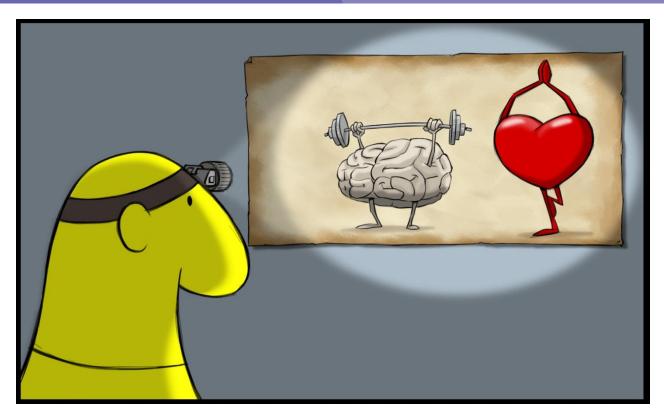
Supporting a compassionate workplace





Meditation-based Wellness & Compassion (MWAC) training and High Performance

Supporting a compassionate workplace



KEY POINTS

- 1. High performance is the aspiration, actual performance fluctuates
- 2. Staff wellness helps sustain high performance
- 3. In healthcare, one dimension of high performance is compassionate care
- 4. Meditation supports wellness and compassion through cultivating Intention, Attention, and Action
- 5. Use multiple meditations .. MF, Kindness, Compassion, SC, DR
- 6. Meditation is not a panacea but a little, often makes a difference ...



Supporting a compassionate workplace



What is high performance?

What supports high performance?

What gets in the way?







Relating in wise & loving ways ...







'Compassionate care, every patient, every time ...' (Susan Pearce)

... a noble purpose ...

... an incredibly difficult challenge

The Heart of Health: Supporting a compassionate workplace

Compassion & complexity...

High structure

Complex

- Dialogue for understanding
- Multiple safe to fail experiments
- Act, notice emergence
- Build on positives

Complicated

- Collect data
- Seek expert help
- Analyse then act

Unpredictable, Non-linear

Chaotic

- Provide structure
- Help people connect
- Dialogue for understanding and common purpose

Simple

- Just do it
- Build on success

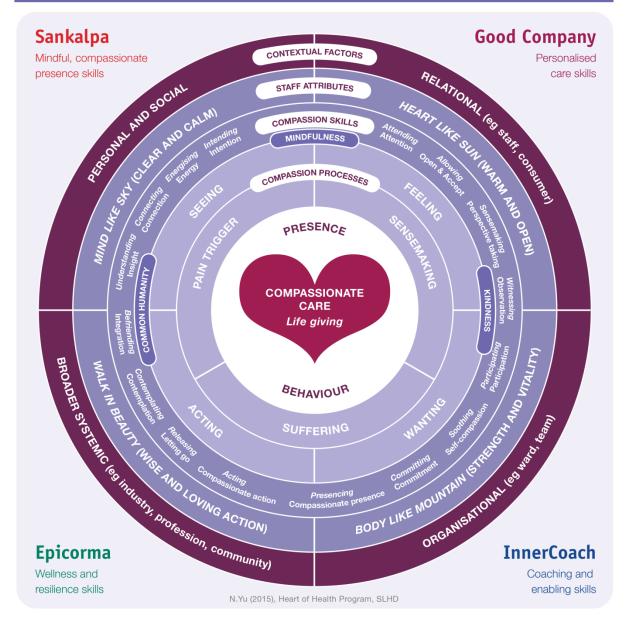
Predictable.

linear

Observe and act.

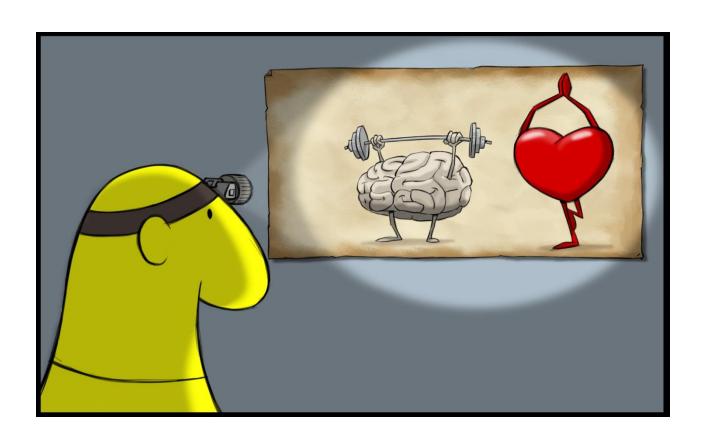
Low structure





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Meditation is not a panacea but it can help



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The scope of today ... and some assumptions ...



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High performance

Personal high performance

High performance is multi-level

Team high performance

Organisational high performance

Broader context (social, cultural, eco, political etc)

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Sydney Local Health District

Our Vision, To Achieve Excellence in Healthcare for All



Clinical excellence

Excellent use of resources etc



Positive care experiences



Patient-centred care is one key pathway

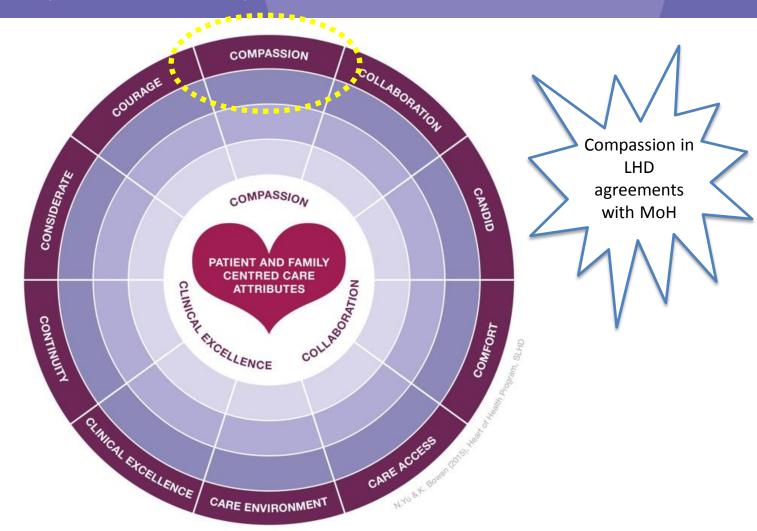


What else?



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What is compassion?

"a deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it."

Chochinov 2007

"a sensitivity to suffering in self and others, with a commitment to try to alleviate and prevent it."

Gilbert 2009

Elements of compassion

Head (noticing + appraising)

... seeing

Heart
(emotional experience,
resonance +
motivation to act)

... feeling

Hands (action to diminish suffering)

... acting

An understanding, a feeling, a motivational state, and an action.







... but can we have <u>sustainable</u> compassionate care *without* staff wellness?







... what does research say?

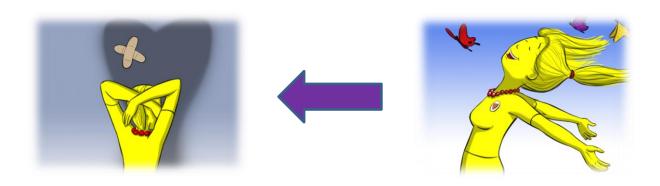


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Happy worker – Productive worker hypothesis

eg Parks and Steelman (2008); Harter, Schmidt & Hayes (2002).



Compassionate care

Staff wellness



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... so, how can we cultivate staff wellness and compassionate care?

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Evidence-based wellness interventions

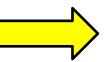


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Evidence-based wellness interventions

Meditation supports most of these skills and states





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Evidence-based wellness interventions









... and how can we cultivate compassionate care?

