

Transforming the Role of Mental Health While  
**Living Dynamically With  
Parkinson's Disease**

# Contact Information

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- With slide research from the work of Dr. Laura Marsh from the Parkinson's Foundation Website:
- <https://www.parkinson.org/library/videos/mental-health>



We acknowledge that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish, Kootenai, and Kalispel people.

We honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for generations to come.



# Jennifer Finley, Salish Poet

- The day we left the Bitterroot Valley for the Flathead Reservation,
- I said to my kids, “look at your arms connected to your body.
- Look at your feet connected to the ground you walk on.
- You are connected to everything.
- You are made of the land, and the trees, fish, deer, and clouds are made of your ancestors.
- You are always connected to someone who loves you.”

# Mental Health

Mental health is a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community. It is an integral component of health and well-being that underpins our individual and collective abilities to make decisions, build relationships and shape the world we live in. Mental health is a basic human right. And it is crucial to personal, community and socio-economic development..

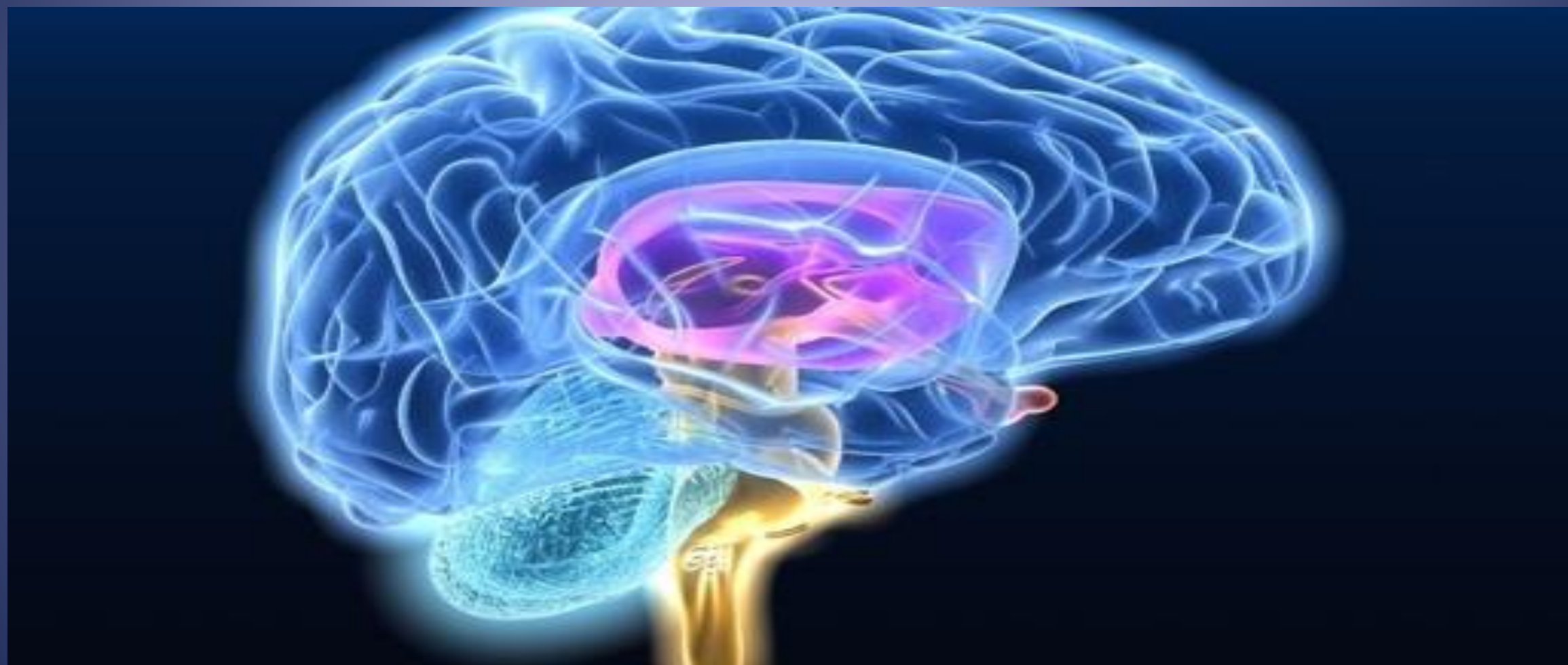


World Health Organization 2022

# Indigenous Conception of Mental Health

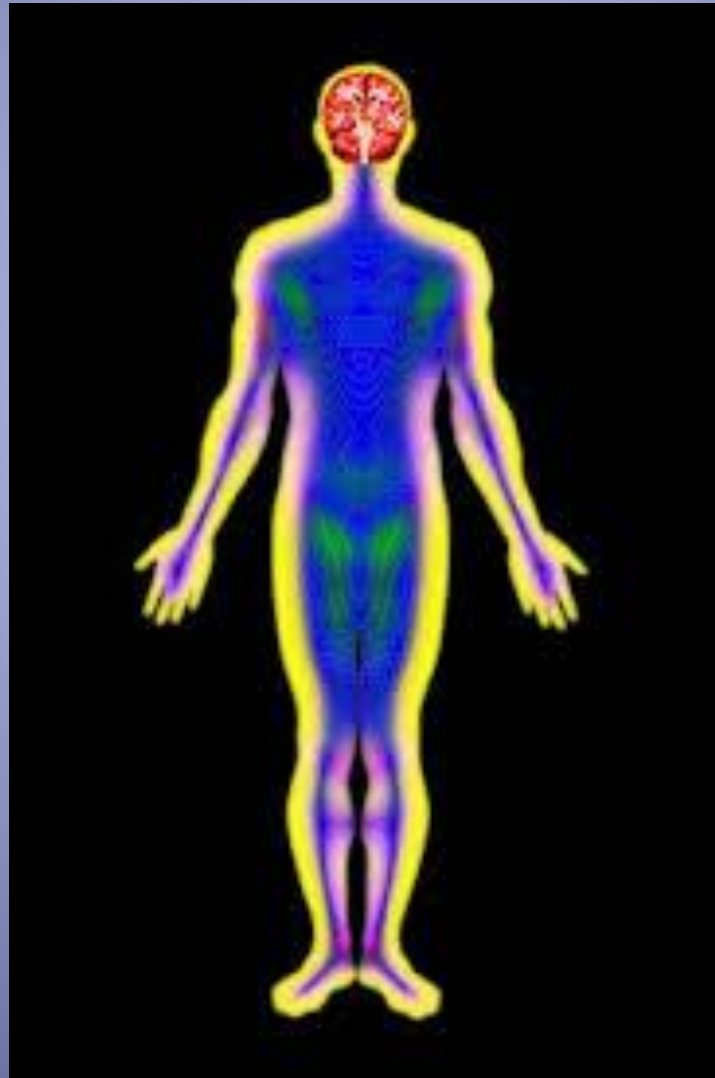
- Indigenous conceptions of mental health do not assume a division between mind and body that often frames western beliefs about mental health but, rather, focus on developing an understanding of the body and mind as a whole. Mental health includes self-esteem, personal dignity, cultural identity and connectedness in the presence of a harmonious physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellness.

