### Trauma-Informed Care Introduction to Central Sensitization



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- Dr. Dyanna Haley-Reaca is a co-owner of Reaca & Associates Physical Therapy since 2009. She
  specializing in multiple traums, central sensitization and complex patients from and orthor neutrowestbular perspective. Her approach is a biopsychosocial model to treating patients utilizing optimal
  recovery and interacting collaboratively with other complimentary medical professionals to form a
  comprehensive team approach to patient care. This has led to her working now in functional medicine.
  Prior military Swears in the United States Marine Corps.
- Dyanna received her Doctor of Physical Therapy from Slippery Rock University in 2001 and became a Board Certified in Orthopedic Specialist (OCS) in 2007, recertified in 2017 as well as Board Certified Neurological Specialist (NCS) from APTA in 2016. She completed her Fellowship in Manual Physical Therapy from Regis University in 2013.
- Additionally, Dyanna is a Certified Functional Medicine Practitioner, Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist from NSCA, Certified Golf Fitness Instructor, Medical Professional Level 2 from Titleist and Certified Kinesiotaping Practitioner.
- Dyanna is also an Affiliate Faculty at Regis University and very active with APTA having served as PDC co-chair, SE District Chair and Secretary, and House of Delegates representative.
- She is the recipient of the physical therapist of the year for Colorado 2016 and APTA National Signe Brunnstrom APTA Award for Clinical Education 2018.

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1

2

# personal & professional journey







# Objectives



By the end of this session, participants will:

- Identify common signs and symptoms associated with central sensitization.
- Recognize how current pain science interventions can be applied to treat patients with central sensitization.
- Understand the impact of lifestyle factors on chronic pain and inflammation and how this can be applied to improve patient outcomes.

4

My personal objective is to open your mind to why we as a physical therapy profession need to change how we practice



# we need to understand traumaed care in PT?

### Physical therapists:

- · Touch our patients through manual therapy techniques and mobility facilitation as a regular part of
- · See our patients at their most exposed physically and emotionally.
- Work with our patients one on one in private treatment and hospital rooms as well as in their homes where they may feel more vulnerable.
- Treat areas that are inherently vulnerable and often associated with abuse and physical trauma including pelvic floor, axillary and groin lymphedema, cervical spine and maxillofacial.
- Are in a position of fiduciary responsibility working with patients who are trusting us with their safety when they are not capable of doing this for themselves or when allowing touch or mobility that requires them to relinquish some control.
- Build relationships with our patients with frequent encounters over an episode of care or even multiple episodes of care over years and decades.
- Are treating a much more challenging patient population today with more illness, disability, chronic pain and poorer health than any previous generation.

6

## We are learning just how prevalent traumatic events are

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
  - > 1998 CDC-Kaiser Permanente ACE Study is one of the largest investigations (17,000 subjects) of childhood abuse and neglect and household challenges and later-life health and well-being.
    - >50% reported at least one ACE and 25% reported 2 or more
    - Strong graded relationship between the breadth of exposure (how many ACE events) to abuse or noutline in the property of the
  - 1 event 2x. 2 events 4x. 3 events 12x more likely to have autoimmune diag > 2012 Philadelphia Urban ACE Survey – recognized the Kaiser study was mostly white, middle class, highly educated aimed to examine an urban city with more racially and socially diverse
    - Found the incidences of ACEs to be much higher than other studies including witnessing violence on a regular basis, being discriminated against, not feeling safe in their neighborhood.

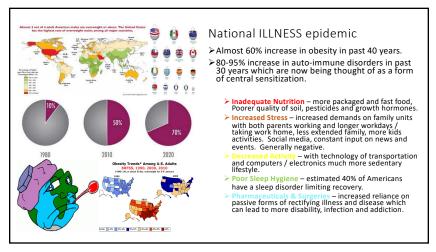
      > 72% reported at least one ACE and 37% had 4 or more

**Adverse Childhood** 4 or more ACEs **Experiences** Traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and wellbeing Adverse childhood experiences are the single greatest unaddressed public health threat facing our nation today Household Neglect Challenges 67% of the population People with 6+ ACEs can 20 yrs 1/8 of the population Adverse Childhood Experie



NUTRITION ARSEHOLE BOSS FINANCES WORK STRESS TRAINING FAMILY LACK OF SLEEP RELATIONSHIP IF THE BUCKET OVER FLOWS WITH WATER THE RESULT COULD BE: · INJURY OGA, MEDITATION, . DEPRESSION REST, RELAX, LAUGH GETTING SICK
 MENTAL BREAK DOWN FRIENDS, EXERCISE HEALTH EATEN, SLEEP

