

Effective Communication is The Key to Highly Reliable Rad Onc Teams

Session: Effective Communications for Leading Diverse Clinical Teams

AAPM 2020: Wed July 15th 4:30-5:30 pm EDT

Eric Ford, PhD FAAPM

Professor

University of Washington

Seattle, WA



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER
UW Medicine



Disclosures

- None



Outline

- Psychological safety & Error
- Communications and Culture
- What promotes positive culture and open communication?



Psychological safety & Error in the Healthcare Context

- Research on error in healthcare teams in 1990's.
- Her hypothesis: negative relationship between teamwork and error.
- **Instead they found the opposite.**



Amy C. Edmundson, PhD



Table 2 Units ranked by quantitative data (detected error rates) and juxtaposed with independent qualitative ranking from table 1

	Memorial 1	University 1	University 3	Memorial 2	Memorial 5	University 2	Memorial 4	Memorial 3
Detected error rates*	23.68	17.23	13.19	11.02	10.31	9.37	8.6	2.34
Interviewer's overall rating on openness	High	High	Med/High	Med/High	Med/Low	Low	Medium	Very Low

*Detected error rates are: preventable adverse drug events + potential adverse drug events; mean 11.97 interceptions per 1000 patient days; SD 6.33. Interceptions: mean 3.30 interceptions per 1000 patient days; SD 2.03. Non-preventable ADEs: mean 7.03 interceptions per 1000 patient days; SD 4.75.



Psychological safety & Error in the Healthcare Context

“Good teams don’t make more mistakes they just report more.”

➤ **Culture**

➤ **Highly local**



Amy C. Edmundson, PhD



Outline

- Psychological safety & Error
- Communications and Culture
- **What promotes positive culture and open communication?**



Incident Learning

Aviation Safety Reporting System

Confidential. Voluntary. Non-Punitive.

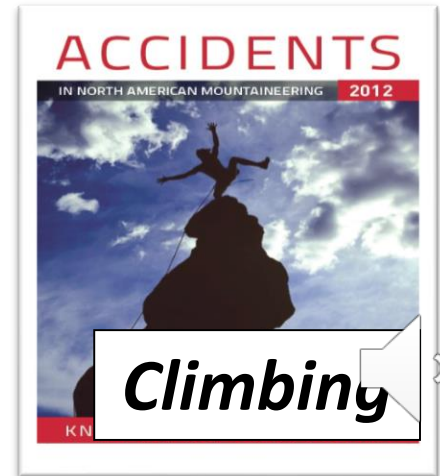
ASRS captures confidential reports, analyzes the resulting aviation safety data, and disseminates vital information to the aviation community.