# Brain





# Body



# Nervous System



# Jan Panskeep: Affective Neuroscience











# Threat System

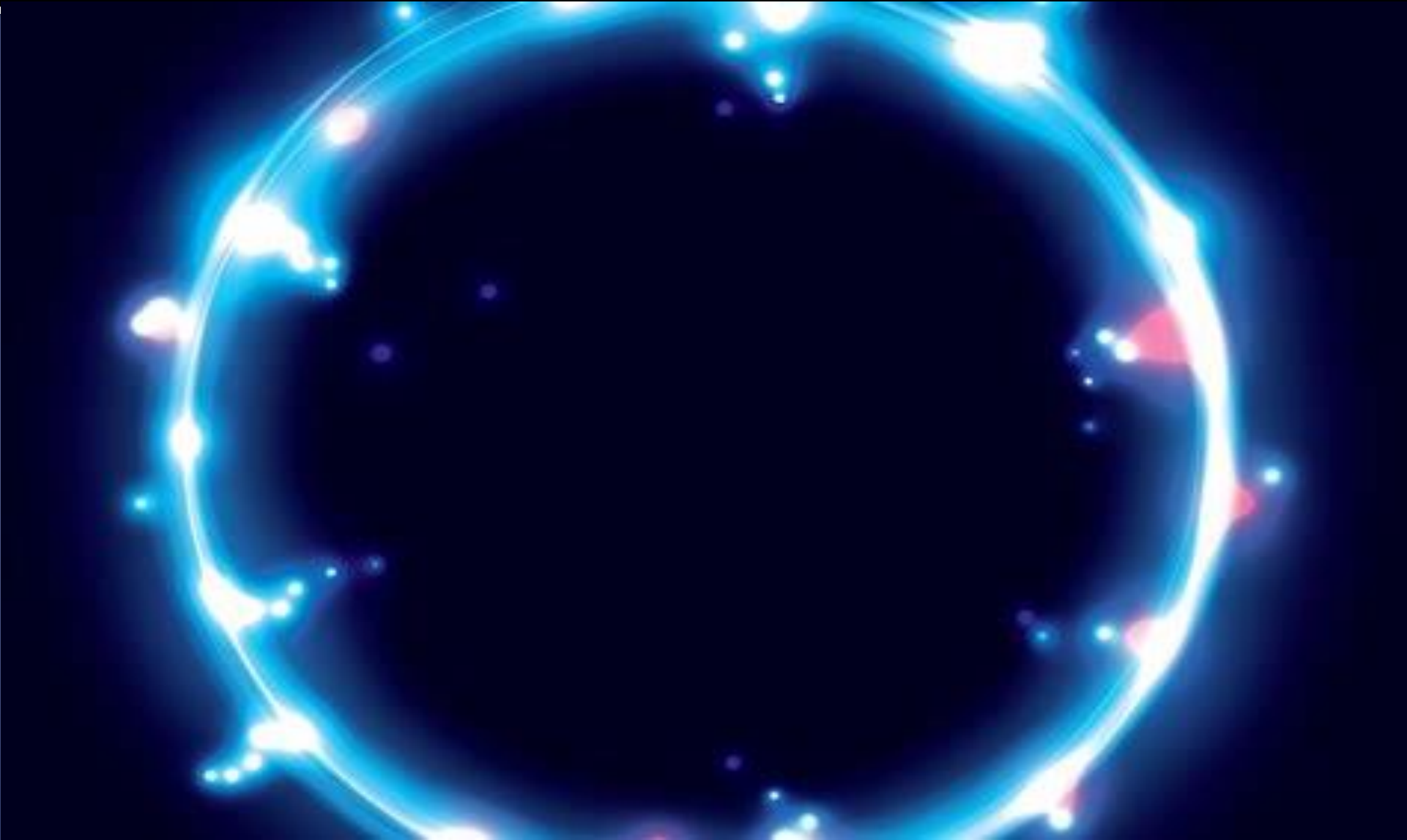




# Drive System



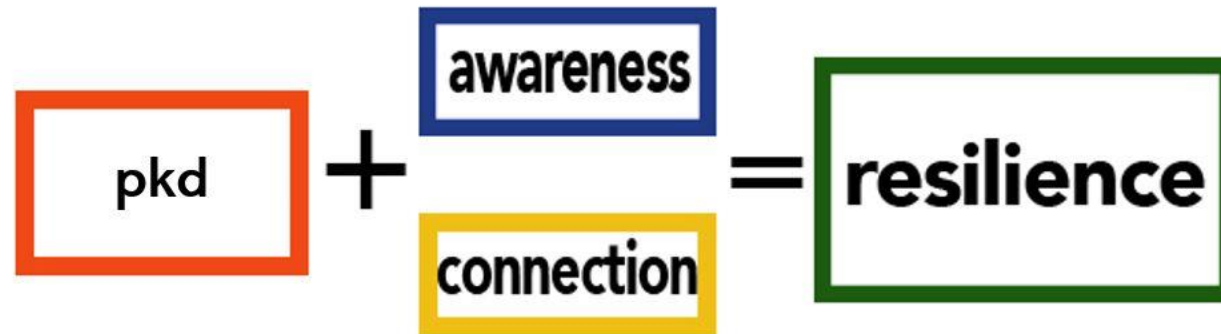
# Nurturance System



# ELEMENTS OF BLUE



# Degenerative Illness & Resilience



# Post-Traumatic Growth



# A sink hole that turns into an artesian well

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



A. ARTESIAN WELL AT LYNCH, NEBR.

Flows more than 3,000 gallons per minute.