10



National ILLNESS epidemic ➤ Why are we compounding each generation? **Cortisol** − stress hormone has been found to be passed on through DNA. Combat Stress – on rise with multiple combat tours and longer tours in combat. ➤ Substance Abuse – opioid and heroine epidemic, rise in use of other substances with increased stress. People who are addicted to... ➤ Breakdown of Support System – higher divorce rate, blended families, people no longer growing up or living in same community over life with 15x family and friends nearby, more frequent ...more likely to be addicted to heroin. change in jobs.

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# Our current system isn't working The U.S. Has The Most Expensive Healthcare System Per ceits health expensition in selected countries to 2018 U.S. HEALTH CARE RANKS LAST AMONG WEALTHY COUNTRIES AMONG WEALTHY COUNTRIES Associated from the country of the coun

The end of physiotherapy (as we know it)



- Physical Therapy Paradox it was in the very nature of physiotherapy to overlook the forces that are at the heart of our profession's present problems
- Focus on the biomechanical body vs. whole person and all the systems involved (neuroimmune, gastrointestinal and limbic systems)
- Advertise ourselves as "movement specialists" but focus on discreet body parts "regional" interdependence largely adjacent structures/joint above and below and ignoring the cellular microbiological healing and systemic integration
- · Willingly embrace quantitative research but not qualitative
- Passion for complex anatomical and pathological ideas and turn our professional "nose" up to sociology and philosophy
- Focus on the technical skill of the therapists and impact on the body without considering mind and spirit
- Fail to understand our limits on how we think and practice are largely selfimposed
- David Nicholls "The End of Physiotherapy" 2018

13

# The beginning of a new way of physiotherapy



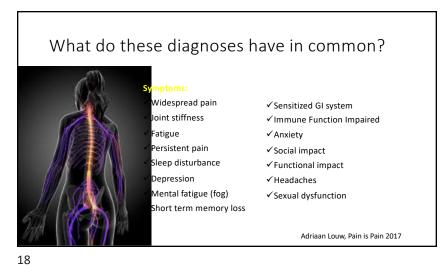
- Understanding how all the systems of the body are impacted by injury and trauma and how the health of those systems influence recovery (neuroimmune, gastrointestinal, limbic)
- Implementing whole person healing from the cellular microbiological/mitochondrial level to the entire system integration understanding of movement.
- Open to accepting and contributing to body of knowledge for qualitative research including case studies and series that better document the complexities of people with chronic pain and trauma and the multiple systems involved in their recovery.
- Embrace the sociological and philosophical sciences including population anthropology.
- Address the impact of the mind and spirit on the function of the body and psychological factors from our experiences in addressing physical symptoms of pain and disease.
- Open our minds to creative new ways of practice that are better at addressing the populations we are serving today in a more cost-effective manner (telehealth, comprehensive home programs, group therapy sessions, addressing the underlying root causes of pain and illness).

Medical history

Exhaustion Faigue fog inability headaches continued by the continued by th

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What do these diagnoses have in common?

Diagnosis:

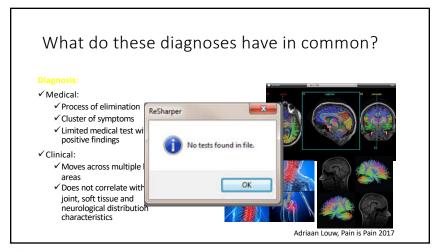
Medical:

Process of elimination
Cluster of symptoms
Limited medical test with positive findings

Clinical:

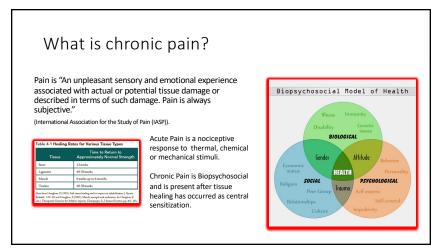
Moves across multiple body areas
Does not correlate with typical joint, soft tissue and neurological distribution characteristics

Adriaan Louw, Pain is Pain 2017



19

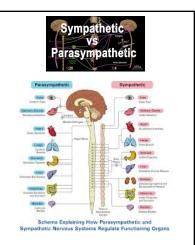




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# Autonomic nervous system BALANCE

- Parasympathetic is the rest, relax, digest and heal phase. With increase in stress and decrease in rest and proper inputs (nutrition, hydration) this phase is shortened in people with central sensitization leading to impaired respiration, digestion, etc. Affects all aspects of healing.
- Sympathetic is the fight or flight response. Persons who stay in this state become fatigued from overactive nervous system and depleted from lack of healing.
- Needs to be a balance between these two systems.



