

Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care



FEARLESS ICU

Fostering teamwork for resilient staff and safe care

NIHR

National Institute for
Health and Care Research

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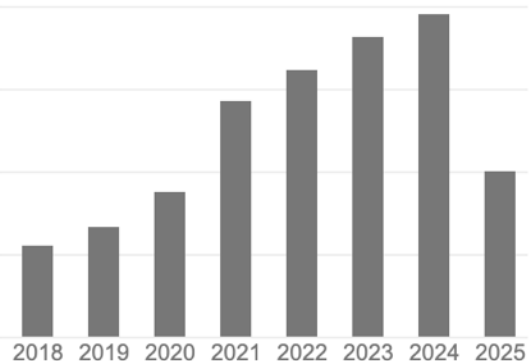
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Why this guy?

	All	Since 2020
Citations	4456	3063
h-index	29	28
i10-index	52	48



About this Attention Score
In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric

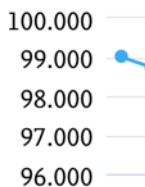
Mentioned by
91 news outlets

Interprofessional Education T.344 is in the 97th percentile by worldwide Topic Prominence.

97.408



In 2023



Social Science & Medicine 181 (2017) 102–111

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Social Science & Medicine

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed

Accomplishing professional jurisdiction in intensive care: An ethnographic study of three units

Andreas Xyrichis^{a,*}, Karen Lowton^b, Anne Marie Rafferty^a

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Altmetric Attention Score of 898

This research output has an Altmetric Attention Score of 898. This is our high-level measure of the quality and quantity of online attention that it has received. This Attention Score, as well as the ranking and number of research outputs shown below, was calculated when the research output was last mentioned on 27 April 2022.

ALL RESEARCH OUTPUTS
#13,277

OUTPUTS FROM BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL
#371
of 57,256 outputs

OUTPUTS OF SIMILAR AGE
#362
of 422,992 outputs

OUTPUTS OF SIMILAR AGE FROM BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL
#9
of 637 outputs

1,936 research outputs across all sources so far. Compared to these this one has done particularly well and in the top 5% of all research outputs ever tracked by Altmetric.

International Journal of Nursing Studies • Open Access • Volume 45, Issue 1, Pages 140 - 153 • January 2008

What fosters or prevents interprofessional teamworking in primary and literature review

Xyrichis, Andreas ; Lowton, Karen

Save all to author list

^a King's College London, The Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery, James Clerk Maxwell Building, 57 Waterloo Rd., United Kingdom

343 99th percentile
Citations in Scopus

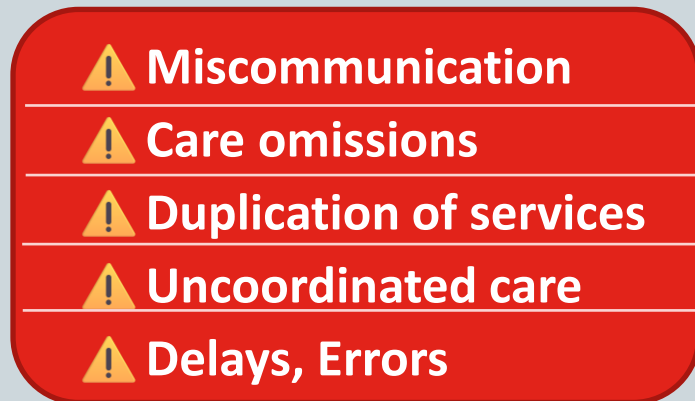
15.64
FWCI

253
Views count



Teamwork & safety in the NHS

- Interprofessional teamwork is paramount for quality & safety
- Poor teamwork increases risk of patient safety incidents

