## Reflective and Compassionate Caring for Self and Patient: The Importance of Team Working and Collective Processing.

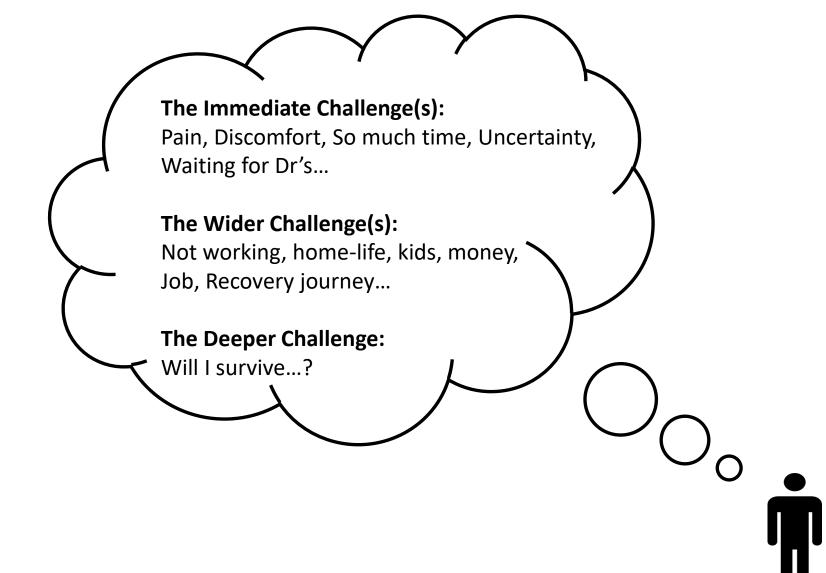
Dr Pádraig Cotter, Macmillan Clinical Psychologist Imperial NHS Trust

19.10.21

## A Patient(s) I'll never forget...

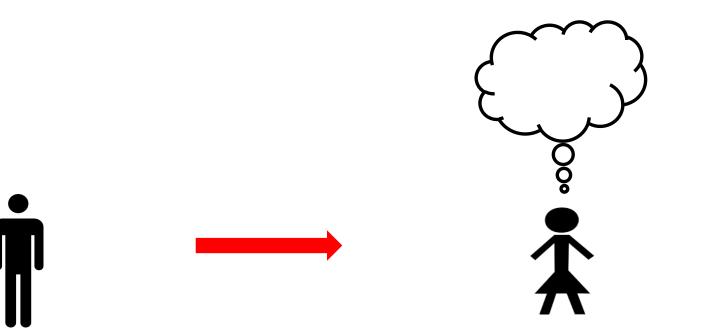
- Patients that impacted you?
- Or not...?
- Change over time?

## The emotional load carried by patients



Patient Dignity Literature (Chochinov et al., 2002; Chochinov et al., 2005; Chochinov & McKeen, 2011; Cotter et al., 2019). Existential Psychotherapy (Yalom, 1980; Kearney, 1996; Shaver, 2002).

#### Transference onto Healthcare Practitioner



Psychodynamic Psychotherapy (Casement, 1992; McCullough et al., 2003; Cotter et al., 2017). Process Oriented Psychology (Mindell, 1988, 1995, 2017; Cotter et al., 2020; Cotter, 2021). Gestalt Therapy (Perls et al., 1951).

## How does this happen?

- Mirror Neurons
- Polyvagal Nerve
- The [Human] Healthcare Practitioner
  - My story, my history, my family, my emotions, my life outside work...

