Occupational Medicine: Compliance, Excellence and Innovation

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OEM’s Identity Crisis: Some Existential Questions
Dr. Robert Goldsmith- MARCOEM 2018

- OSHA is an impediment to the field. NIOSH relies on industry and academia for innovation.
- OEM has significantly ignored precision medicine, in favor of population health.
- Do OEM clinicians advocate for ERs or EEs?
- Does the field aspire to achieve compliance or excellence?
The pace of true innovation in OEM is far behind every medical specialty.

How Much “Better” Can We Get?
Or do we need to “think different”?

Process Limit

Innovation opportunity
WHY?
Excellence vs. Compliance

- **Excellence**
  - The quality of being outstanding or very good (Google dictionary)
  - A talent or quality which is unusually good and so surpasses ordinary standards (Wikipedia)

- **Compliance**
  - The state or fact of according with or meeting rules or standards (Google dictionary)
  - Synonyms: obedience to; observation of; conformity to; respect for
Striving for Excellence

“There are no shortcuts to excellence. Developing real expertise, figuring out really hard problems, it all takes time...you’ve got to apply those skills and produce goods or services that are valuable to people...Grit is about working on something you care about so much that you’re willing to stay loyal to it...”

Angela Duckworth, Grit: Passion, Perserverence and the Science of Success
Compliance: The Foundation of OEM
Science Denial: Has it Really Changed?

- Regulation - Melding of science, society, economics and politics
- Pendulum has swung in the favor of those promoting business interests over public health
- Agencies are less effective in protecting the public’s health (EPA)
- OM providers allegiances’ are divided between ERs and EEs
The Challenges Facing Us Over the Next Decade May Seem Overwhelming...
Innovation: Think Different

“Here’s to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in square holes. The ones who see things differently.

They’re not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them.

About the only thing you can’t do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius.

Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.”
Innovation

- The introduction of something new; i.e., a new method, product, idea
- A paradigm shift- where you look at a problem or a situation and find a novel way of solving it
Innovation is not Without its Dark Side. We Need Compliance.

Facebook Accused of Exposing User Health Data in Complaint to FTC
A health privacy group accused Facebook of misleading users about its privacy of closed health groups; US lawmakers sent a letter demanding answers from CEO Mark Zuckerberg in response.
Think Difference