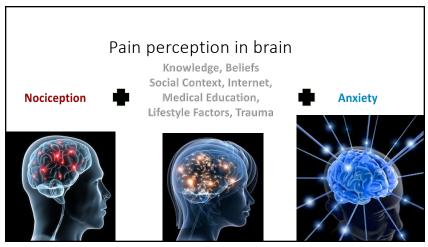
Pain nociception

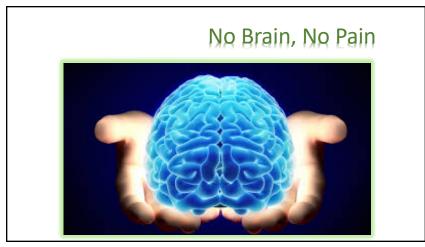
Information about danger to the body is transmitted to the brain via:

- · Thermoreceptors (temperature)
- Chemoreceptors (chemicals)
- Photoreceptors (light)
- Mechanoreceptors (pressure)
- Nocicpetors??? previously thought to be a type of receptor for pain. Pain science now is looking at nociception as the brain's interpretation of the information from other receptors based on emotions, experience and perceptions.

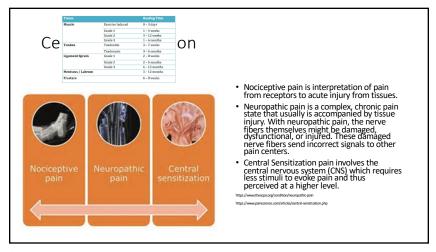


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Understanding pain

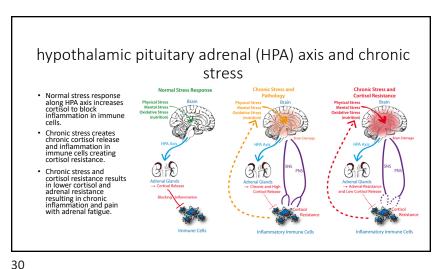
26

- The key to treating pain is understanding it
- Acute vs. Neuropathic vs. Central Sensitization
- Physical Therapy techniques to address CNS
- Optimizing Recovery with Lifestyle Factors
- Understanding central / chronic pain can be both hypersensitivity to input as well as long term suppression of warning indicators for danger making this population both high tolerance and low threshold at the same time.



27 28

# Hommunculus Motor & Sensory Homunculus Natural History Museum London



29



# Acute vs. chronic Inflammation & pain



- Inflammation occurs in an acute injury to bring neutrophils, eosinophils and macrophages to clean up damage tissue and remove from the body.
- In a chronic state of persistent inflammation, the toxins that aren't being removed rob the body of essential
  nutrients and create neural irritation which creates more pain leading to more fatigue and more
  inflammation in a vicious cycle.
- If we look at addressing inflammation from a whole person/multi-system approach to break this cycle, we
  will be more efficacious in treating and preventing chronic pain.
- We apply this concept readily to acute injuries (ankle sprains) realizing that inflammation impairs
  proprioception and predisposes us to repetitive injuries, but don't always apply this same mindset to chronic
  pain and inflammation (thyroid, cardiovascular, Diabetes) which is much more multi-factorial

What factors contribute to chronic inflammation (and thus pain)?

Endoring function

• More toxins coming into the cells (which make up every organ in the body) than are being removed = oxidative stress

• Stress

• Emotional (trauma, relationships, work, news events)

• Physical (injury, disease/illness, deconditioning, overuse)

• Environmental (toxins/chemicals in food, air and water, radiation)

• Factors that influence stress

• How we move (strength, flexibility, aerobic)

• What we ingest (nutrition/hydration/alcohol)

• What we breathe (smoke, pollution, pollens)

• How we regenerate (sleep, mindfulness, rest)

• How well our basic needs are met (food, shelter, safety)