# Pre-PD Anxiety Disturbances

## Risk factor or Early Symptom of PD?

### Gonera et al., 1997

- Anxiety symptoms often coincide with onset of PD

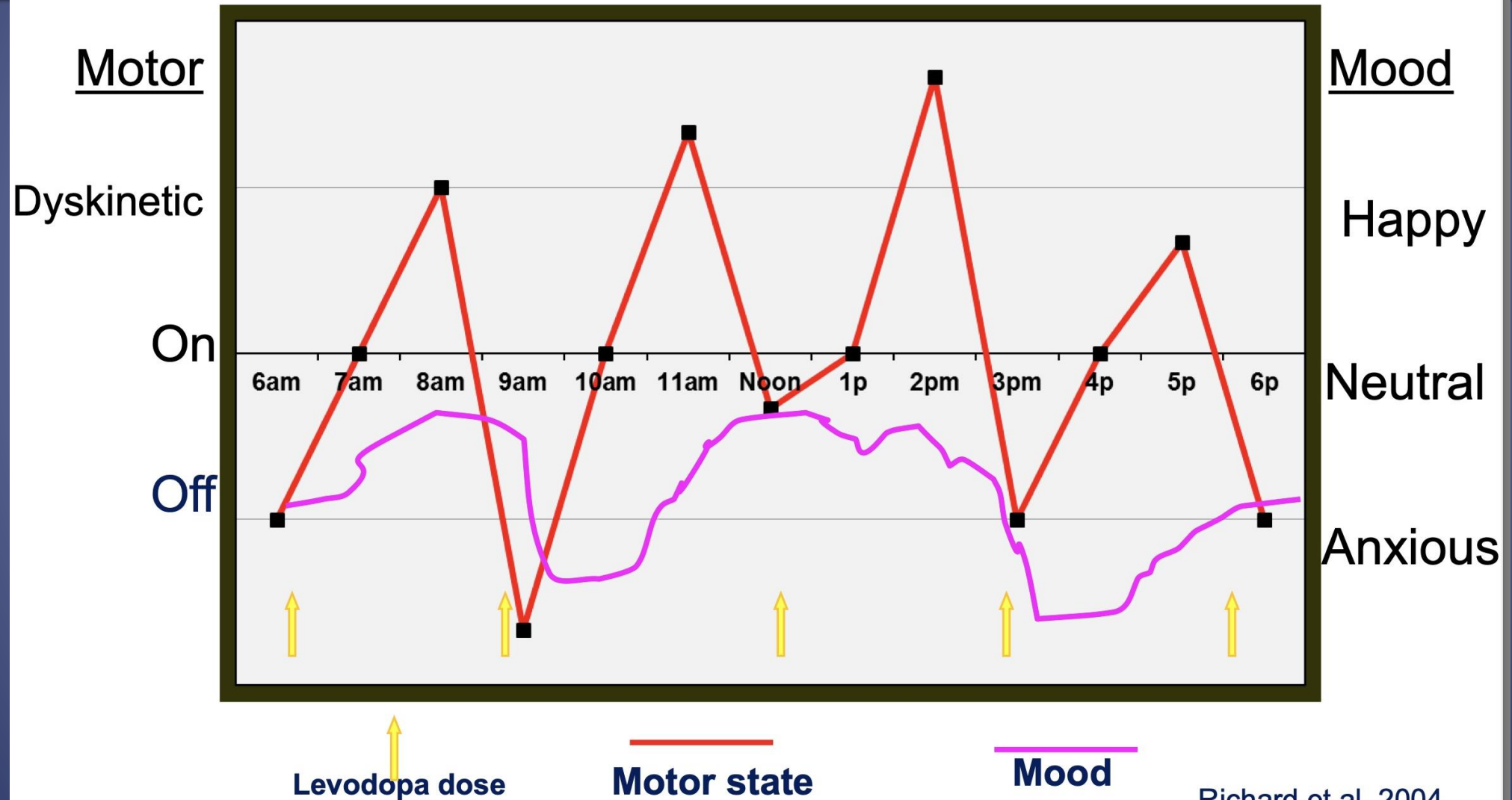
### Shiba et al., 2000

- Anxiety disorders, present up to 20 years before onset of motor signs, associated with development of PD

### Weisskopf et al., 2002

- 12-year follow-up of 35,000 men
- High anxiety and anxiolytic use associated with increased relative risk of developing PD (1.5-1.6)

# Levodopa-related Fluctuations





# PD Non-Motor Symptom Complex

## Neuropsychiatric Symptoms

Mood disturbances

- Depression, anxiety, apathy

Psychosis

- Hallucinations, delusions

Behavioral changes

- Impulsive, repetitive

Cognitive Changes

- Selective deficits, Dementia

## Sleep Disorders

Restless legs

Periodic limb movements

REM sleep behavior disorder

Non-REM Sleep movement disorders

Insomnia, EDS, Vivid Dreams

Sleep-disordered breathing

## Autonomic Symptoms

Bladder dysfunction

- Urgency, Nocturia, Frequency

Sweating

Orthostasis

Sexual Dysfunction

Dry eyes