Cultivating compassion from the inside & out Yu (2016)

OUTSIDE

Experiential

Conversational & Reflective

Narrative & Creative

Hard wiring



INSIDE

- 1. Clarify PURPOSE
- 2. Build ENERGY
- 3. Train ATTENTION
- 4. Strengthen SKILLS
- 5. Tap COURAGE
- 6. Shape the SITUATION
- 7. Be SELF-COMPASSIONATE



MEDITATION

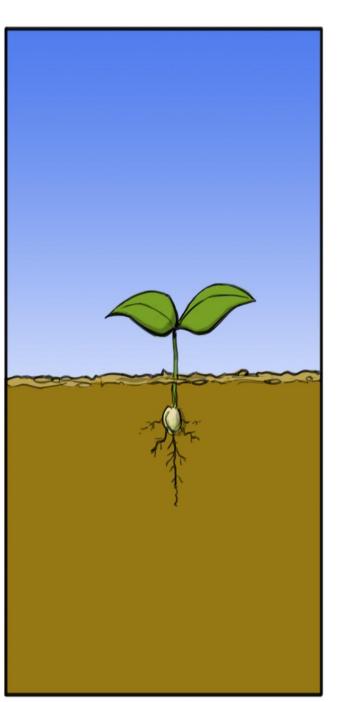
OUTSIDE

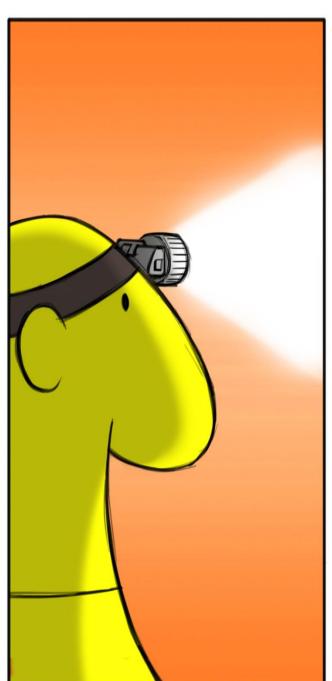
Research & Sound theory

Values

Role modelling & Leadership

Meditation & Contemplative

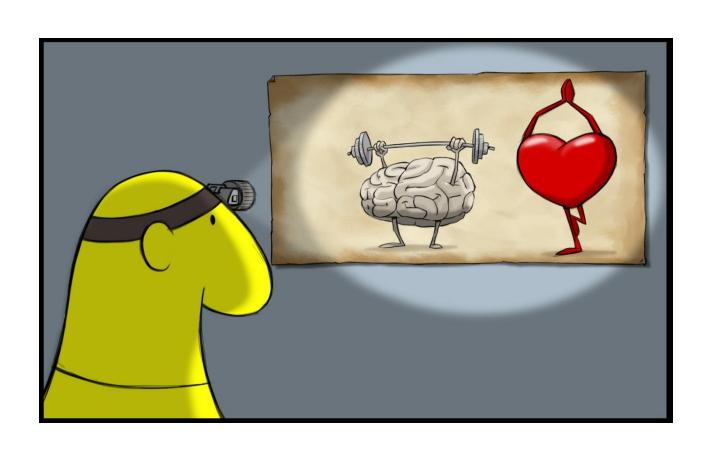






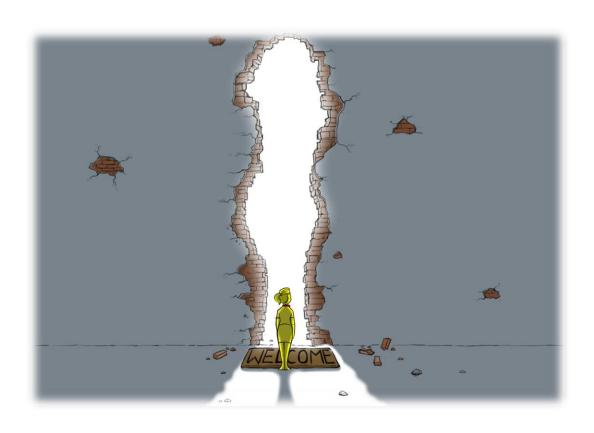
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17 000

US Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality

*note research rigour

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Studies have demonstrated ...













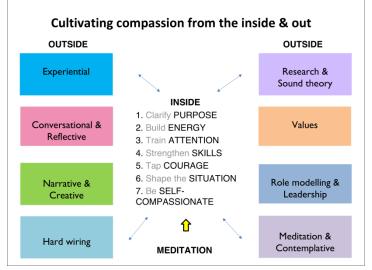


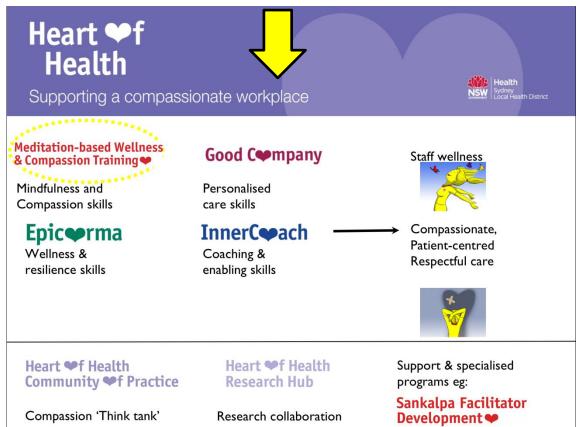




Ways that SLHD is supporting staff wellness & compassionate care







Cultivating compassion from the inside & out

OUTSIDE

OUTSIDE

Experiential

Research & Sound theory

Conversational & Reflective

Narrative &

Creative

INSIDE

1. Clarify PURPOSE

2. Build ENERGY

3. Train ATTENTION

4. Strengthen SKILLS

5. Tap COURAGE

6. Shape the SITUATION

COMPASSIONATE

Values

7. Be SELF-

Role modelling & Leadership

Hard wiring



MEDITATION

Meditation & Contemplative

Supporting a compassionate workplace



Meditation-based Wellness & Compassion Training ♥



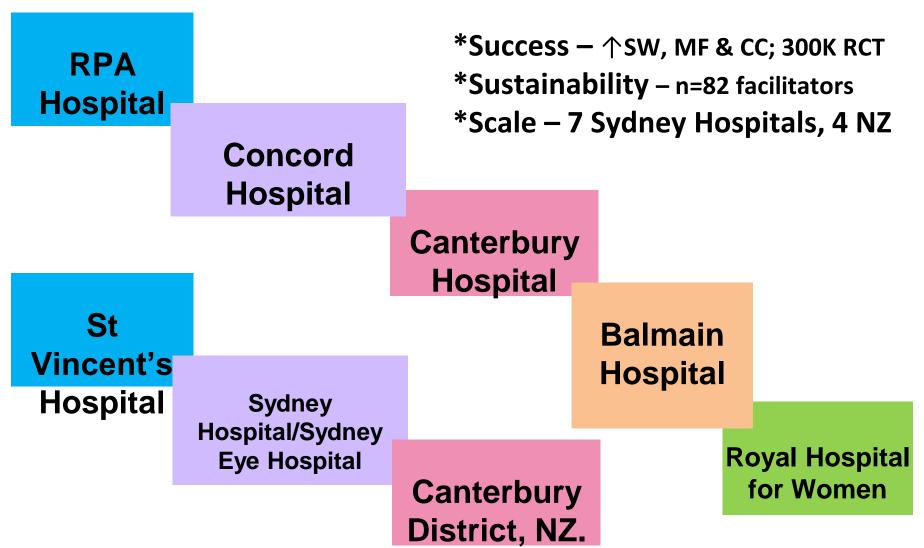
Meditation-based Wellness & Compassion (MWAC) training

A form of mental & emotional fitness training

Science-based, Practical, Secular (non-religious)