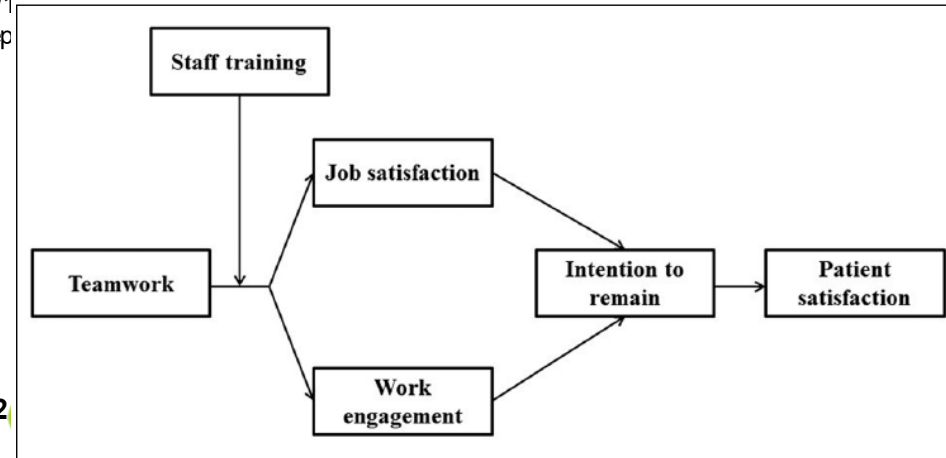


- Safety in the NHS is a major concern
 - 4,000 incidents leading to patient death;
 - 60,000 incidents leading to moderate or severe harm;
 - medication errors cost the NHS >£98million/year.

Perceived Organizational Support in Health Care: The Importance of Teamwork and Training for Employee Well-Being and Patient Satisfaction

Chidiebere Ogonnaya¹ , C. Justice Tillman²
and Katerina Gonzalez²

Group & Organization Management
2018, Vol. 43(3) 475–503
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DOI: 10.1177/1059622318787011
journals.sagepub.com



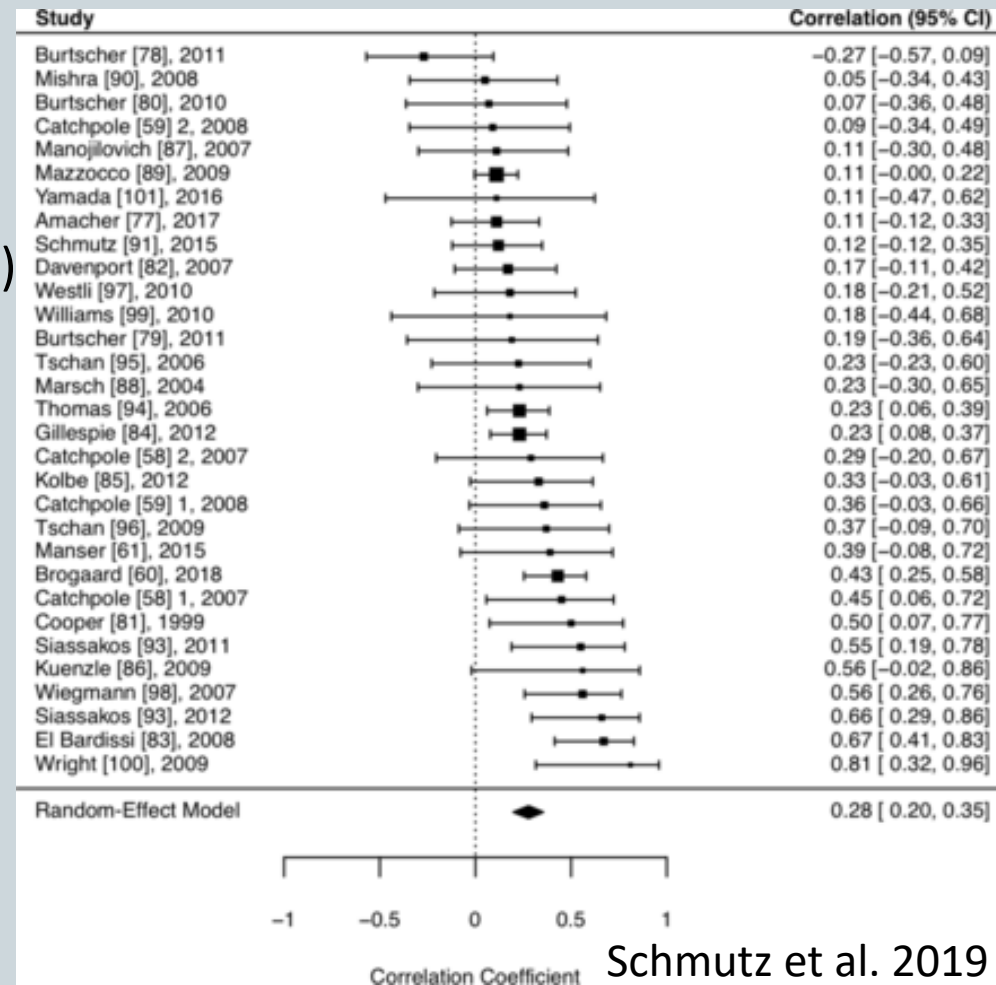
Variables	M	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 Teamwork	3.61	0.70						
2 Job satisfaction	3.40	0.76	.66**					
3 Work engagement	3.82	0.78	.45**	.53**				
4 Intention to remain	3.41	1.07	.43**	.57**	.53**			
5 Patient satisfaction	3.65	0.14	.03**	.04**	.01*	.06**		
6 Training	1.46	0.47	.21**	.19**	.15**	.14**	.05**	

