining staff wellbeing.

Organizational Characteristics:

- Complexities in hierarchies, operating rules, resources, space distribution, space design, fairness and equity, distributive justice of resources.

Common Factors:

Management/
Triage
Resource
allocation
Flow design
Cognitive
overload/
Administrative
toxicity
Communication/
Information
Lack of social
support
Lack of control
of environment
Emotion
management
Emotional
work and
distress
Psychological
contract
violation
Physical
design issues.
Organizational
Trauma

Organizational Contributions to Workplace Violence

- Clash of people/ physical design. Crowding, forced together by difficult circumstances.
- Complexity of system in getting help and effect on cognitive load when in pain and distress.
- Lack of progression/ frustration: waiting without any sense of progression.
- Zero Tolerance Policies (override professional discretion and expertise, reflex reaction to complex problem).
- Perceived inefficiency: Dealing with Electronic Medical Record challenges, documentation requirements, mandates, laws and regulations that are uncoordinated with each other.
- Patients observe themselves and others seemingly waiting for hours while staff “busy themselves” with perceived non-essential tasks.
- Forfeiting of control.
- Lack of information from staff to patients.
- Lack of support during duress.
- Perceptions that hospital/staff in it for the money.
- Staff fatigue: Highly demanding work on staff, over time, physically and emotionally tired, constant flow of patients.
- Human resource shortage undermines violence prevention standards.
- Inadequate assault/violence prevention training procedures and policies.
- Tacit acceptance of violence as part of the job (instead of a risk of the job).
- Inhospitable healing environments, inhospitable work environment.
- Dehumanizing environments.
- Intense emotions: pain, stress, witnessing others in their stressful experiences.
- Unsafe environments: Equipment, intrusions, loud noise, lack of egress in space design, isolation from others.

Thank You



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