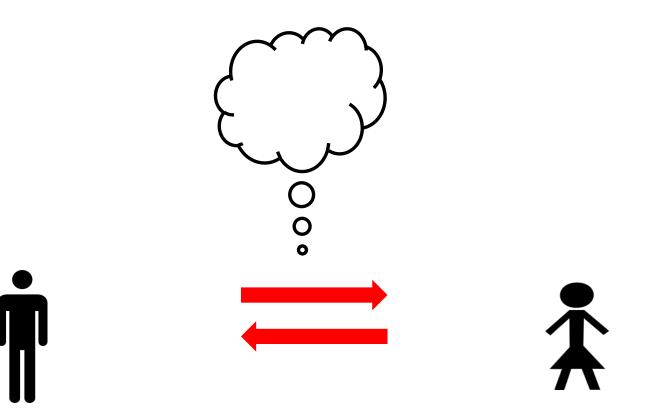
Neuroscientific /Neuropsychology (Kolb & Wishaw, 2015; Kalat, 2017). Compassion Focused Therapy (Gilbert, 2010). Sensorimotor Psychotherapy (Ogden & Fisher, 2014; Ogden, 2021). Process Oriented Psychology (Mindell, 1988, 1995, 2017; Cotter et al., 2020; Cotter, 2021).

#### Fear response



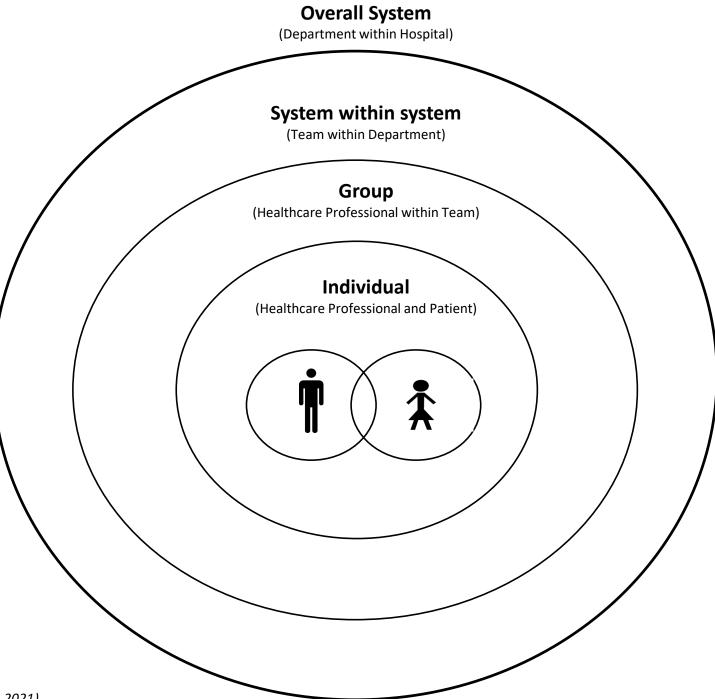
Neuroscientific / Neuropsychology (Kolb & Wishaw, 2015; Kalat, 2017).

#### Or Not...



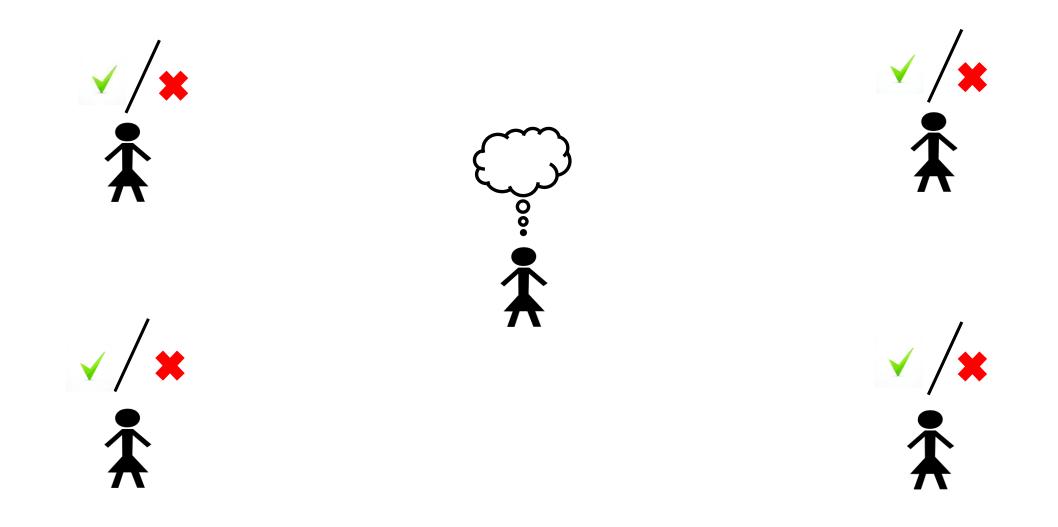
Psychodynamic Psychotherapy (Casement, 1992; McCullough et al., 2003; Cotter et al., 2017). Process Oriented Psychology (Mindell, 1988, 1995, 2017; Cotter et al., 2020; Cotter, 2021). Gestalt Therapy (Perls et al., 1951).