Note. Sample size (N) = 66,930 employees nested within 162 National Health Service Trusts.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Clinical performance

- Meta-analysis of 1,390 healthcare teams studied the performance implications of teamwork in healthcare
- Found a **3-fold improvement** (OR 2.8) in clinical performance measures, including on complications, infection rates, adherence to guidelines
- Interprofessional teams outperformed uniprofessional teams
- Existing teams outperformed 'new' teams
- Most effective for non-routine, complex work



An Evaluation of Outcome from Intensive Care in Major Medical Centers

WILLIAM A. KNAUS, M.D.; ELIZABETH A. DRAPER, R.N., M.S.; DOUGLAS P. WAGNER, Ph.D.; and
JACK E. ZIMMERMAN, M.D.; Washington, D.C.

We prospectively studied treatment and outcome in 5030 patients in intensive care units at 13 tertiary care hospitals. We stratified each hospital's patients by individual risk of death using diagnosis, indication for treatment, and Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE) II score. We then compared actual and predicted death rates using group results as the standard. One hospital had significantly better results with 69 predicted but 41 observed deaths ($p < 0.0001$). Another hospital had significantly inferior results with 58% more deaths than expected ($p < 0.0001$). These differences occurred within specific diagnostic categories, for medical patients alone and for medical and surgical patients combined, and were related more to the interaction and coordination of each hospital's intensive care unit staff than to the unit's administrative structure, amount of specialized treatment used, or the hospital's teaching status. Our findings support the hypothesis that the degree of coordination of intensive care significantly influences its effectiveness.

MEDICAL CARE

Volume 32, Number 5, pp 508-525

© 1994, J. B. Lippincott Company

The Performance of Intensive Care Units: Does Good Management Make a Difference?

STEPHEN M. SHORTELL, PhD,* JACK E. ZIMMERMAN, MD, FCCM,†
DENISE M. ROUSSEAU, PhD,* ROBIN R. GILLIES, PhD,*
DOUGLAS P. WAGNER, PhD,† ELIZABETH A. DRAPER, RN, MS,‡
WILLIAM A. KNAUS, MD,† AND JOANNE DUFFY, DNSc, CCRN§

ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION

HEALTH CARE REFORM

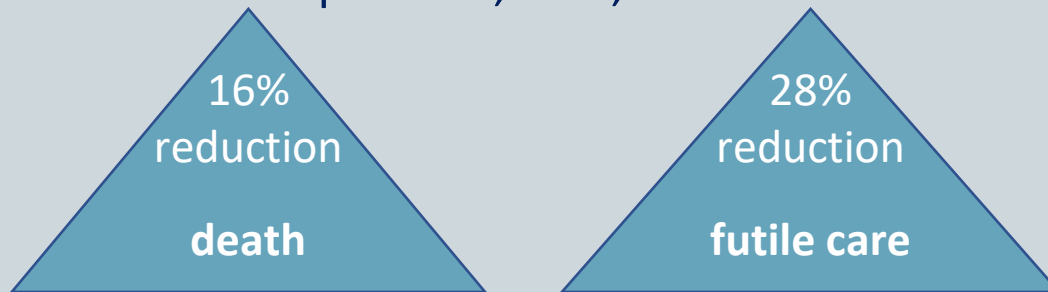
The Effect of Multidisciplinary Care Teams on Intensive Care Unit Mortality

Michelle M. Kim, MSc; Amber E. Barnato, MD, MPH; Derek C. Angus, MD, MPH;
Lee F. Fleisher, MD; Jeremy M. Kahn, MD, MSc

- In intensive care units rated better on quality of collaborative working, **55% more patients survived** than were expected to, while in the worst rated units **58% more patients died** than were expected to ($p < 0.0001$) (Knaus et al., 1986)
 - Knaus et al. 1986 (5,030 patients), Shortell et al. 1994 (17,000 patients), Kim et al. 2010 (107,000 patients)
- Improving the **quality** of professional interactions
- Reducing **duplication** of services
- Avoiding **communication** errors
- Limiting care **omissions**
- Improving patient **satisfaction** and outcomes

Background

- Growing research evidence since the 1980s points to benefits of teamwork in ICU for patients, staff, and the service.