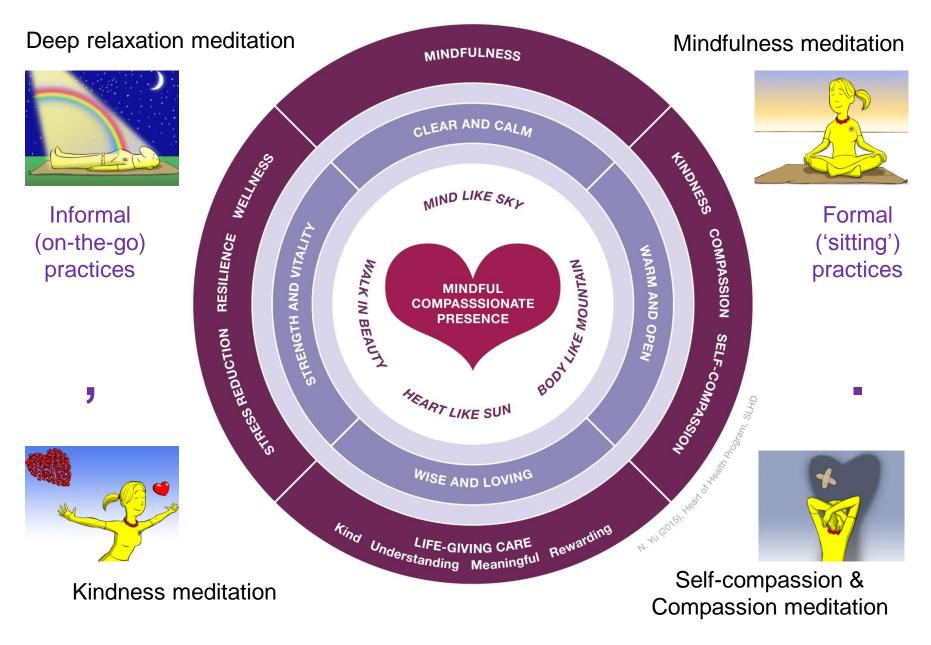


Meditation-based Wellness & Compassion Training •



Weekly program n=100+, already for 2 yrs in some teams, continues to expand

Meditation-based Wellness & Compassion Training ♥



The mind is full of STUFF ... learning to observe the STUFF ... and relate to the STUFF with openness, interest and kindness ...

STUFF

Sensations (of the body, including all 5 senses)



 ${\it Thoughts\ (including\ images)-if\ helpful,\ label\ thought\ eg\ 'thinking'\ ...}$



Urges & impulses - notice and 'ride' the urges



Feelings – label the felling eg 'this is anger', instead of I'm feeling angry or I'm angry



Flavour of each state (sensations, thoughts, urges, feelings are 'states') – notice how each state has a 'flavour' of being pleasant, unpleasant, or neutral



When triggered ...



Stop and breathe



Observe the S.T.U.FF (Sensations, Thoughts, Urges/ impulses, Feelings)



Assess Ask for is needed (here now)?



Respond & Reflect afterwards



Being with tricky feelings ...

ALL ER

Acknowledge

,



Label - name the feeling ... 'this is anger' ...



Locate - where in the body is this?



Experience – feel the feeling.. turning towards with openness, interest & kindness



Release - allowing states to pass without forcing or controlling







Intensive meditation-based wellness and compassion training program (MWAC) yields sustained impacts among nursing and midwifery leaders at six month follow up





Nickolas Yu¹, Greg Fairbrother ² Anya Johnson³, Helena Nguyen⁴

¹Program Manager Staff Wellness and Patient & Family-centred Care, Sydney Local Health District (SLHD),

²Clinical Nurse Consultant - Patient & Family-centred Care Research, SLHD

³⁻⁴University of Sydney Business School..

Heart ♥f Health Research Hub

Introduction

Patient & family-centred care (PFCC) is a key priority in modern healthcare.

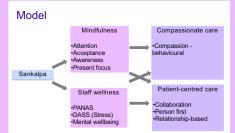
Research has found that patient and family-centred care is characterised by collaboration, continuity of care, consideration of patient needs and preferences, comfort (physical and psychological), candid information sharing, courage, caring workplace environment, and compassion (Blewitt et al, 2015).

Compassion is "a deep awareness of the suffering of another, coupled with a wish to relieve it" (Chochinov 2007). Elements of compassion include understanding, appraisal, empathy, motivation and responding.

A number of studies have found that meditation training can increase compassion (Seppala et al, 2013; Fredrickson et al, 2008). Most of these programs run progressively over a 2 month period or more. Less is known about the effectiveness of compassion and mindfulness training delivered in a brief. intensive format.

Aim

To investigate the impact of a 2-day meditation workshop on participants' stress, wellness, positive affect, resources, mindfulness and PFCC-related measures.



Method

The meditation based wellness and compassion training program (MWAC) consisted of five core meditation practices:

- · mindfulness training.
- · relaxation and stress reduction training
- · kindness training,
- · self-compassion training,
- · compassion training.

The 2 day program comprised of 12 hours of compassion and mindfulness training. 71 clinical leaders (managers, educators and senior clinicians) have participated in the program during 2015-17.

A within person repeated measures design was used. A questionnaire was used to collect data at three time points.

Baseline, post program and six month follow up data was analysed via SPSS using the General Linear Model (Repeated Measures) procedure. Dependent variables canvassed were: Positive affect, Mindfulness, Stress, Well being, Resources (physical, mental, emotional) and four PFCC-specific domains: Compassionate behaviour, Collaboration, Patient-centred care and Acknowledgement. Gender and years in the profession were also measured as independent variables.



Results

Fig 1: Heartworks – Well being related outcomes by 6 months (n=21)

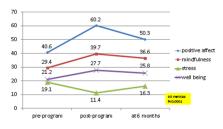
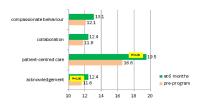


Fig 2: Heartworks – Compassionate patient & family centred care outcomes by 6 months (n=10)



Positive affect: 1.4; Resources: 0.5; Stress: 0.7; Mindfulness: 1.8; Well-being: 1.2; Patient-centred care: 1.1; Acknowledgement: 0.8

These values derived from participants matched at all three times points, reflect large sustained improvements and strong effect sizes for the MWAC intervention in both wellness and PFCC terms.

Role of gender and years of professional service

Participants provided data on their gender and years of professional service. These two independent variables were assessed against change values on the five principal outcome measures. Analyses which sought to ascertain any mediating effect of these variables indicated that they <u>did not</u> significantly affect the change values on outcome. This result suggests the potentially broad applicability of the intervention.

Practice at 6 months follow up	Result
Are you meditating at home?	Active: 96%
Are you meditating at work?	Active: 80%
I found Heartworks helpful	Agree:100%
I would recommend it to colleagues	Agree: 97%

Conclusions

Sustained wellness- and PFCC- related impacts are being demonstrated. The program and follow up data collection continues. Research designs are being strengthened by adding a wait-listed control element to the design

Contact

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Note

This is a research project of the Heart of Health Research Hub which is a collaboration between academics and practitioners from Sydney Local Health District, University of Sydney and Australian Catholic University. The focus of research projects is staff wellness and compassionate care.

References

Blewitt L, Wang K, Nguyen H, Johnson A, Pidial K, Yu N (2015) Mindfulness: Creating the space for compassionate care

Fredrickson B, Cohn M, Coffey K, Pek J, Pinkel S (2008) Open hearts build lives: Positive emotions induced through loving-kindness meditation build consequential personal resources *J Personality & Social Psychology* 95(5): 1045

Seppala E, Rossomando T, Doty J (2013) Social connection and compassion: Important predictors of health and well being *Social Research* 80(2): 411-30

KCI

Meditation vs.

Positive psychology vs.