## No [Hu]man is an Island...



Systems and Field Theory (Bertalanffy, 2015; Lewin, 1951). Process Oriented Psychology (Mindell, 1988, 1995, 2017; Cotter et al., 2020; Cotter, 2021).

#### Team Working and Collective Processing



Systems and Field Theory (Bertalanffy, 2015; Lewin, 1951). Process Oriented Psychology (Mindell, 1988, 1995, 2017; Cotter et al., 2020; Cotter, 2021).

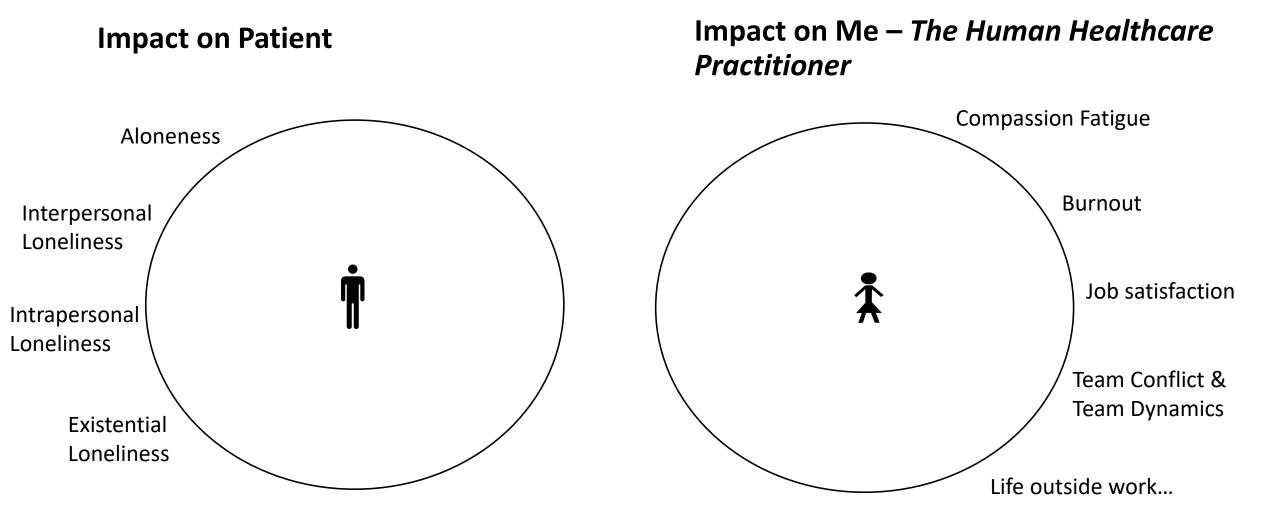
#### The Power of Mindful Presence: Being rather than Doing

# 'Paying attention in a particular way: on purpose, in the present moment and non-judgementally'

Kabat-Zinn (1990)

Mindfulness Literature (Kabat-Zinn, 1990, 2018; Segal et al., 2018; Cotter et al., 2019).

#### Or Not... - The Island Effect



Patient Dignity Literature (Chochinov et al., 2002; Chochinov et al., 2005; Chochinov & McKeen, 2011; Cotter et al., 2019). Existential Psychotherapy (Yalom, 1980; Kearney, 1996; Shaver, 2002). Burnout, Job Satisfaction and Compassion Fatique Research (Cocker & Joss, 2016; Lu et al., 2019).

#### How am I reacting?

- For...?
- Against...?
- Tuned out...?

\* NB. All of the above are important.

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