

# *Combining Cognitive Rehearsal, Simulation, and Biomarkers to Assess Newly Graduated Nurses' Ability to Address Workplace Incivility*



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## *Conflicts of Interest and Disclosures*

*Neither the planners or presenters indicated that they have any real or perceived vested interest that relate to this presentation.*

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*The presenters also wish to acknowledge our study participants*

# Meet our Esteemed Colleague

## *Dr. Janet Willhaus*



# Conceiving the Study



Diane Labombarbe/DigitalVision Vectors/GettyImages

# Session Objectives

- Define workplace aggression: incivility, bullying, and mobbing
- Describe how biomarkers, simulation, and Cognitive Rehearsal can be combined to explore the impact of incivility on nurse performance and patient safety
- Discuss CR as a technique that can be used by newly graduated nurses to address workplace incivility





# Workplace Aggression

## *Incivility, Bullying, and Mobbing*



Blaj Gabriel/iStock/Thinkstock

# Workplace Incivility



Clark & Kenski, 2017; ANA, 2015; Clark, 2013, 2009, Pearson & Porath; 2013, 2009, 2005; Andersson & Pearson, 1999

# Workplace Bullying



The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health ([cdc.gov/niosh](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh))



# Workplace Mobbing



Leymann, 1992; Davenport, Schwartz, & Elliott, 1999; Westhues, 2004; Harper, 2013; ANA, 2015; Castronovo, Pullizzi, & Evans, 2016

# Impact of Incivility on the Practice Environment

- Patient Safety and Quality Care
- Nurse Performance, Clinical Judgment, Patient Advocacy
- Recruitment and Retention
- Collaboration and Inter-professional Teamwork
- Job Satisfaction—Intent to Leave
- The *'Bottom Line'*



Kaiser Permanente Academy of Evidence-Based Practice, 2017; ANA, 2015; Laschinger et al 2013; Brunt, 2011; Dellasega, 2011; Dellasega & Volpe, 2013; Johnston, Phanhtharath, & Jackson 2010; Clark & Springer, 2010; Cleary, Hunt, & Horsfall 2010; Felblinger 2009; TJC, 2012; Hutton, 2008

# Cognitive Rehearsal

1. Learning and didactic instruction
2. Rehearsing specific phrases to use during uncivil encounters (creating a personalized statement using an evidence-based framework)—*Scripting!*
3. Practice sessions to reinforce instruction and rehearsal
4. De-briefing and reflection



ANA, 2015; Griffin 2004; Griffin & Clark, 2014; Stagg, Sheridan, Jones, & Speroni, 2011, 2013; Willhaus, Clark, & Kardong-Edgren, in progress

**CUS(sing):** To get attention when  
you really need it: **CUS!**

I am **C**oncerned

I am **U**ncomfortable

This is a **S**afety issue

**TeamSTEPPS:** Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance  
Performance and Patient Safety

<http://teamstepps.ahrq.gov/>



# Purpose

Explore the efficacy of a cognitively rehearsed intervention strategy to address workplace incivility so that nurse performance was unaffected and patient safety protected



# Theoretical Framework

## Theoretical Model of Stress and Coping (Lazarus & Folkman, 1984)

- When faced with emotional or physical stressors, both cognitive and behavioral resources are used in coping
- Physiological responses occur with behavioral & psychological stress



Richard Lazarus



Susan Folkman



# Methods

- Sample: Newly graduated nurses within 6 months ( $n=11$ )
- Screened using the PCL-C prior to admission to the study
- Instruments:
  - Brief Resilience Scale
  - Stress Appraisal Scale
- Physiological Measures:
  - Salivary Alpha Amylase
  - Mean heart rate
  - Maximal heart rate
- Standardized Patient HCAAPS scores
- Observation checklist scores

# Methods

- Cognitive Rehearsal Intervention:
  - In-person didactic and rehearsal (60-90 minutes)
- Students assigned into 3 groups
  - Group 1: Control-hurried (After)
  - Group 2: Intervention-uncivil (Prior)
  - Group 3: Control-uncivil (After)