↓	Length of stay
↓	Mechanical ventilation
↓	Central line infections
↓	Ventilator pneumonia
↓	Staff burnout

There is now sufficient evidence that supports an *interprofessional team* approach as an essential component in the provision of high-quality ICU care.

Society of
Critical Care Medicine



although the evidence linking high-performing teams to *patient safety* is clear, there is no consistent approach in the NHS to developing teams



INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAM COLLABORATION AND WORK ENVIRONMENT HEALTH IN 68 US INTENSIVE CARE UNITS

By Brenda T. Pun, DNP, RN, Jin Jun, PhD, RN, Alai Tan, PhD, Diane Byrum, MSN, RN, Lorraine Mion, PhD, RN, Eduard E. Vasilevskis, MD, MPH, E. Wesley Ely, MD, MPH, and Michele Balas, PhD, RN, CCRN-K

British Journal of Anaesthesia 98 (3): 347–52 (2007)
doi:10.1093/bja/ael372 Advance Access publication February 1, 2007

BJA

CRITICAL CARE

Interdisciplinary communication in the intensive care unit

T. W. Reader¹ *, R. Flin¹, K. Mearns¹ and B. H. Cuthbertson²

Brief Report

Discrepant attitudes about teamwork among critical care nurses and physicians*

Eric J. Thomas, MD, MPH; J. Bryan Sexton, PhD; Robert L. Helmreich, PhD

“Intensive care relies on the integrity of the team and the unfailing functioning of teamwork... Consensus is important and its achievement is a central, day to day working arrangement for ensuring the solidarity of the team.”

ICU Nursing Perspective (Melia, 2001)

“We have gone very much to a multidisciplinary team approach, which is fine, as long as you always remember one thing. When push comes to shove and you end up at the GMC (General Medical Council), the only person they are interested in is the consultant in charge.”

ICU Medicine Perspective (Xyrichis, 2019)

ONLINE CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

The Lived Experience of ICU Clinicians During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak: A Qualitative Study

OBJECTIVES: During the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, frontline clinicians were asked to reorganize the provision of critical care. Our aim was to gain insight into the lived experience of clinicians working in ICUs during the surge. We conducted semistructured, in-depth interviews.

Nancy Kentish-Barnes, PhD¹

Lucas Morin, PhD²

Zoé Cohen-Solal, MS¹

Alain Cariou, MD, PhD³

Alexandre Demoule, MD, PhD⁴

Elie Azoulay, MD, PhD¹



Thanh Neville, MD, MSHS
@thanh_neville

Just finished a week of CoVID ICU and here are some semi-cheesy reflections. 1. Camaraderie is everything. We can only succeed by having each other's backs; MDs, RTs, RNs must be on same team. I am proud to say that I believe our unit has only become stronger and tighter.

Staff experiences –reality



Marc Goldstein
@marcgoldstein_

A heartbreaking sign of the times: In isolation wards where patients die alone, craving the touch of their loved ones, nurses fill gloves with warm water to simulate that comfort. They call it the Hand of God.



Critical Care RN
@CriticalCareRN_

I'm so over the goal of the shift being to keep everyone alive. This isn't why I became a nurse and it's really tearing my soul.

17:42 · 11/01/2021 · [Twitter for Android](#)



CritCareRN
@rn_critcare

We stood outside the room watching our co-worker hold the hand of our young dying covid patient. We didn't have the time, but somehow a group of us stood crying outside the room until the heart stopped. It was sad yes, but we all really just needed a cry.
This is a nightmare.



Acronyms in ICU
@thelCU_FLO

In one of those moods where I'm just tired of descriptive studies about burnout in ICU clinicians during the pandemic.

No 🤖 Sherlock.

What did you expect?



Punctuated entropy in the ICU COVID-19

- We use 'punctuated entropy' as a conceptual lens to reveal the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Ontario ICUs. We drew attention to the cumulative impact of repeated disaster events on systems' capacity to recover.
- The structure of intensive care and the dynamics of collaborative practices within ICUs are subject to continual reconfiguration
 - leading to *punctuated entropy* – a permanent state of a lack of capacity to recover.
- Disaster recovery planning in healthcare services delivery should not be focussed simply on navigating the 'temporary' effects of a single event, but rather on how the event interacts with the already existing 'pathological' state of the healthcare system.