Gastrointestinal changes

- Drooling, ageusia, dysphagia, reflux, Constipation, Incontinence

## Other Symptoms

Sensory – Pain, paresthesias

Olfactory changes

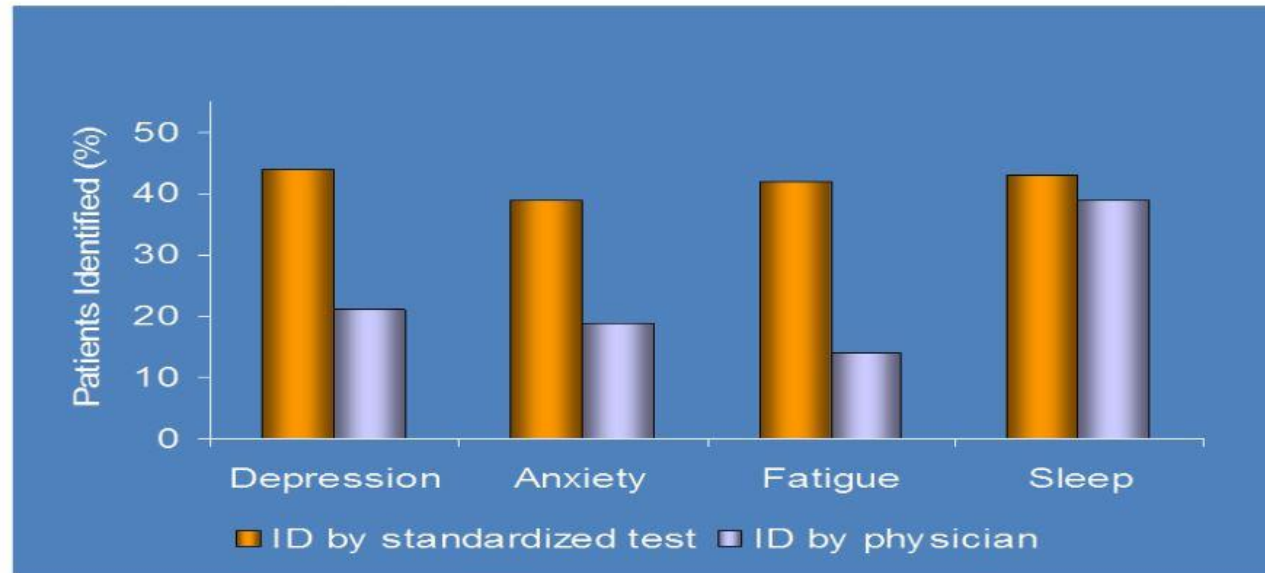
Fatigue

Seborrhea

Blurred Vision, Diplopia

# Up to 2/3 of PD-Depressive Disturbances Under-recognized or Under-treated

## 1. Shulman 2002, n=101 PD



## 2. Weintraub 2003, n=100 PD

34% DSM Depressive Disorder; 2/3 were not receiving treatment

## 3. Hoek et al. 2011, n=256 PD

36.3% minor depression with 8.6% treated

12.9% Major Depression with 30.3% treated

49.2% +Depression 61.1% not treated

# Depressive Disorders in PD



- ~40% prevalence (range 3% - 90%)
- Several types of depressive disturbances
  - Clinically significant depressive symptoms 35% (Major Depression)
  - Mild states (minor depression), may remit (50%), but may also worsen
- Recurrence or treatment resistance rates unclear
  - Symptom severity, older age, PD Duration
- Onset can be before overt motor signs/PD Dx
  - i.e., onset not related to disease stage or disability
- Anxiety disorders often co-occur