# Incivility Exposure

- Scripts the same for all three groups
  - Conveyed in either hurried or uncivil manner
  - No profanity or name calling
- After report
  - Participated in a simulation of 1) nursing assessment with a patient recovering from a CVA and 2) administering morning medications (*digoxin, antibiotic with patient teaching*)
- Debriefing followed simulation
  - Audio recorded for later transcription and analysis

# Scenario Description

- Two nurses work together on a busy unit in a large medical center. The off-going nurse has worked several consecutive shifts, is exhausted, and anxious to go home. The oncoming nurse is a few minutes late arriving on the unit.
- Participant receives either “hurried” nurse *handoff* or “uncivil” nurse *handoff* depending on group assigned.

# Role Playing and Debriefing the Scenario



<b>Control-Hurried GROUP (<i>n</i>=5)</b>	<b>Informed consent:</b> Saliva Sample	<b>Rest 45 minutes:</b> Heart rate, BRS, SAS, Saliva Sample	<b>Hurried handoff:</b> Heart rate, BRS, SAS, Saliva Sample	<b>Patient care</b> Simulation: Heartrate, SAS, Saliva Sample	<b>1:1 Debrief</b> Heartrate: SAS, BRS, Saliva Sample	<b>Cognitive Rehearsal</b>
<b>Intervention-Uncivil GROUP (<i>n</i>=3)</b>	<b>Informed consent:</b> Saliva Sample	<b>Cognitive Rehearsal</b>	<b>Rest 45 minutes:</b> Heart rate, BRS, SAS, Saliva Sample	<b>Uncivil handoff:</b> Heart rate, BRS, SAS, Saliva Sample	<b>Patient care:</b> Simulation, Heartrate, BRS, SAS, Saliva Sample	<b>1:1 Debrief</b> Heartrate, SAS, Saliva Sample
<b>Control-Uncivil GROUP (<i>n</i>=3)</b>	<b>Informed consent:</b> Saliva Sample	<b>Rest 45 minutes:</b> Heart rate, BRS,SAS, Saliva Sample	<b>Uncivil handoff:</b> Heart rate, BRS,SAS, Saliva Sample	<b>Patient care:</b> Simulation, Heartrate, SAS, Saliva Sample	<b>1:1 Debrief</b> Heartrate, SAS, BRS, Saliva Sample	<b>Cognitive Rehearsal</b>