Aviation

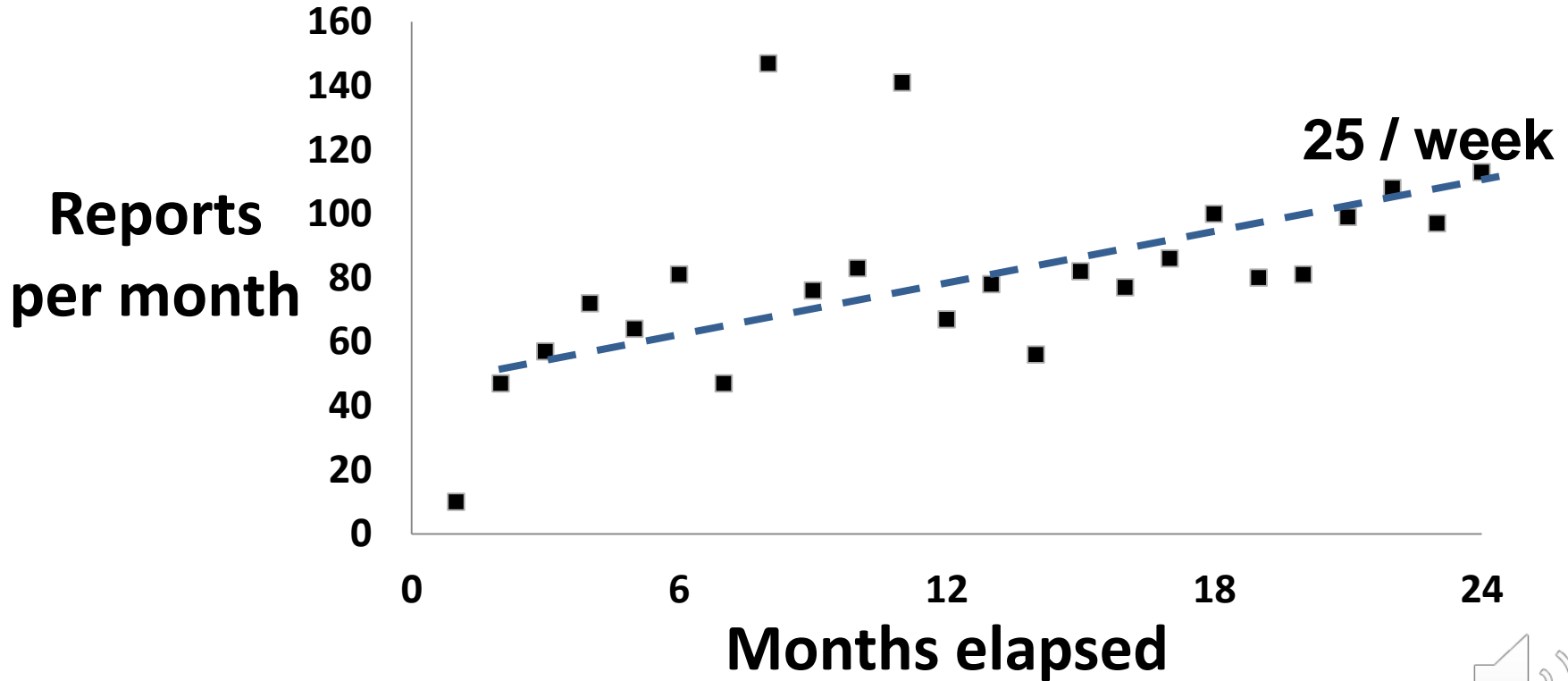


Section A—Discovery Information	
1. Report date:	<input type="text"/> mm/dd/yyyy
2. Discovery date:	<input type="text"/> mm/dd/yyyy
3. Was this discovered on a weekend or weekday?	<input type="text"/>
4. Discovery time:	<input type="text"/>
5. Discoverer's job description:	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> MT <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor <input type="checkbox"/> House staff <input type="checkbox"/> QA/QC <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> MD/DO <input type="checkbox"/> RN <input type="checkbox"/> MLT <input type="checkbox"/> LVN/LPN
6. Where discovered: Location code (optional)	<input type="text"/>
7. Describe briefly the event you discovered:	<input type="text"/>
8. How did you discover this event?	<input type="text"/>
9. This event was discovered:	<input type="text"/>
10. Product/recording action:	<input type="text"/>

Healthcare



Reporting Volume



Safety Culture

	2012	2013	2014
In this unit, we discuss ways to prevent errors from happening again	66%	81%*	86%*
			* $p < 0.01$
After we make changes to improve patient safety we evaluate their effectiveness.	46%	66%*	64%*
I have confidence that my error/near miss reports get used to improve our system.	53%	74%*	76%*



Basic Original Report

Durable Improvement in Patient Safety Culture Over 5 Years With Use of High-volume Incident Learning System