Waitlist

n=240
Survey data
Patient/Staff dyads
Physiological measures
Qualitative data

300K Templeton grant,
Headed up by Prof Felicia
Huppert, ACU &
Cambridge Uni





Supporting a compassionate workplace



SOME MINDFULNESS & COMPASSION RESEARCH



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KEY POINTS

- 1. High performance is the aspiration, actual performance fluctuates
- 2. In healthcare, one dimension of high performance is compassionate care
- 3. Staff wellness helps sustain compassionate care
- 4. Meditation supports wellness and compassion
- 5. A little, often makes a difference ...
- 6. Life-giving conversations also matter

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Mindfulness

- Positive effects of mindfulness training upon well-being as well as reductions in stress and distress (e.g. Good et al., 2015; Keng et al., 2011; Khoury et al., 2015).
- Mindfulness appears to enhance capacity to self-regulate emotions, relate more flexibly to problematic cognitions regarding self and others, and reduce reactivity to stress (Atkins & Parker, 2012).

Mindfulness applications for organisational effectiveness

- Managing staff stress; Improving high potential development
- Enhancing engagement, Reducing burnout; Supporting staff cope with organisational change (Hyland et al 2015)

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Impact of compassion

Higher compassion individuals show ↑:

- helping behaviour
- moral reasoning
- connectedness & stronger interpersonal relationships

Higher compassion individuals show ↓:

- Depression; Moodiness & mental illness (Cameron 2003)
- Within org's compassion influences an individual's sensemaking about the org, resulting in:
 - ↑ org commitment; > frequent org citizenship
 - † quality relationships
 (Boyatzis et al 2013; Lilius et al 2012; Lilius et al 2008)

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Receiving compassion

- Manage pain (Lilius et al 2012)
- Supports change (Huy 2002)
- Express suffering & grieving (Hazen 2008)
- Legitimates suffering (Lilius et al 2012)
- Potential to trigger:
 - Vulnerability
 - Recovery & org reengagement
 - Commitment
 - Positive relationships
 - Supportive behaviours towards others (Dahl & O'Connor 2015)

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Witnessing compassion

- Elation (Haidt 2003; Lilius et al 2012)
- Promotes org virtuousness which may amplify org performance (Cameron et al 2004)
- Compassion satisfaction and positive prosocial identity (Grant et al 2008)
- Openness to receiving help from others, less stress (Cosley et al 2010)
- Work connectedness ... org commitment, lower turnover, org citizen (Lilius et al 2012)

Research compiled by O'Connor* and Dahl (2015).

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Self-compassion

- ↑ SC are correlated with higher levels of WB (Barnard & Curry, 2011; Neff, 2011; Pisch & Huppert, 2015), ↓ depression & anxiety, ↑ life satisfaction, ↑ social connection & ↑PA (Neff et al, 2007).
- Longitudinal studies ... change in SC is associated with change in subjective well-being (Birnie et al, 2010; Shapiro et al, 2005).
- Experimental studies have shown that ↑ self-compassion was associated with ↑ PA (Shapira & Mongrain, 2010), and ↑ motivation to change for the better (Breines & Chen 2012).
- KM practice results in: ↑ PA, ↓NA & psych distress, ↑ flexible thinking, self-acceptance, ↑self-esteem, ↑purpose in life, positive relationships, ↑social support received, & ↓illness symptoms (e.g. Fredrickson et al., 2008; Mongrain et al., 2011; Shonin et al., 2014).

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- Self-compassion has been shown to be the active ingredient in the effect of mindfulness training on the prevention of depression relapse (Kuyken et al., 2010).
- In experimental studies it has been shown that increased selfcompassion was associated with increased positive affect (Shapira & Mongrain, 2010), and increased motivation to change for the better (Breines & Chen 2012).
- Kindness meditation practice results in: increased positive affect, decreased negative affect and psychological distress, more flexible thinking, self-acceptance, increased self-esteem, increased purpose in life, positive relationships, increased social support received, and reduction in illness symptoms (e.g. Fredrickson et al., 2008; Mongrain et al., 2011; Shonin et al., 2014).

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Meditation supports healthcare performance & wellbeing

- Enhancing the resilience of nurses and midwives: Pilot of a mindfulnessbased program for increased health, sense of coherence and decreased depression, anxiety and stress.
 Maralyn Foureur, Karyn Besley, Geraldine Burton, Nickolas Yu, Jackie Crisp (2013).
- Mindfulness: creating the space for compassionate care. Larissa Blewitt, Karyn Wang, Helena Nguyen, Anya Johnson, Kreshma Pidial, Nickolas Yu (2015).
- The effects of a structured mindfulness program on the development of empathy in healthcare students. Sue Dean, Maralyn Foureur, Chris Zaslawski, Toby Newton-John, Nickolas Yu, Evangelos Pappas (2017).







How and why does meditation training support wellness and compassion?

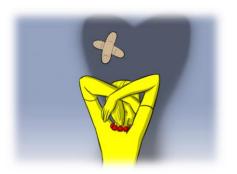


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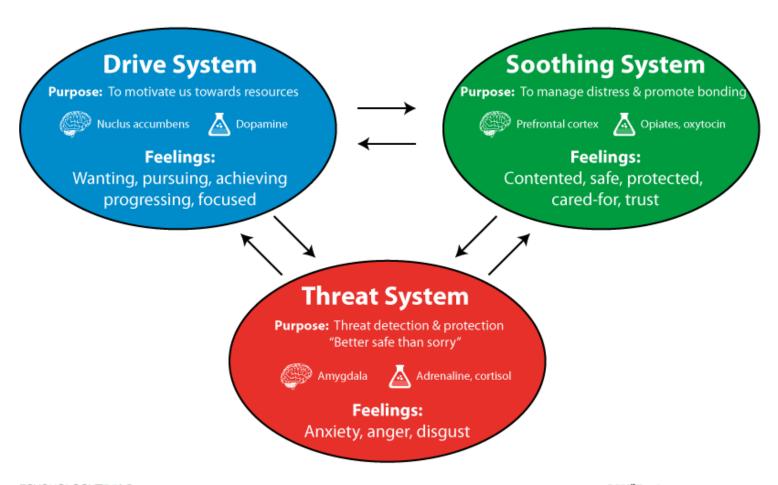


1

... it helps us cultivate self-awareness, a crucial aspect of leadership ... we become better company for ourselves (and others)