Original Qualitative Research Report

Punctuated Entropy in the ICU During COVID-19: Team Nursing and Burnout

Simon Kitto^{1,†} , Janet Alexanian² , Brandi Vanderspank-Wright³ 
 and Andreas Xyrichis⁴ 

Canadian Journal of Nursing
Research
1–15
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DOI: 10.1177/08445621251336445
journals.sagepub.com/home/cjn

 Sage

Abstract

Background: The novel demands on hospital capacity arising from the COVID-19 pandemic revealed already-existing systemic weaknesses. Intensive care units experienced a sustained surge capacity and were forced to introduce modified standards of care and practices.

Purpose: In this article we use punctuated entropy as a conceptual lens to reveal the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Ontario hospitals by drawing attention to the cumulative impact of repeated disaster events on their capacity to recover.

Methods: This qualitative instrumental case study took place at a Medical-Surgical Intensive Care Unit in a university-affiliated teaching community hospital in a large urban center in Ontario, Canada. Twelve healthcare professionals from the ICU participated in in-depth semi-structured interviews.

Results: In-depth interviews with healthcare providers revealed an already-vulnerable system and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the nursing workforce, compounding pre-burnout and compassion injury.

Conclusion: The structure of intensive care and the dynamics of collaborative practices within ICUs are subject to continual reconfiguration, potentially leading to punctuated entropy – a permanent state of a lack of capacity to recover. Disaster recovery planning in healthcare services delivery should not be focussed simply on navigating the 'temporary' effects of a single event, but rather on how the event interacts with the already existing 'pathological' state of the healthcare system. In this way solutions to longitudinal systemic problems in ICU healthcare delivery can be anticipated and plans for mitigation can be put in place.

Recovering from COVID-19?



CritCareRN @rn_critcare · 1d

Now here we are... Broken nurses in a broken profession working in a broken system where everyone is jumping ship. Don't blame them.



