

Communication and Leadership in Healthcare:

"Think Faster. Communicate Better."

8 HOUR CEU COURSE

DESCRIPTION

In today's fast-paced healthcare environment, clinicians are routinely called upon to make quick decisions, communicate clearly, and adapt to unpredictable situations. This interactive course uses principles of improvisation to help clinicians strengthen these essential skills. Using proven techniques from performing arts, participants will explore and practice techniques to improve adaptability, foster collaboration, and enhance patient-centered communication. This course emphasizes real-world application to clinical reasoning, interdisciplinary teamwork, and providing compassionate care in times of uncertainty.

SPEAKERS



Judy Gelber DPT, OCS, PhD has a doctor of philosophy in Leadership Studies. With nearly two decades of experience in physical therapy education and practice, Dr. Gelber's teaching and research interests center on positive psychology, communication, and leadership development in healthcare professionals.

Dr. Gelber previously served on the faculty of the Program in Physical Therapy at Washington University in St. Louis (2007–2016) and later helped establish the Sports Physical Therapy Department at Children's Hospital Omaha. Clinically, she is Board Certified in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy with expertise in foot and ankle conditions, gait and running analysis, and the orthopedic management of fitness athletes.



Mary Clare Coghlan MA, a Senior Lecturer in the Center for Leadership Education within Johns Hopkins University's Whiting School of Engineering. She holds an MA in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University and brings a distinctive background that spans competing and coaching at NCAA Division I and professional levels, military service, and corporate recruiting.

Her focus is providing college students tangible, application-oriented experiences grounded in creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. She views the classroom as a laboratory where students integrate their lived experiences into leadership and team growth. She has presented internationally on how improv can improve leadership resiliency.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Following this course, participants will be able to:

1. Identify core principles of applied improvisation and their relevance in healthcare.
2. Apply improv-based strategies to promote effective communication, psychological safety, and creative problem-solving in clinical settings.
3. Use improvisational techniques to enhance clinical reasoning, build empathy, and improve patient-centered care when outcomes are uncertain.
4. Develop practical skills for collaboration and adaptability, including strategies for active listening, turning “no” into “yes,” and thinking outside the box when navigating complex care situations.



COURSE SCHEDULE

8-8:30: Improvisation intro and warm-up

8:30-10:30: lecture: History of Improvisation, Applied Improvisation, Medical Improvisation
Did you know that comedy improvisation's roots are in social work? Let us tell you more!

10:30-12:00: Principles of Medical Improvisation
Change your mindset in a way that allows you to show up for your patients and coworkers using four key lessons.

12-12:30: Lunch

12:30-1:30: Application workshop 1: Small group medical improvisation activities
Start practicing in small and safe groups. We're all friends here.

1:30-2:30: All group debrief

2:30-4:00: Application workshop 2: All group medical improvisation activities and debrief
Some are destined for the stage; others for the audience. Both are important.

4:00-4:30: Course wrap-up and all group takeaways