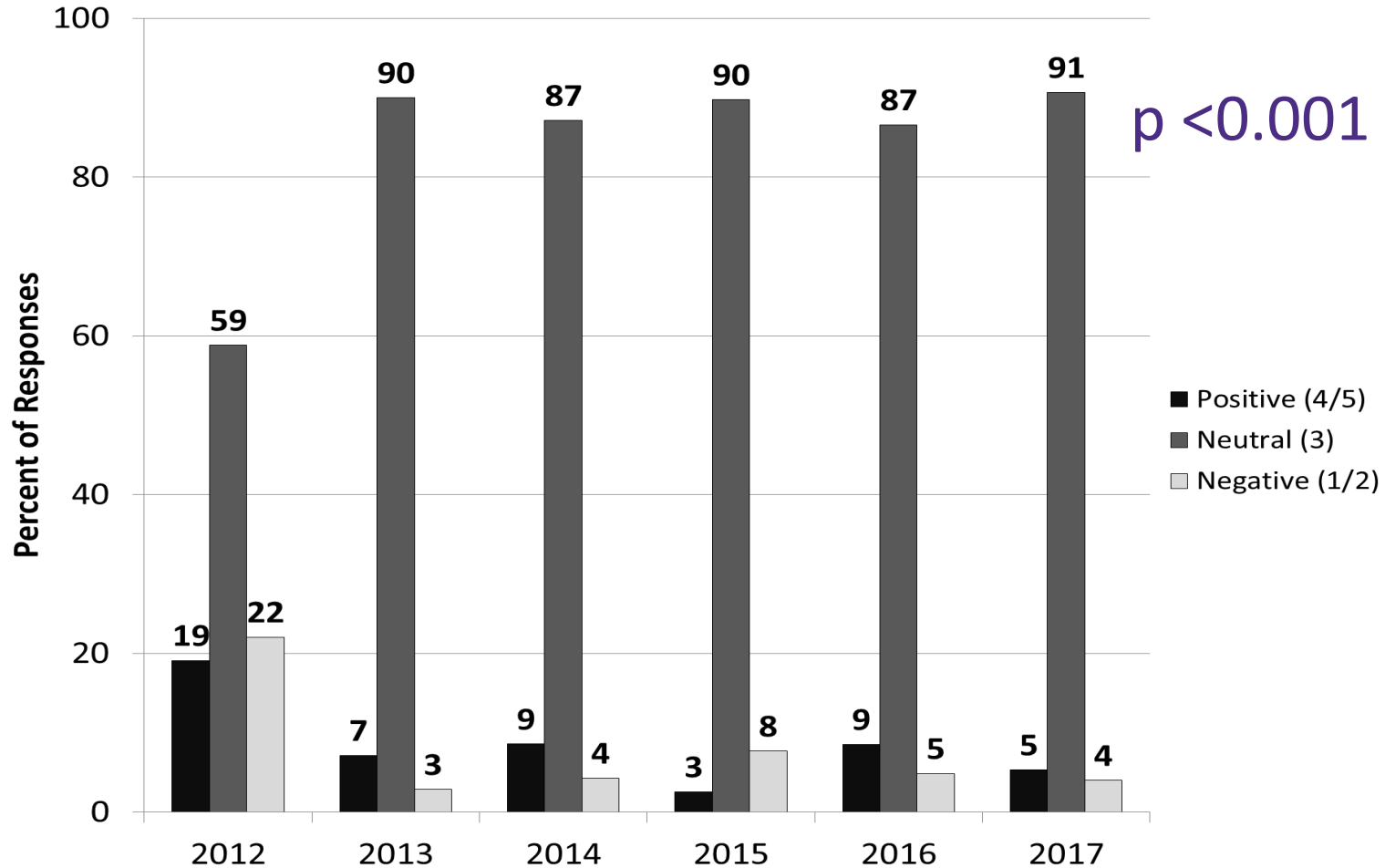


Pehr E. Hartvigson MD ^{a,b,*}, Aaron S. Kusano MD, SM ^c,
Matthew J. Nyflot PhD ^a, Loucille Jordan RT(T) ^a,
Tru-Khang Dinh MD ^a, Patricia A. Sponseller CMD ^a,
Ashlee Schindler RT(T) ^a, Gabrielle M. Kane MBBS, EdD ^a,
Eric C. Ford PhD ^a

^aDepartment of Radiation Oncology, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington; ^bDepartment of Radiation Medicine, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon; and ^cAnchorage & Valley Radiation Therapy Center, Anchorage, Alaska



Open communication and punitive concerns



Conclusions

- Key to achieving high-reliability: psychological safety
- One mechanism to promote this
- Leadership. Transactive memory.