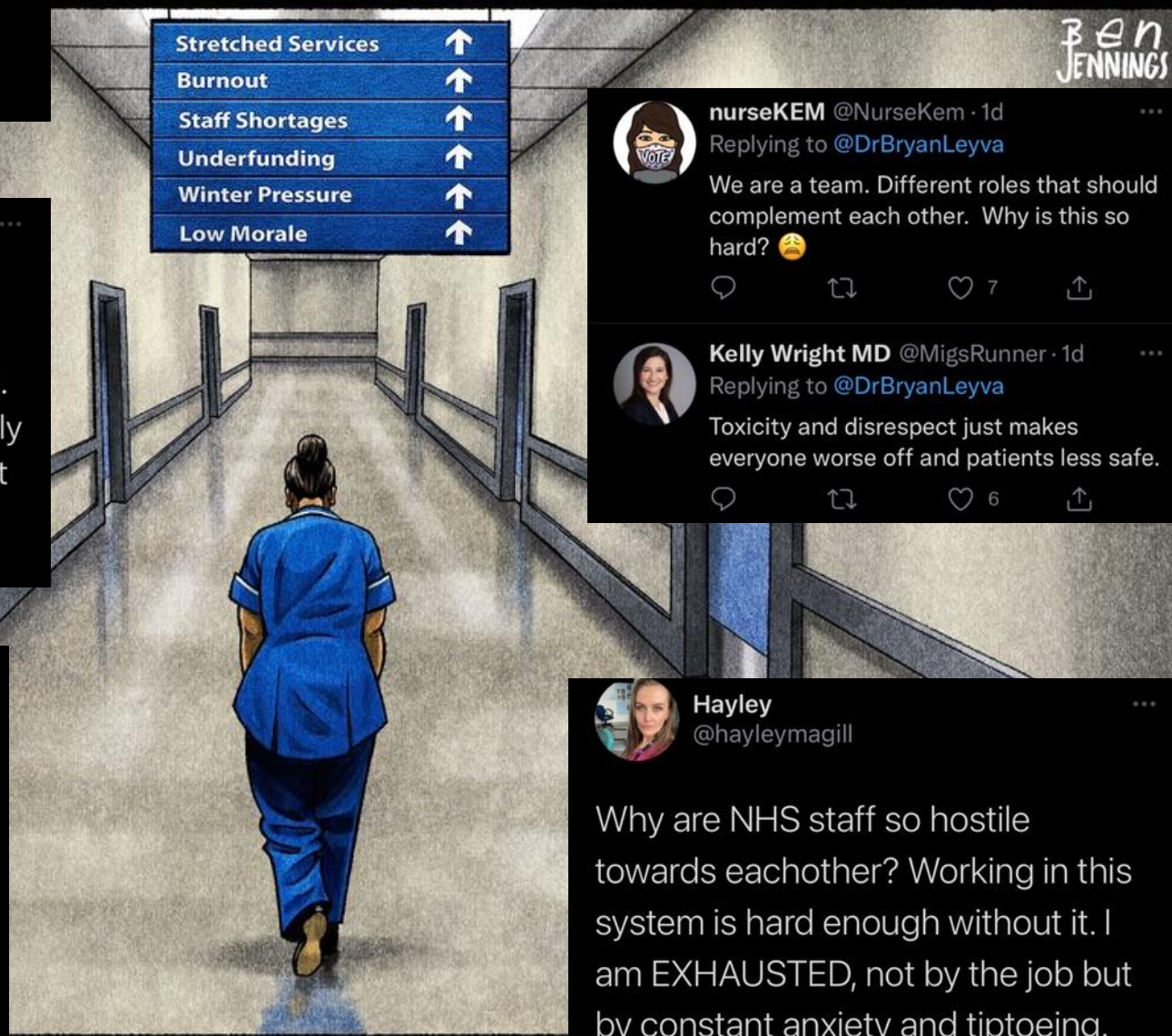
baggy 🙄
@plastic_baggy17

Well, 6 of my co-workers (all who have 5+ yrs experience) are leaving. My other coworkers are all incredibly burnt out, so am i...but why? Its not covid (anymore)



thetimes.co.uk
NHS resignation crisis as burnout, bullying and sexism push staff out

Stretched Services	↑
Burnout	↑
Staff Shortages	↑
Underfunding	↑
Winter Pressure	↑
Low Morale	↑



BEN JENNINGS



nurseKEM @NurseKem · 1d
Replying to @DrBryanLeyva

We are a team. Different roles that should complement each other. Why is this so hard? 🙄



Kelly Wright MD @MigsRunner · 1d
Replying to @DrBryanLeyva

Toxicity and disrespect just makes everyone worse off and patients less safe.



Hayley
@hayleymagill

Why are NHS staff so hostile towards each other? Working in this system is hard enough without it. I am EXHAUSTED, not by the job but by constant anxiety and tiptoeing.

The King's Fund (2020) 'The courage of compassion'

- staff **wellbeing** as a serious threat to the health service
- support staff through effective **teamwork**, compassionate *leadership* and psychologically *safe* team environments

House of Commons (2021) 'NHS Workforce burnout and resilience'

- workforce **burnout** as the highest in the history of the NHS
- improve capacity for **teamwork** in the NHS, including issues of *leadership* and environments in which staff can feel *safe* to speak up and voice concerns.
- evaluation of the factors enabling resilient teamwork in the NHS

Decline in teamwork scores post COVID-19

- **42%** of respondents indicated lack of shared/team **objectives**
- **28%** reported lack of **meetings** to discuss team effectiveness
- **29%** did not received the **respect** they deserved from colleagues
- **53%** said **relationships** at work were strained
- **26%** report **unenthusiastic** about their job
- **27%** would not feel safe **raising concerns** about unsafe practice
- **35%** would not **speak up** about anything that worries them

- What is the recent international evidence on the effectiveness and implementation of teamwork interventions in ICU?
- How have team practices, staff experiences and perceptions of teamwork changed post-pandemic in ICU?
- What are the core features, and cost/benefits of an intervention to improve teamwork in the ICU; how can it best be implemented and sustained?

The FEARLESS study

Evidence Syntheses M1-M18



- Cochrane effectiveness review
- Cochrane qualitative/implementation review

Secondary Data Analysis M4-M10



- Regression analysis of the NHS Staff Survey
- Variables: gender, age, ethnicity, profession

Ethnographic Case Studies M12-M31



- Five ICUs, maximum variation sampling
- Rapid observations, interviews, documents

Intervention Development M32-M38



- Reflexive workshops, Toolkit development
- Website, videos, diagnostics, implementation guide

Site Recruitment & Protocol Development M39-M45



- Networking, conferences, social media
- Protocol development for successive trial

Fieldwork questions

- What actually shapes teamwork in ICU, and how do you integrate teamwork into your everyday workflow?
- How do positive or negative perceptions of teamwork affect your experience of working in ICU? How do you make teamwork happen in real-world ICU settings?
- Is teamwork sustainable? What needs to be done to make teamwork part of normal everyday practice in ICU?