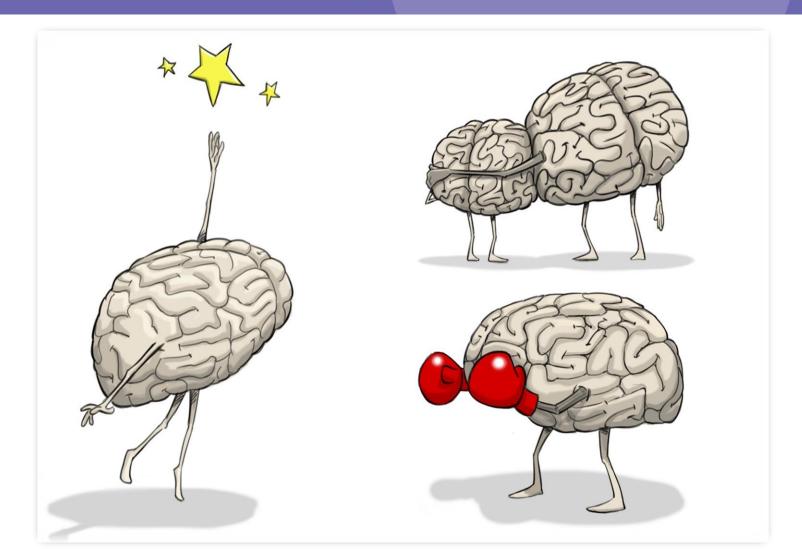
Emotional Regulation Systems



PSYCHOLOGYTO LS

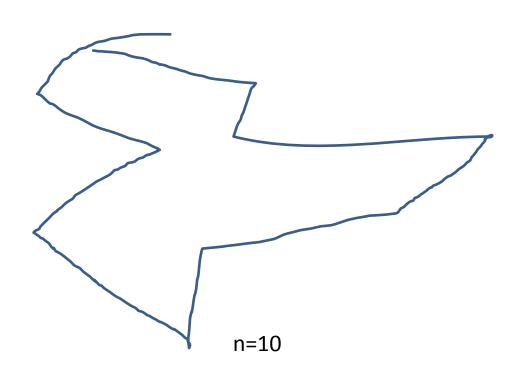
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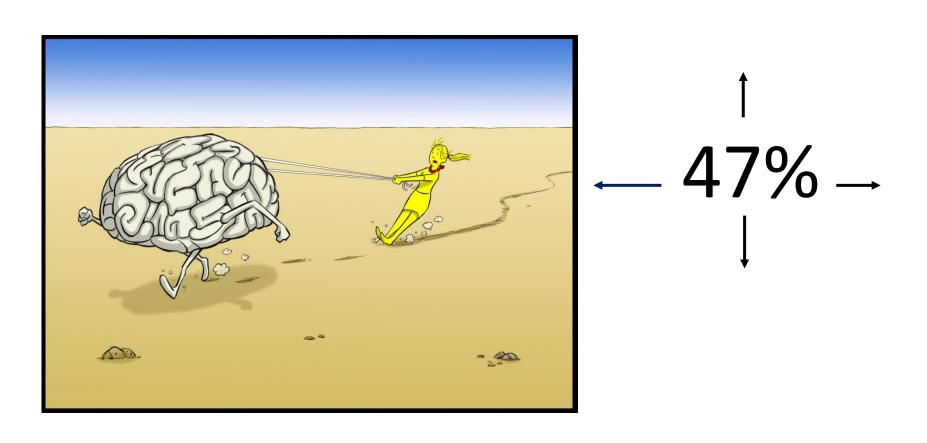
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8.25 seconds

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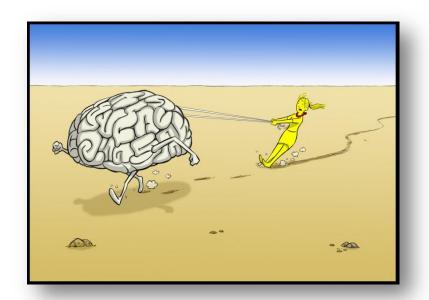


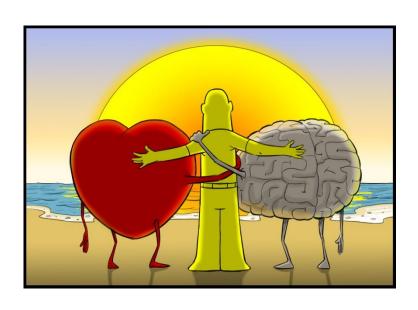
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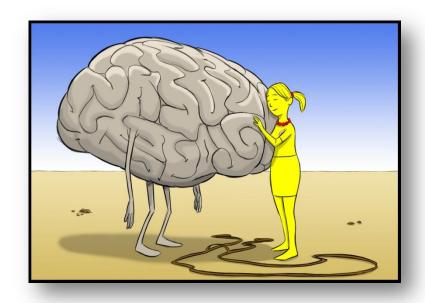
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(A fifth of one percent)

1440













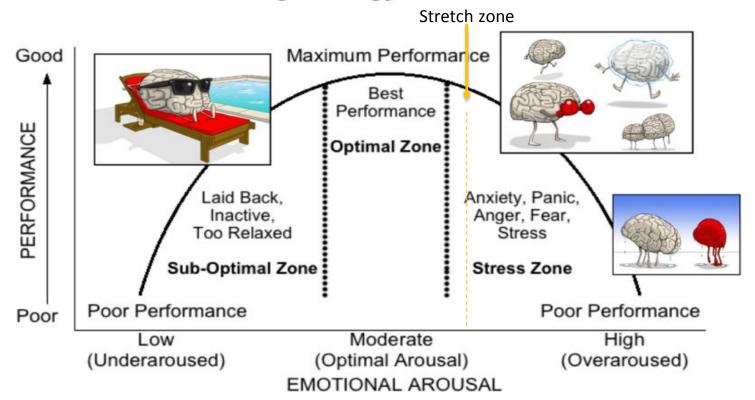
2

... it helps us recharge and replenish

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Leaders manage energy & surf the P-curve



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Autonomic Nervous System

Total color



Parasympathetic Nervous System

> Corticosteroids
Fewer new neurons
Old neurons overstimulated

> Adrenaline & noradrenaline (> O₂, Glucose ... > HR, BP, Resp)

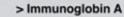
Large muscles prepare
< Non-essential neural circuits

< Learning capacity</p>
> Defensive, perceive -ve's

Constricting Emotions

(Eg anger, anxiety)

"Fight or Flight Response"



> Natural killer cells

< Blood pressure

< Cortisol

& Adrenaline

> DHEA

> Oxytocin / Vasopressin

Relaxation is a side-effect of meditation



(Eg gratitude, kindness, contentment)

"Relaxation Response"

(Rest and Digest, Tend and Befriend)



- · P-curve (Performance & Pressure)
- · Flow diagram
- Stress, Eustress, Distress
- · Sacrifice & Renewal cycle
- Renew thru evoking the PNS (eg meditate).
- · , Commas & .full stops

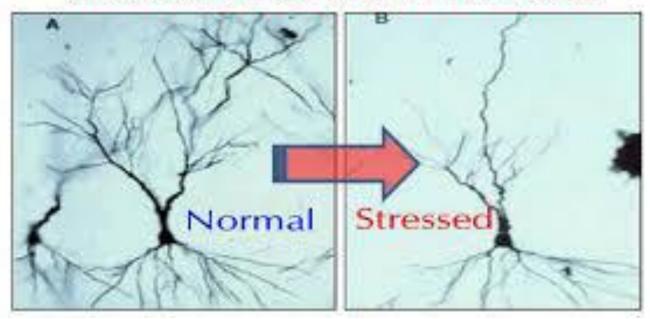
- 1. Know your Stress Signature &
- 2. Self-regulate across the curve

By Nickolas Yu

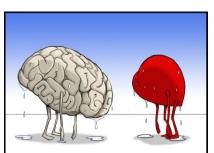
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Stress Shrinks Brain Networks



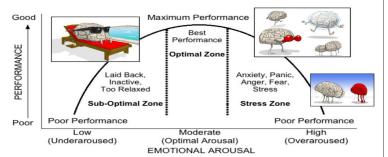
Kaufer (2014), Molecular Psychiatry



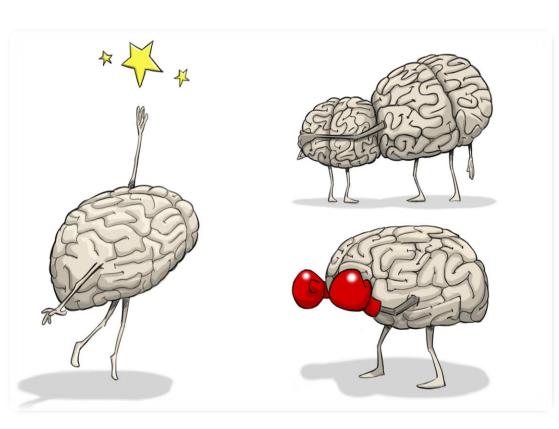
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Leaders manage energy & surf the P-curve

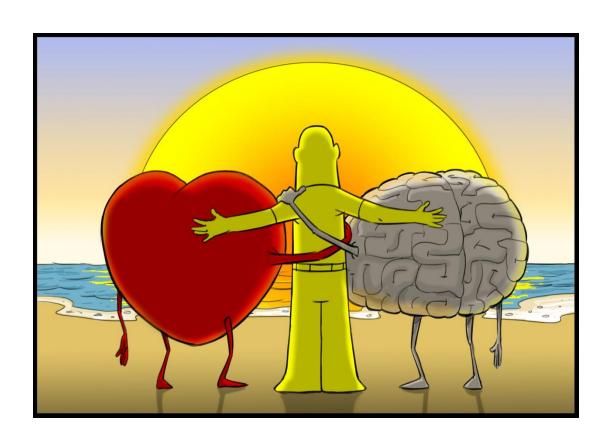


Yerkes-Dodson curve



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3

... it helps us see things more clearly

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Exhibit A:

lifeiscle arerande asierw ithpun ctuati on.