# Anxiety Disorders in PD

- Several Types
  - Episodic (Panic Disorder)
  - Situational (Phobias)
  - Continuous (Generalized Anxiety)
  - PD-Specific (Wearing-off anxiety/panic)
- Depressive disorders are a common co-morbidity
- Not understandable reactions to motor symptoms
  - Non-motor fluctuations
  - Onset of Anxiety may precede PD



# Other Psychiatric Diagnoses Independent or Co-morbid with Depression

Apathy

Emotionalism/Pathological Crying

Anxiety Disturbances

Psychosis

Impulse Control Disorders

Dementia and other Cognitive Impairment

# Psychological Features of Anxiety

## **Excessive**

- Avoidance
- Apprehension
- Worry
- Anticipation
- Overly-detailed
- Emotional Reactivity
- Fearfulness
- Somatic concerns
- Ruminative

## **No pervasive**

- Guilt
- Sadness
- Decreased self-worth
- Lack of interest
- Morbid

**How do we regulate our  
nervous systems?**

**We are each unique.**



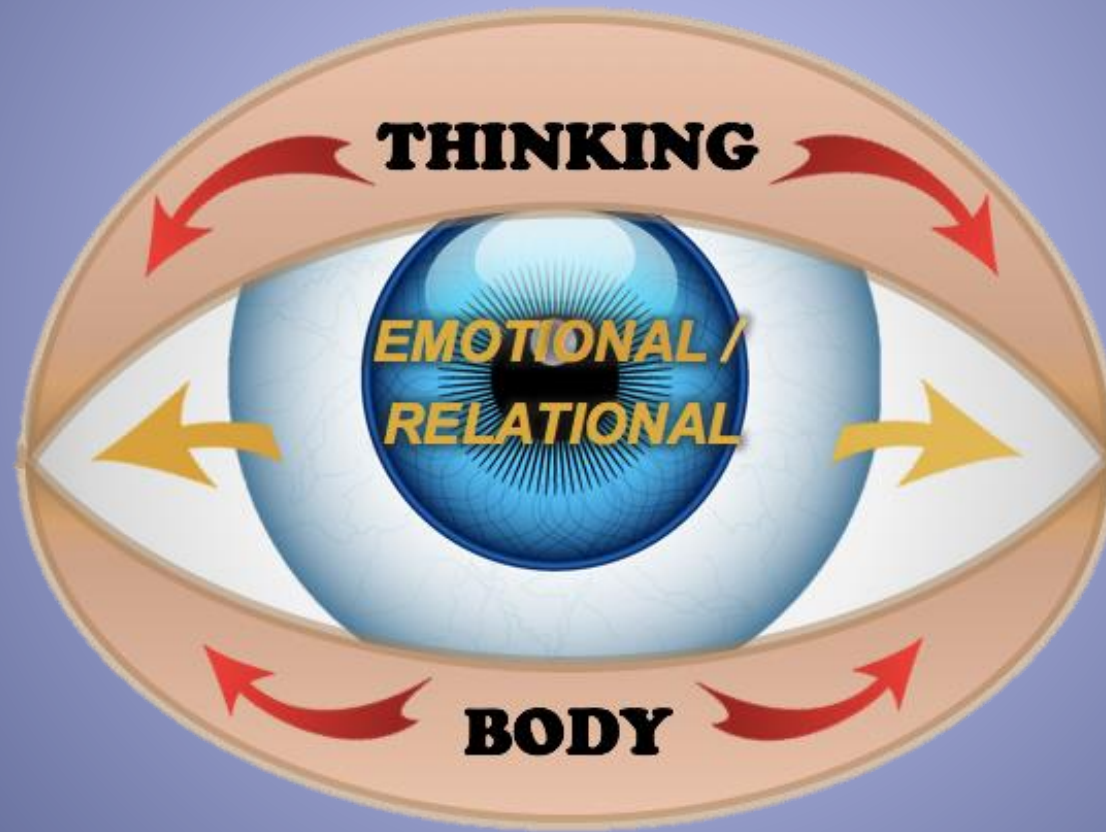


# Noticing

- The verb of awareness
- Tracking, not fixing
- Resilience is activated by tracking or noticing



# Observational Brain



# HYPERAROUSAL

Sympathetic: Fight or Flight

Use Mindfulness, Grounding &  
Breath Work

Overreactive, Unclear Thought,  
Emotionally Distressed

Can't Calm Down

# WINDOW OF TOLERANCE

The body is in its optimal state. Reason and  
Emotion are both accessible and we are Mentally  
Engaged