Sites: 8 ICUs

- across tertiary, academic, & district general hospitals;
- of different size, geography, organisational models;
- across high, moderate, & lower teamwork scores

Data collection

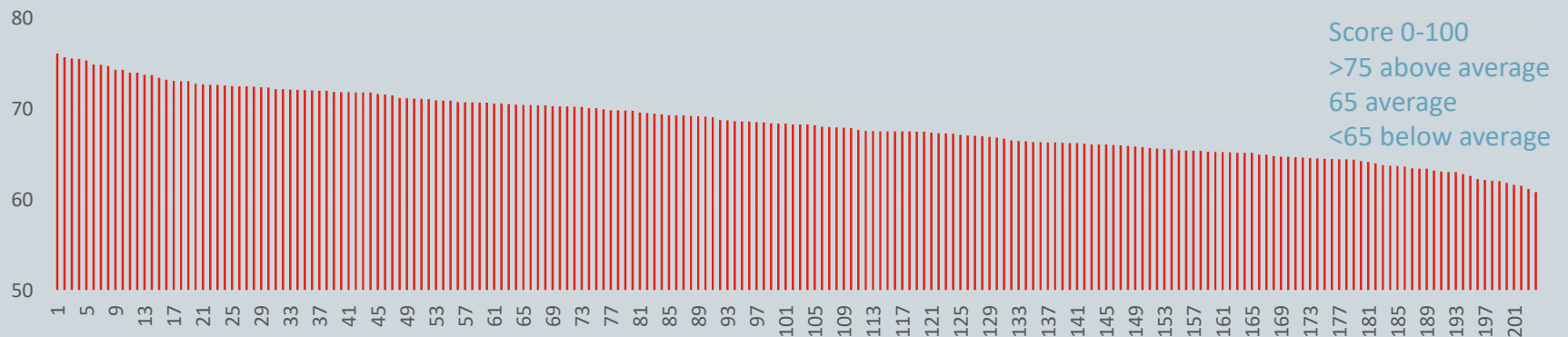
- 500-700 hours (shadowing, meetings, ward rounds)
- 100 semi-structured interviews (across professions and seniority)
- relevant policies, documents, protocols