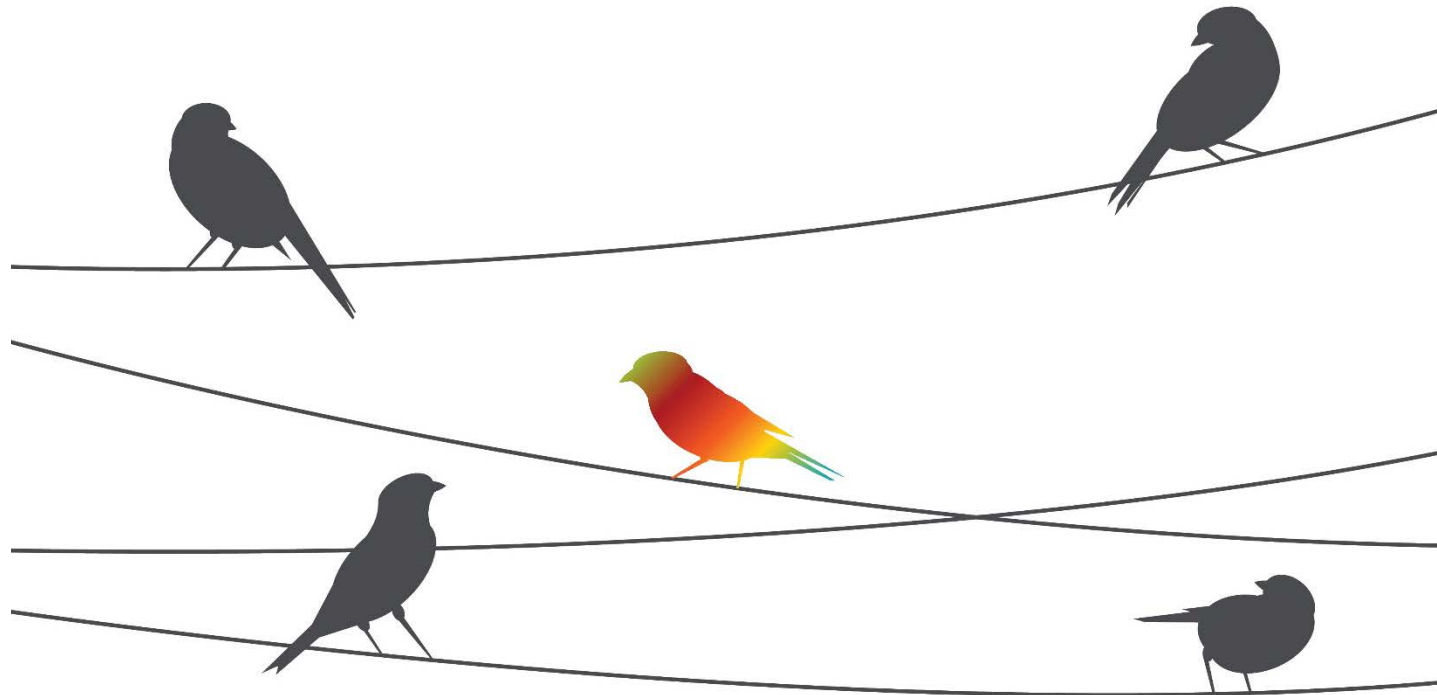


# Results

- No significant differences or consistent patterns:
  - Biological measures
  - Standardized patient HCAAPS scores
  - Observation checklists
- Trend in groups receiving uncivil reports
  - Brief Resilience Scale-downward trend in stated resilience
  - Stress Appraisal Scale-upward trend implying threat

# Despite Expressing a High Level of Confidence in Using CR as an Intervention

Only One Participant Attempted to Use the Intervention  
(Intervention-Uncivil Group)



# Anecdotal Observations from Simulation

- Expected behaviors were made into a check-list to provide consistency for objective observations across all simulations
- All simulations were videotaped and recorded, however many were lost or unusable (only 7 of 11 were rated)
- Only 1 of 7 participants checked for an apical pulse
- No consistency regarding asking about allergies or providing patient teaching
- Some participants failed to check the armband

# Results: Debriefing

- Control-hurried (Intervention After to Simulation)
  - Report chaotic and rushed
  - Impacted ability to perform well-informed care
  - Would ask more questions in the future
- Intervention-uncivil (Intervention Prior to Simulation)
  - Report stressful, rude, uncivil and eye-opening
  - Uncertain about patient condition or what to do
  - Would ask nurse to slow down and allow for questions
- Control-uncivil (Intervention After to Simulation)
  - Report rough and abrupt
  - Determined not to let experience adversely affect patient care
  - Carried stress from the report to the care of the patient

# Interventionist Observation

Participants reported a high level of confidence using CR; many stated they “*would use the intervention*” in their work setting right away and expressed being ready to use it in the simulation.

# De-briefer Observation

Participants receiving the *hurried report* appeared to be more critical of the nurse giving report than the other two groups.

Participants receiving the *uncivil report* appeared to internalize the belief that they did something wrong (i.e., “*I must have done something wrong*”).

# Recommendations

- Adoption of TeamSTEPPS model or other evidence-based framework across all hospitals and health professions schools
- Repeat intervention with a larger sample size of undergraduate students at a different time of the year
- Deliberate practice model (determine dose)
- Practice using CR integrated throughout curricula
- Repeat intervention with practicing RN group
- Replicate study without biomarker indicators
- Replicate in practice setting
- What other similar interventions might be available to less experienced instructors?



# Open Forum and Dialog





# Thank You and Contact Information



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