Shutting Down

Depressed, Lethargic, Numb,  
Unmotivated

Use Mindfulness, Breath Work &  
Physical Activity

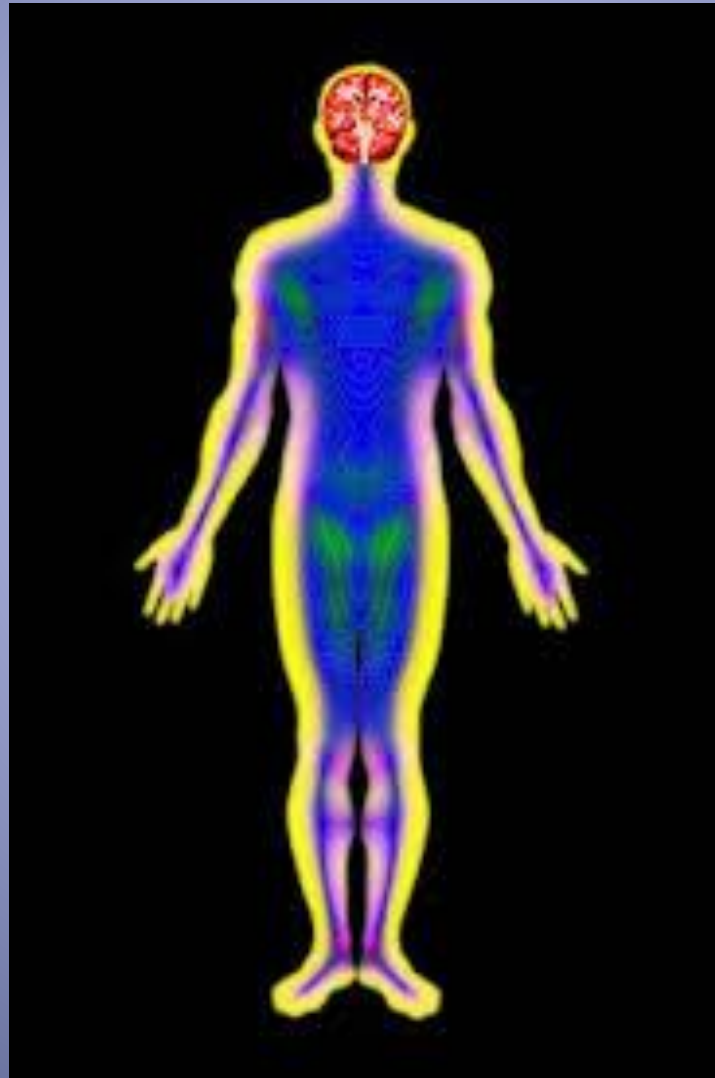
Parasympathetic: Freeze

# HYPOAROUSAL

# Morning Grounding Activity

- Begin each day by returning to your own grounded relationship to your body and the natural world.
- Find an anchor point in your body.
- Take some time to ground, breathe, and then track with body cues where you are tracking distress in your body