NHS Staff Survey

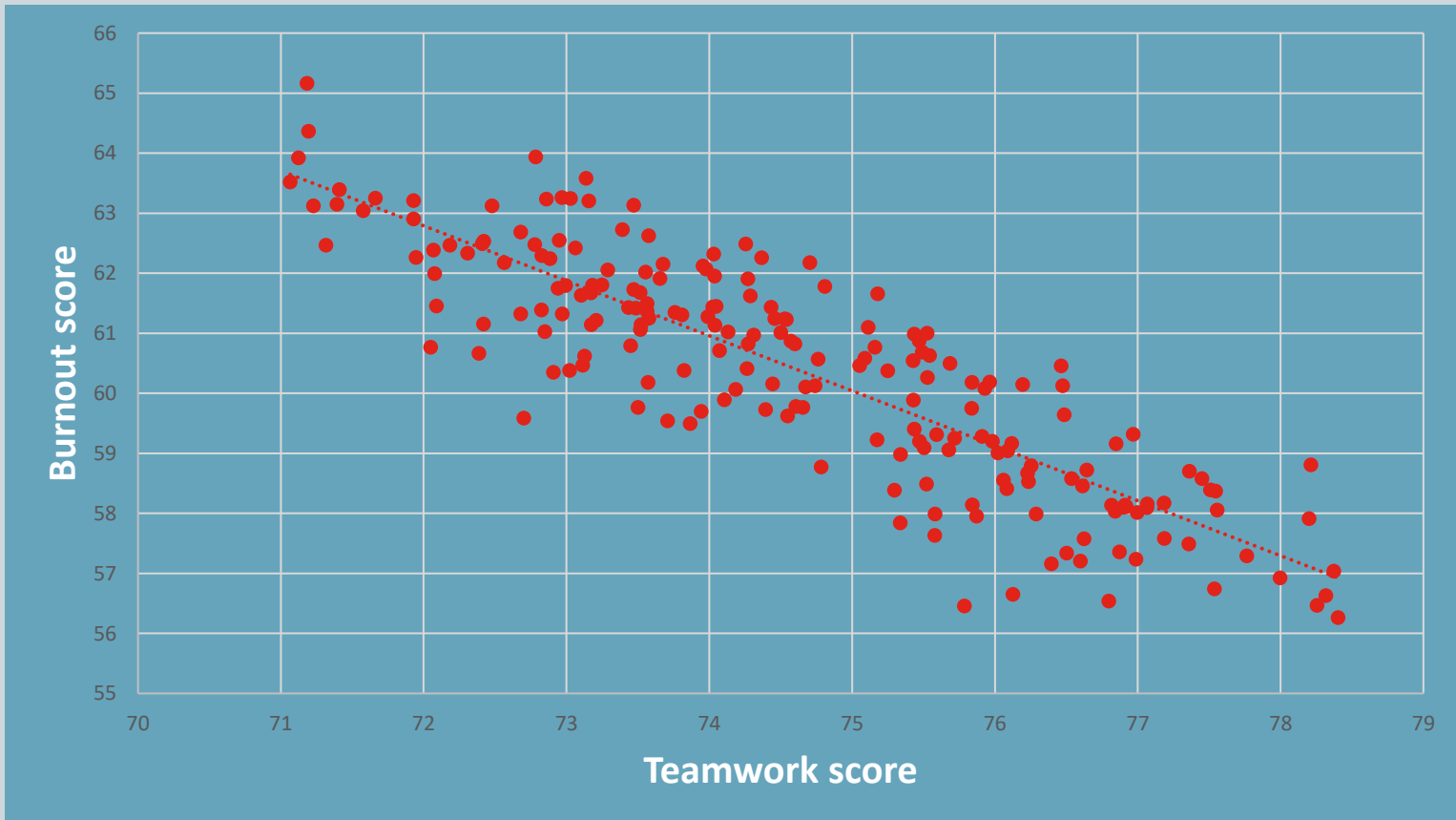
2023, n >50K

Q7a - The team I work in has a set of shared objectives.	73.72
Q7b - The team I work in often meets to discuss the team's effectiveness.	62.18
Q7c - I receive the respect I deserve from my colleagues at work.	72.66
Q7d - Team members understand each other's roles.	71.21
Q7e - I enjoy working with the colleagues in my team.	82.55
Q7f - My team has enough freedom in how to do its work.	59.10
Q7g - In my team disagreements are dealt with constructively.	57.81
Q7h - I feel valued by my team.	71.13
Q7i - I feel a strong personal attachment to my team.	65.31

Trust average score



NHS Staff Survey



Preliminary findings

1

Uses of place and space

- ❖ Physical layout
- ❖ Social engagement
- ❖ Implications for collaborative working

2

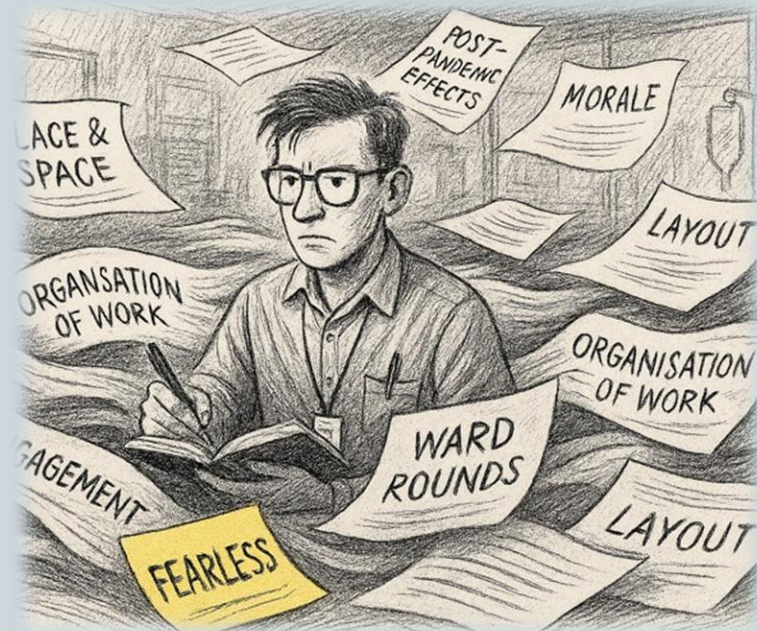
Organisation of work in the ICU

- ❖ Optimal/ideal vs real
- ❖ Social organisation of the unit
- ❖ Interprofessional ward rounds - when and how people engage

3

Post-pandemic effects

- ❖ Work/life balance and boundaries
- ❖ Pandemic nostalgia
- ❖ Morale and well-being



Contact details & for more information



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