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Exhibit A:

lifeiscle arerande asierw ithpun ctuati

on.



Life is clearer and easier with punctuation.

Exhibit B:



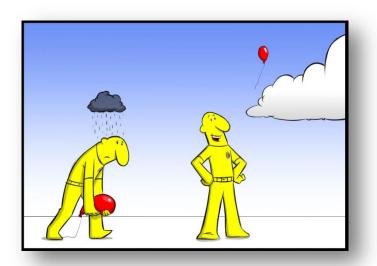
What is the difference?



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... also, it takes a lot of energy to keep fighting, running and ignoring tricky STUFF (Sensations, thoughts, urges, feelings) ...



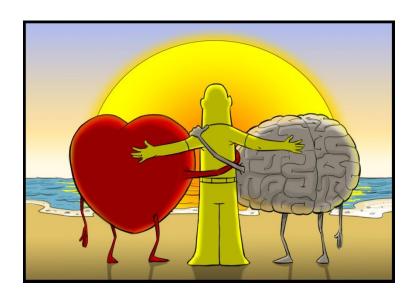






4

... it helps us strengthen connections and relationships characterised by openness, warmth, trust and respect



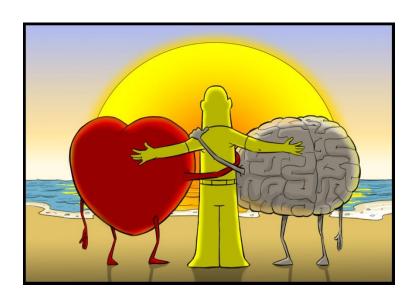


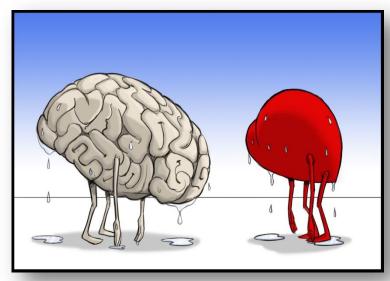
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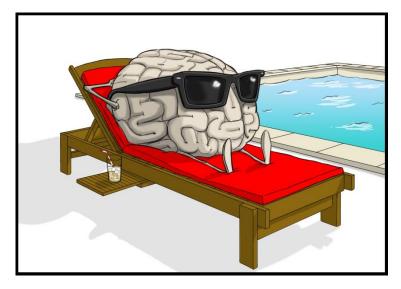
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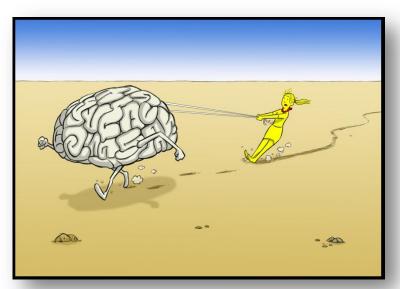
Meditation helps cultivate open-mindedness (eg PTC), open-heartedness (eg PA, DT) ... resilience & creativity



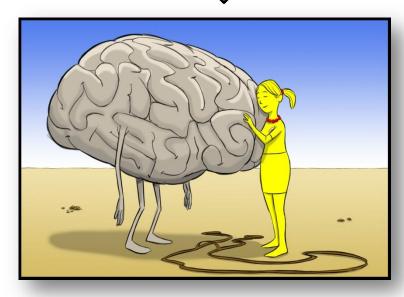












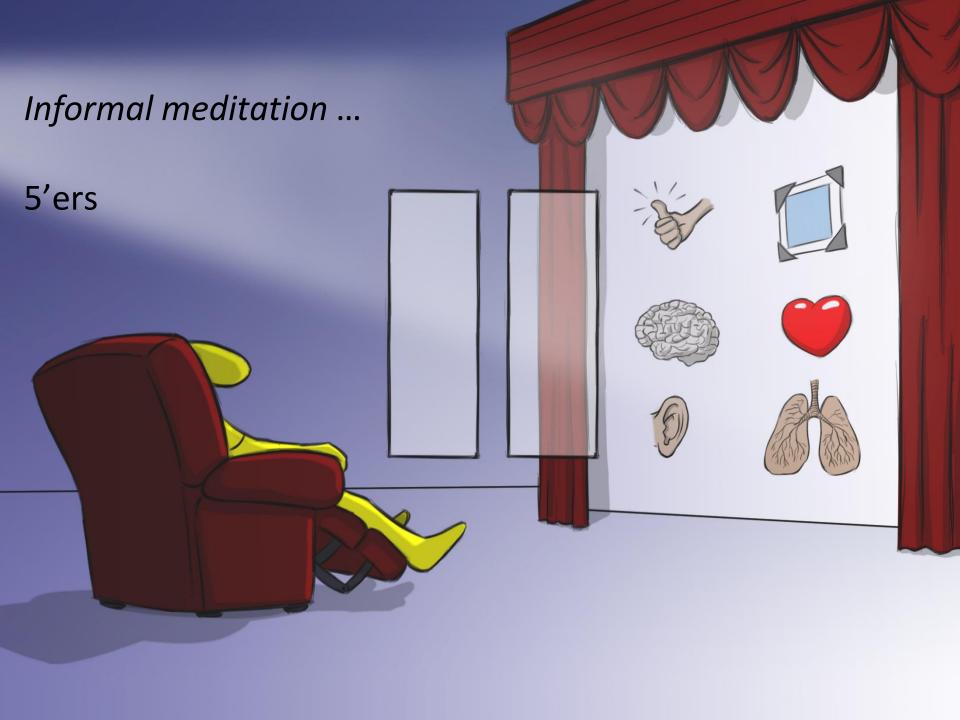




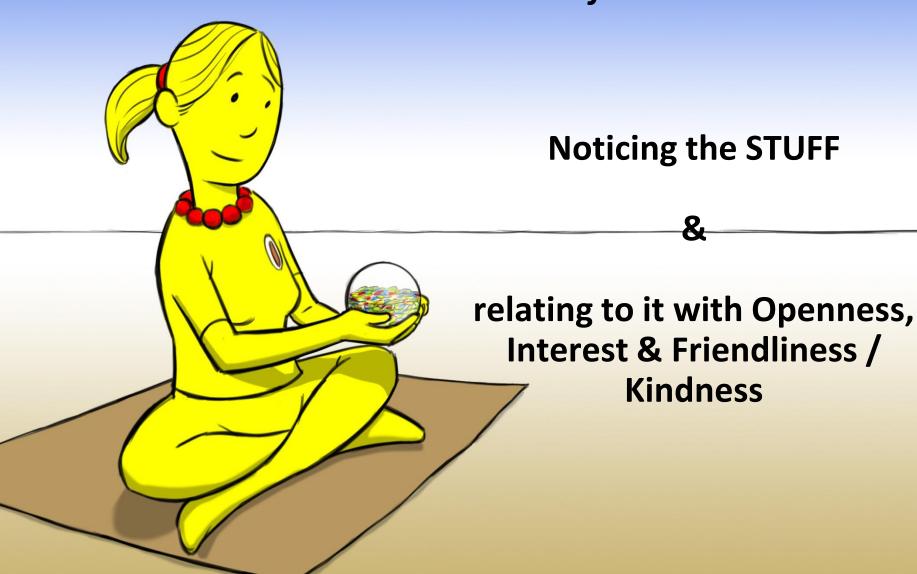


Taste test ... 'experiments'

