

Date: Wednesday 14th June 2017
Time: 09:00–12:00 (break at 10:00-10:30)
Room: Mendel B

Pre-Conference Workshop Title:

Team leadership trained by musical exercises - what doctors can learn from a conductor

Introduction & aims:

Worldwide, medical supervisors find it difficult to get students to rise to the occasion as leaders of emergency teams: many residents/rescuers feel unprepared to adopt the leadership role in emergencies. Experience shows that the situation is complex, stressful, unpredictable and chaotic, for a variety of reasons. Therefore it provokes very strong emotions (an unpleasant, disturbing, frightening and panicked perception) in hospital staff. Lack of leadership has a negative effect on patient outcome, and mortality.

Scientists have for 30 years been trying to address this with behavioral markers while training clinical competencies. But without addressing the anxiety, researchers have not managed to solve the problem. There is a contradiction between what scientists know about the problem and how they are responding to the problem.

This workshop is based on the competences of an orchestral conductor, and demonstrates targeted training of leadership separate from clinical competence.

Learning objectives:

Addressing stress and anxiety as it is experienced by residents and doctors in emergencies. The exercises enable participants to learn to recognize that leadership and assuming leadership is an individual and personal matter and a deliberate choice. The moment you step forward in front of a team as leader, you cease to be an anonymous team-member, you are in front – and the team is waiting for your leadership. The leader has to work out his interpretation of the music in the exercises, and relay his vision and ideas to the performers on the spot. The participants will experience the power of being a conductor using non-verbal communication.

Session description (planned activities):

Introduction and presentation of the background for the project. Musical exercise one: Choir. The focus is on attitude, authority, body language and eye-contact. Musical exercise two: 'the Ghetto-Blaster Orchestra'. The aim is to focus on 'being present', leading a multidisciplinary team, personal task management, having a 'convincing project' and listening, responding and improvising.

Volunteers will act as leaders, and will receive personal feedback. After each session there will be discussion/reflections in the plenum.

Educational methods:

Discussions, reflections, participant activation. Harmless non-professional setting: no medical competence at stake.

Expected impact:

Learn to rise to the occasion and take control as leader in stressful surroundings.

Target audience:

Doctors, but also inter-professional healthcare staff. All possible members of emergency teams.

Notes on Teachers

Ture Larsen is a PhD Student at the University of Copenhagen, Medical Faculty. He is also a trombonist, music arranger, composer, conductor and educator. He has composed chamber music (incl. an opera), symphonic works, jazz music and electronic 'sound art'. He received a 3-year working grant from the Danish Arts Foundation for his compositions.

Randi Beier-Holgersen, MD, MHPE is a Consultant in the surgical department of the Nordsjaelland Hospital. She is responsible for the training and education of junior doctors and medical students. She is an Associate Professor and post-graduate lecturer at Copenhagen University and Chairman of the Education Committee of the Danish Surgical Association.