Neutrophils

31 32

## De-catastrophizing words

- · The words we use are important and can increase or decrease pain.
- . Showing medical images and models can increase pain as can using diagnosis
- · Acknowledging that they feel pain is important regardless of origin.
- Words to avoid:
  - PAIN talking about pain elicits pain
  - . THIS MIGHT HURT or THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT
  - SHOULD implies they aren't doing what they need to, inflicts guilt and blame, reinforcing that they are not doing it
  - TRY implies they start putting some effort
- · Words to use:

  - DISCOMFORT, TENSION, FATIGUE (vs PAIN) expressing what sensation they are actually feeling and noting changes in their body.
     YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED AT HOW STARTING SMALL THIS BECOMES EASIER
  - YOU WILL GET STRONGER WITH THIS EXERCISE, ARE YOU NOTICING HOW MUCH BETTER YOU ARE GETTING AT THIS, LOOK AT WHAT YOU WERE ABLE TO DO



### Verbal and not so verbal communication



What is the patient communicating to you?

- · Wincing and withdrawal
- · Avoiding eye contact, averting gaze
- · Stops talking, looking around
- · Speaks more rapidly or slowly
- · Agitated, emotional, hesitant
- Fidgeting, nervousness

What are you communicating to them?

- · Eye contact, active listening
- · Focused on documentation/computer
- Looking at watch/clock
- · Empathetic or hurried
- · Asking for permission for touch and preferences, input from patient without judgement of always understanding why

33 34

### Motivational interviewing (MI)

- 4 Principles of MI:
  - · Express empathy (reflective listening)
    - Empathize, non-judgmental, understanding patient and hearing them. "I am hearing this is too difficult, what if we make it a little easier so that you can be
  - Develop discrepancy (elicit change talk)
  - Define most important goals. Create gap between where the patient is and where she wants to be. Allows the patient to realize current behavior isn't leading to goal and be more open to change. Let the patient present arguments for change.
  - Avoid Argumentation (roll with the resistance)
  - Resistance: what happens when we expect or push for change when the
    patient is not ready for that change. "Rolling with Resistance" recognizes that
    simply confronting someone directly may lead people to be defensive or
    confrontational. Ose reflections to help roll with the resistance!!!
  - Support self-efficacy (affirm positives)
    - Self-efficacy: the belief that one can succeed at change. Especially important for patients who have failed numerous treatments, are depressed, hopeless. Build confidence that change is possible. Set small, realistic goals patients can succeed at to enhance self-efficacy. Focus on past successes, changes, and skills and strengths a patient has or can easily learn.



"Can we swap glasses? It might help me to see your point of view!"

### Exercise – motion is lotion (usually)

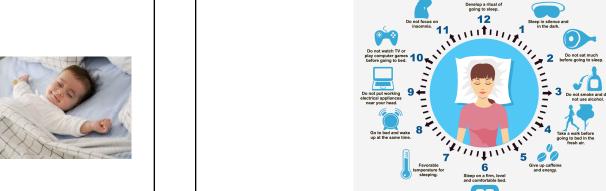
- Specific exercise is extremely beneficial to lowering cortisol and sympathetic activity as well as improving neuroimmune function.
- · Aerobic exercise can help with detoxification through sweat.
- · Need to start low and go slow to not increase inflammation or stress.
- · Timing is important. Earlier in day helps with increasing alertness and improving
- · Running, body pump, spinning and other high intensity exercise can perpetuate the sympathetic cycle.
- · Cortisol lowering exercise is more beneficial for people with chronic pain, inflammation and stress/anxiety such as walking, yoga, Tai Chi.
- · Consider context, if the person was raped by a gang of men, a public gym may not be the best option, walking with a security dog might be a better choice
- · Just because the can, doesn't mean they should!



### SLEEP HYGIENE

- Estimated 40% of Americans have a sleep disorder.
- Sleep is our rest and restore time that needs to occur every day to repair DNA damage.
- Significant increase in diseases such as cancer, cognitive decline and auto-immune are correlated with 6 hours per night or less over extended periods of time.
- Sleep needs to be a HIGH priority when dealing with chronic pain and part of every patient's education.