# Finding an anchor point



# Basic Skill: Drop In



# Find the Storm

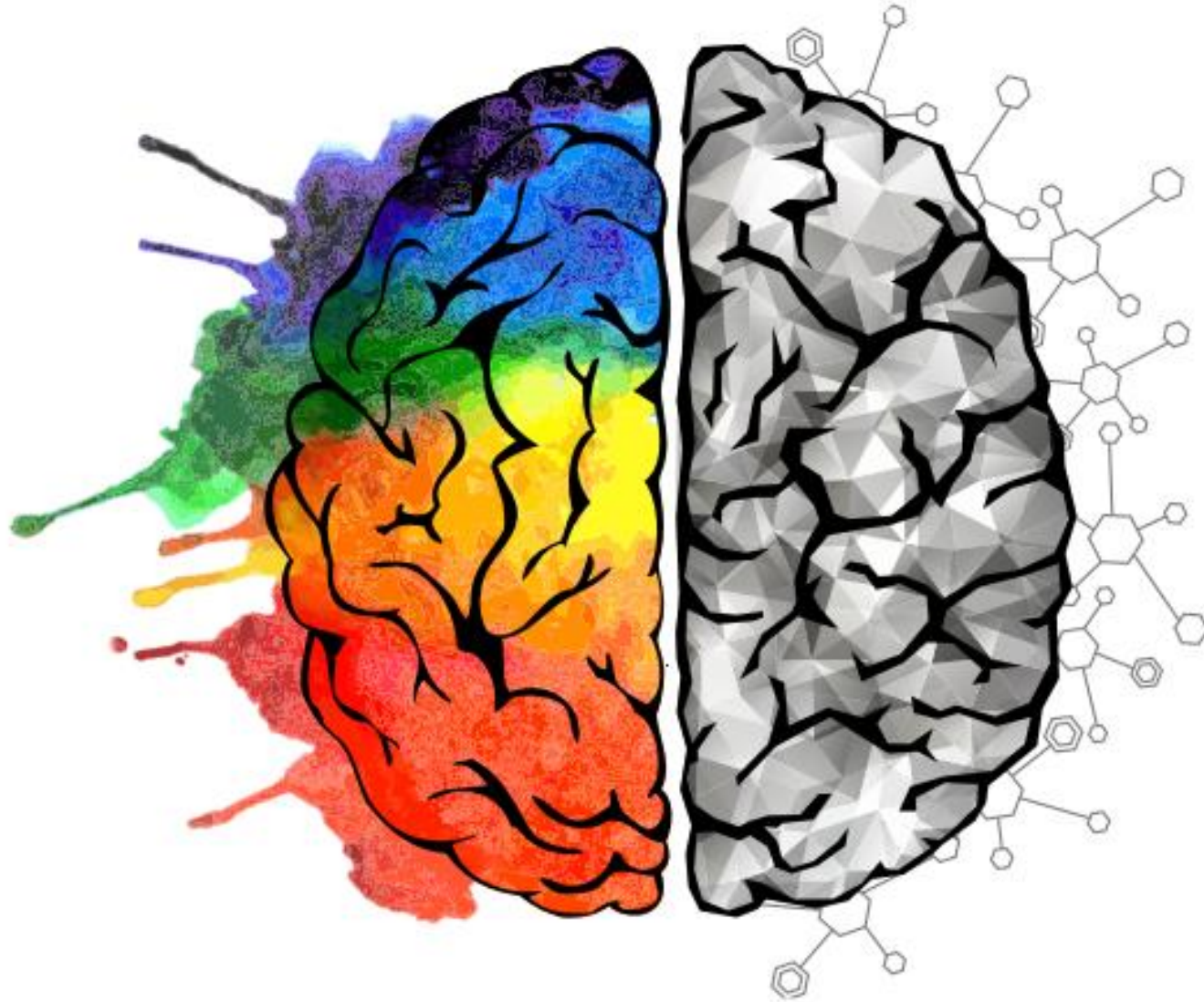


- Locate it in your body
- Explore the Sensations
- Pendulate back and forth between the anchor and the storm

# Power of the Natural World



# Neuro-Plasticity Movement





## Prevalence

- ~ 30% as a feature of a depressive disorder
- ~ 10% as an independent disorder

## Clinical features

- Loss of motivation
- Emotional indifference
- Reduced goal-directed activities
- Patients with primary apathy do NOT complain





## Prevalence

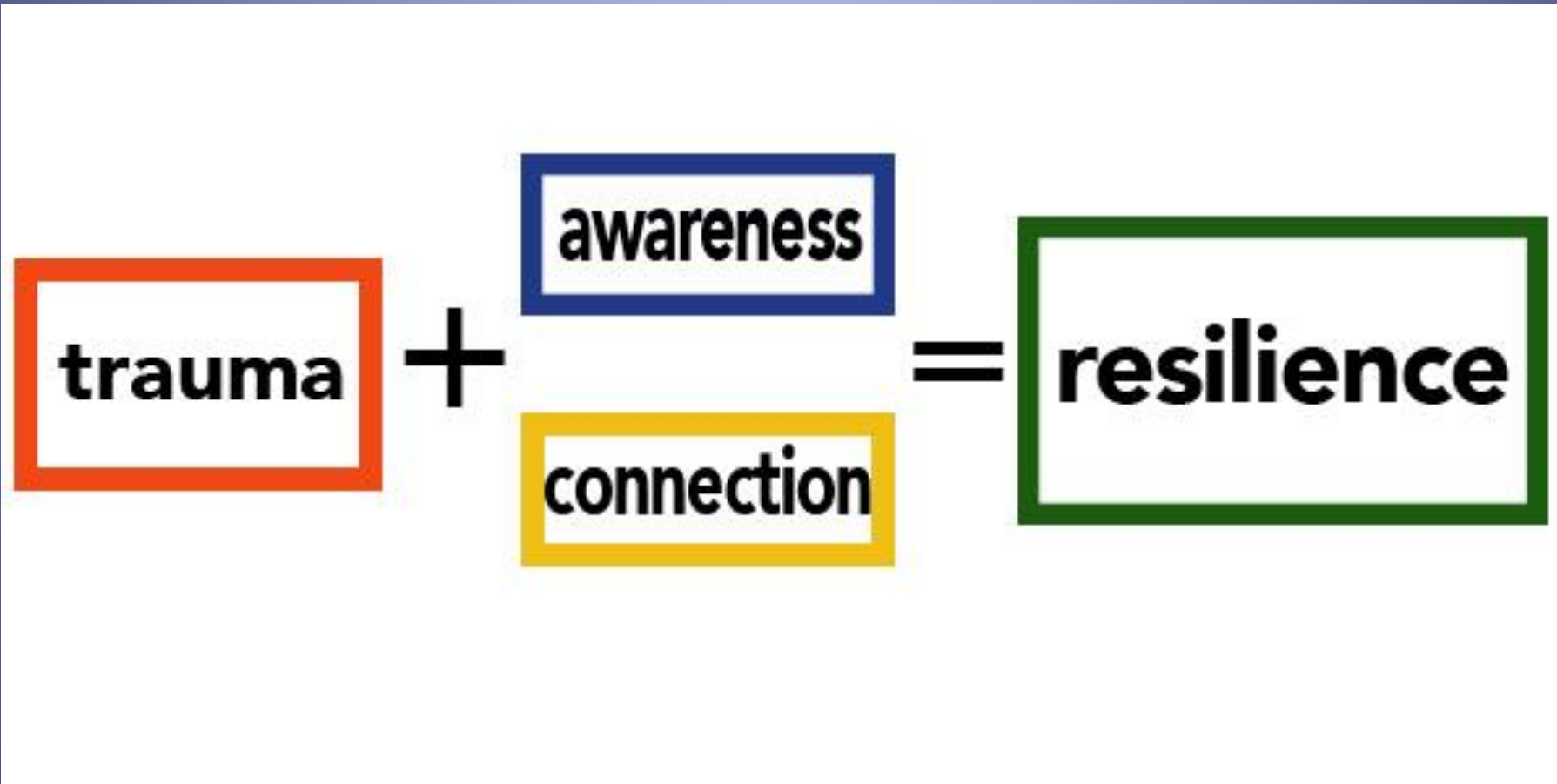
- 40-50%
- Associated with Depressive Disorders, Delirium, Benzodiazapines