5'ers
Breathing Space Meditation (MM)
Heartspace Meditation (CM)
Self-compassion Meditation (SCM)



Mindfulness meditation





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KEY POINTS

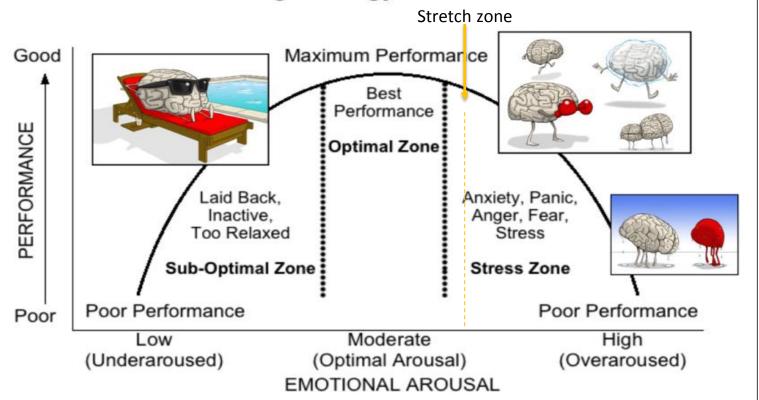
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- 6. Meditation is not a panacea but a little, often makes a difference ...

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1. High performance is the aspiration, actual performance fluctuates

Leaders manage energy & surf the P-curve



Supporting a compassionate workplace







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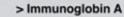
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& Adrenaline

> DHEA

> Oxytocin / Vasopressin

Relaxation is a side-effect of meditation



(Eg gratitude, kindness, contentment)

"Relaxation Response"

(Rest and Digest, Tend and Befriend)



- · P-curve (Performance & Pressure)
- · Flow diagram
- Stress, Eustress, Distress
- · Sacrifice & Renewal cycle
- Renew thru evoking the PNS (eg meditate).
- · , Commas & .full stops

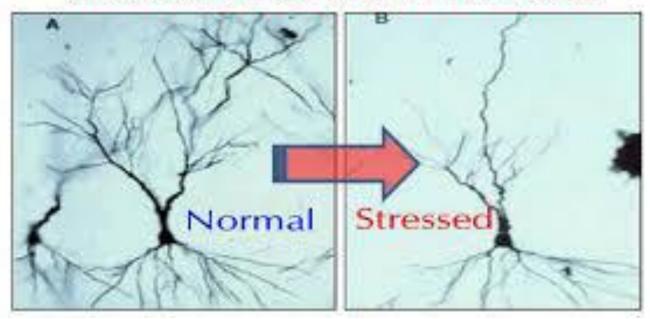
- 1. Know your Stress Signature &
- 2. Self-regulate across the curve

By Nickolas Yu

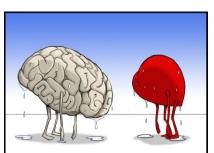
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Stress Shrinks Brain Networks

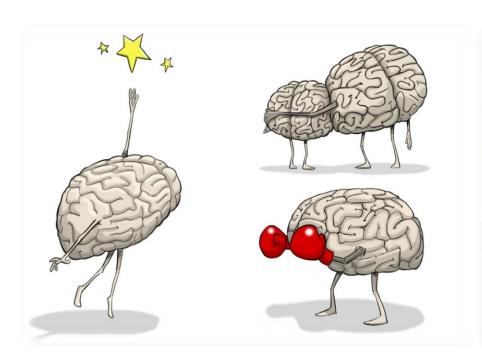


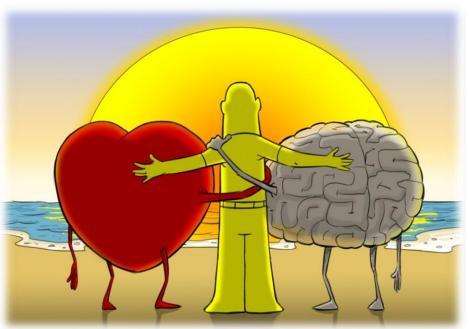
Kaufer (2014), Molecular Psychiatry



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Understand the emotional motivation systems

Cultivate balance

Personal, Workplace, Social



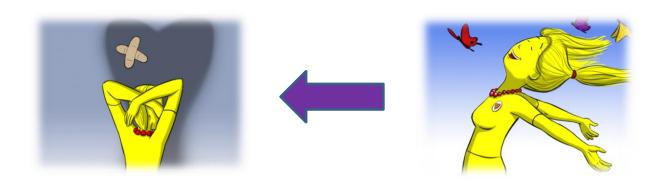
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2. Staff wellness helps sustain high performance

Happy worker – Productive worker hypothesis

eg Parks and Steelman (2008); Harter, Schmidt & Hayes (2002).



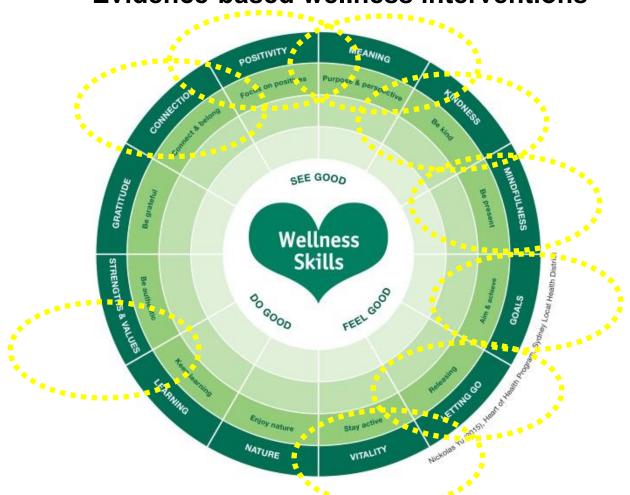
Compassionate care

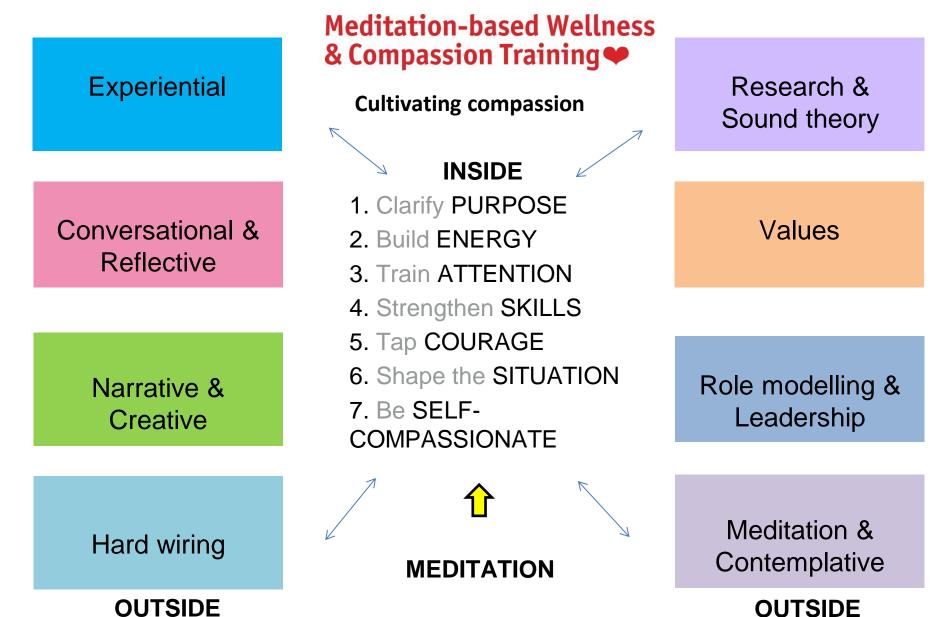
Staff wellness

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Evidence-based wellness interventions