38

37



- The first step is to stop throwing gasoline on the fire. Our Standard American (SAD) diet is contributing to us being overfed, undernourished and the inflammatory/pain cycle.
- Foods to avoid:
  - Refined white flour
  - Sugar (yes, all of it including artificial) especially refined sugars
  - · Processed/packaged foods and meats
  - Fruit juices, sodas, packaged beverages Trans fats
- · Foods to limit:
  - Red meats Night shade vegetables
  - Saturated and mono-unsaturated fats
  - Gluten, if have a sensitivity
  - Omega 6 need to have balance with Omega 3
  - Coffee and other caffeinated beverages
- · Avoid high heat, quick cooking, microwave and frying





Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food
Hippocrates Eating anti-inflammatory foods is imperative to healing chronic pain. People with chronic illness need more nutrients to heal than a person maintaining a healthy microbiome. Berries – Strawberries, Blueberries, Raspberries, Blackberries Berries provide antioxidants known as anthocyanins. These compounds may reduce inflammation, improve NK cell activity, boost immunity and reduce your risk of heart disease. Fatty Fish - Salmon, Sardines, Herring, Mackerel, Anchovies Fatty fish hold high amounts of the omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA, which have anti-inflammatory effects. Rich in sulforaphane, an antioxidant that fights inflammation by reducing your levels of cytokines and NF-kB, which drive inflammation. Avocados -· Offer various beneficial compounds that protect against inflammation and may reduce your cancer risk.

**RULES OF HEALTHY SLEEP** 

39 40



· High EGCG content reduces inflammation and safeguards cells from damage that can lead to disease

### Chili peppers and bell peppers

Rich in quercetin, sinapic acid, ferulic acid and other antioxidants with strong anti-inflammatory effects.

### • Edible mushrooms -

Boast compounds that may decrease inflammation. Eating them raw or lightly cooked may help you reap their full anti-inflammatory potential.

Several plant compounds in grapes, including resveratrol, can reduce inflammation. They may also reduce your risk of several diseases.

· Boasts a powerful anti-inflammatory compound called curcumin. Eating black pepper with turmeric can significantly enhance the absorption of curcumin.





- · Extra Virgin Olive Oil
  - Provides powerful anti-inflammatory benefits, which may reduce your risk of heart disease, cancer and other serious health conditions.
- Flavanols dark chocolate and cocoa
  - Can reduce inflammation. They may also reduce your risk of several

42

44

- Are an excellent source of lycopene, which may reduce inflammation and protect against cancer.
- · Sweet and Tart Cherries
- Contain antioxidants that reduce inflammation and your risk of disease
- · Veggies & Fruits should be the majority of your diet from all colors
- Excellent source of nutrients and fiber to reduce inflammation.
- Choose foods that are organic, Non-GMO grass fed, wild, in their natural form and whenever possible locally sourced.



41

43



### hydration

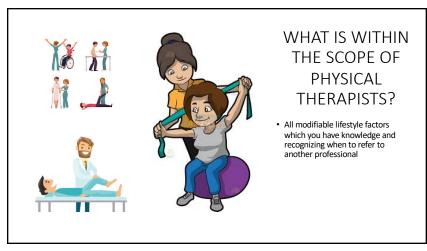
- · Every cell, tissue, and organ in your body needs water to work properly. Your body uses water to maintain its temperature, remove waste, and lubricate your joints.
- · Lack of hydration makes detoxification more difficult and can increase inflammation which impacts joints, muscles, connective tissues, vital organs including your brain and thus significantly contributés to chronic pain.
- Adding fruit to water helps with flavor and provides valuable nutrients.
- General rule: Drink in ounces ½ your body weight in lbs.



# Mindfulness and spirituality

- Finding calm and restoration is imperative to healing and treating people with trauma and chronic pain:
  - Social support network
  - Spirituality (religious or energy)
  - Being present and connected
  - · Finding the positive in each day/moment
  - · Practice of relaxation and breathing
  - · Enjoyment in each day
  - Gratitude





## what's coming next?

Physical therapy pain neuroscience interventions for working with patients with persistent pain and central sensitization from trauma and chronic illness:

- Neurodynamics (nerve glides/slides, neuromobilization activities – yoga/tai chi))
- Breath work
- Sensory Integration (weighted blankets,, tactile inputs, tracing body, vibration)
- · Mirror therapy
- Lateralization
- · Mental imagery/Visualization
- Meditation / Mindfulness



45 46

### Questions?

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### **RELEVANT RESOURCES**

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- https://creakyjoints.org/education/arthritisdiet/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI\_7rs9v6n4QIVFsNkCh3-EgwaEAAYAiAAEgJCVfD\_BwE
- http://sleepeducation.org/essentials-in-sleep/healthy-sleep-habits
- http://healthysleep.med.harvard.edu/healthy/getting/overcoming/tips