Cultivating Joy in the Practice of Medicine:

Building your resilient self

Sharon Hecker MD FACC
Stressors

- Societal; aging population, desire for increasing technologies
- Changing financial landscape of medicine
- Loss of autonomy
- EHR
- Medical education
- Student loans and other debts
- Personal and family stress
- Discrimination
It's Not Your Fault!!!!!!

Multiple external stressors, most of which were unexpected.
Burnout Vs. Moral Injury

Burnout suggests a disproportionate responsibility of the caregiver.
Moral Injury

“perpetrating, failing to prevent, bearing witness to, or learning about acts that transgress deeply held moral beliefs and expectations.”

occurs when making decisions that go against one’s core beliefs

For example: cutting corners due to productivity requirements in ways that feel uncomfortable

OR

When impeded from doing what is best for patients (i.e. contrary to the Hippocratic Oath) in a variety of ways: insurer’s unwillingness to pay for a medication or procedure, limits on appointment times set by your employer, need to score highly on patient satisfaction scores.
STRESS:

EXPECTATION ≠ REALITY
PRACTICE RESILIENCY

“WEEBLES WOBBLE BUT THEY DON’T FALL DOWN”
Resilience

1) the capacity of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress

2) an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change
Resiliency

Most Important: Recognize that

1) It is not your fault.
2) You are not alone.
3) There is help.
4) The answer (for you) is inside you.
SELF-COMPASSION

- Kristen Neff
- self-compassion.org
- NOT self-kindness or self-indulgence
- Talk to yourself as your would talk to a friend.
Celebrate your accomplishments.
Acknowledge your strengths.
Do more of what you love.
20% JOY

- Take a notebook and draw a vertical line down three or four of the pages.
- On the left of the line “Love”, on the right write “Loathe”
- For one week, carry the notebook around and fill these columns through the day
- Review
Take pauses.
Savor the moments.
What is amazing?
Break bread.
Overcome the Imposter Syndrome.
Stop taking things personally.
“Son, if you can’t say something nice, say something clever but devastating.”
Shed some guilt.
Understand that change is the only constant.
Fill your tank.
Grow your gratitude.
Be happy.
Which side are you on?
Perception matters.
Create margin.
Manage your attention, not your time.
nirandfar.com
Be you.
G.L.A.D.

2 minutes silent meditation at the end of each work day:

1. One thing you are **Grateful** for
2. One thing you **Learned**
3. One thing you **Accomplished**
3. One thing that brought you **Delight**
You have a right to labor but not to the fruits of that labor.

*Bhagavad Gita*

The fruits do not belong to us.