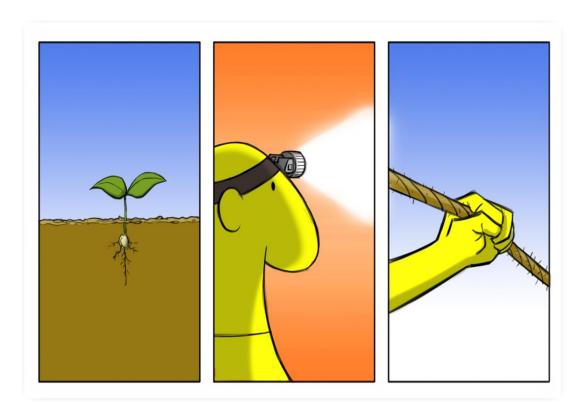




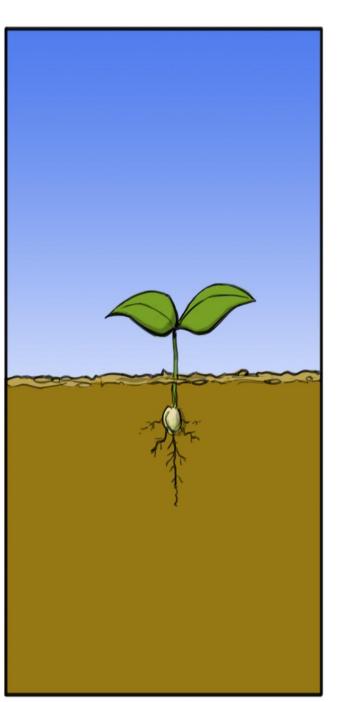
3. In healthcare, one dimension of high performance is compassionate care

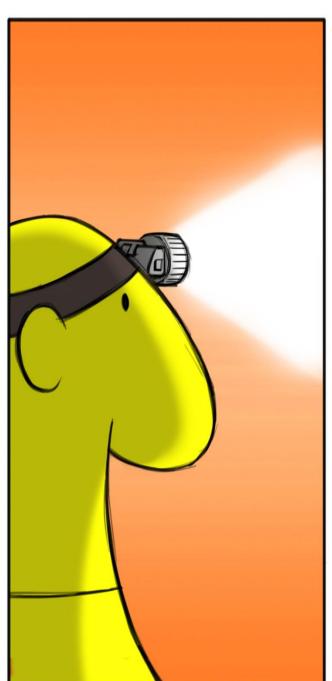
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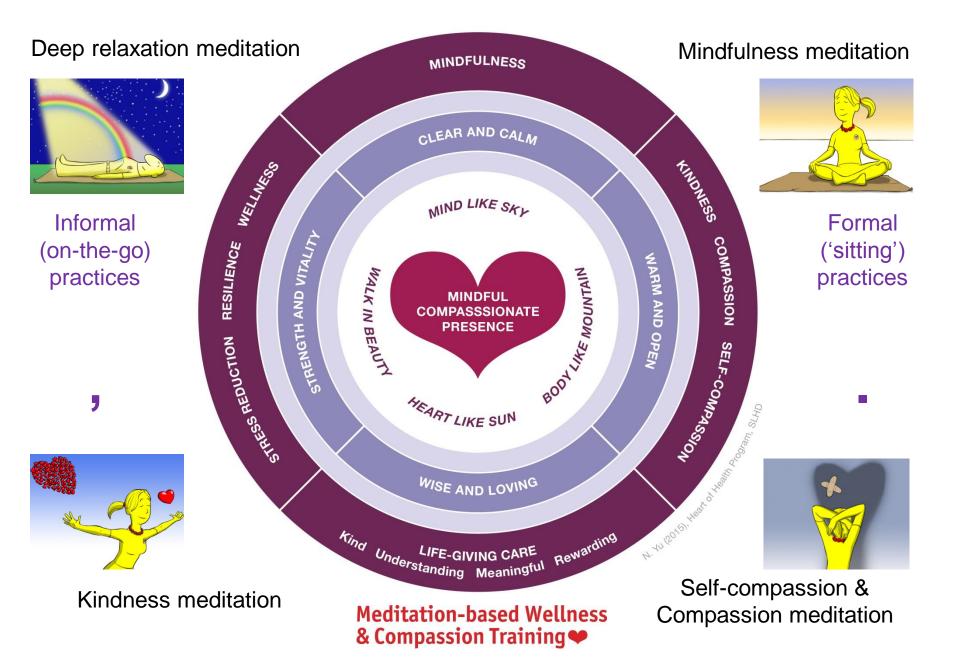
4. Meditation supports wellness and compassion through cultivating Intention, Attention, and Action

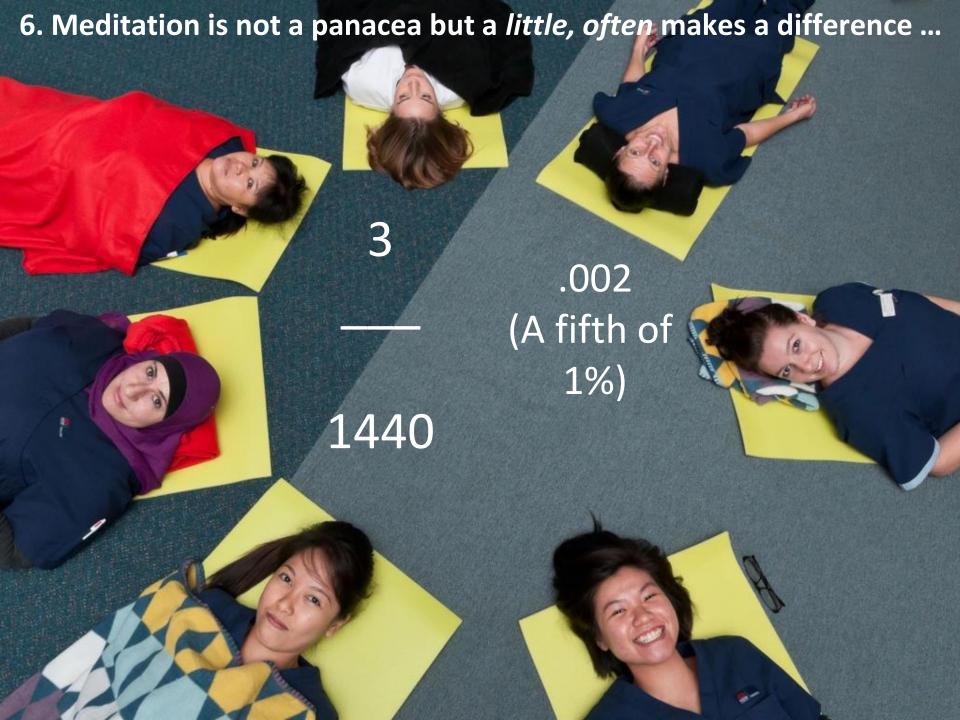






5. Use multiple meditations .. MF, Kindness, Compassion, SC, DR





DEDICATION







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THANKYOU

Nickolas Yu, Program Manager - Staff wellness & Patient

& Family-centred care

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Guided meditations: App ready late 2017

In the interim ...

www.slowcoachsydney.org

Password: slowcoach