## Clinical Features

- Heightened, excessive sentimentality/tear
- Inappropriate, unmotivated, involuntary
- Precipitated by a variety of emotions
- Social embarrassment/Phobic avoidance



# Resilience and Trauma



# Relationships Heal



**Protect**



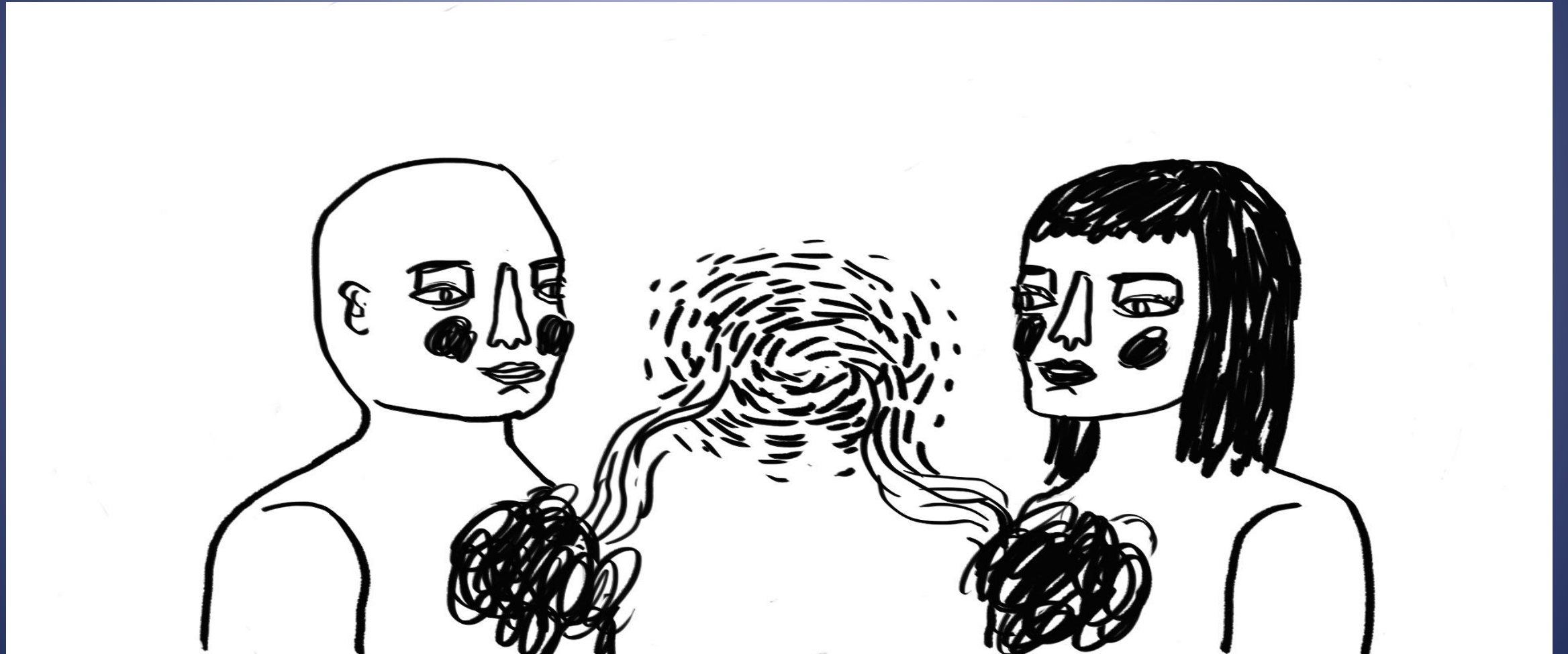
# Nurture



**Regulate**



# Power of Human Communication





# Mirroring



# Resonating







# Circles of Support



# Psychosis (Hallucinations and Delusions)

## I. Prevalence

- Depends on definition of psychosis, PD, and cognitive impairment
- ~ 8%–40% reported rates<sup>1</sup>
  - ~ 5%–17% without significant dementia
  - ~ 42%–81% with significant dementia
- Persistent and progressive<sup>3</sup>

## II. Impact<sup>2</sup>

- Major Clinical Challenge
- Major source of caregiver burden
- #1 factor in nursing home placement
- Associated with increased disability and mortality
- Prognosis improved with advent of atypical antipsychotics

## Medica(I)tions, Education, Skills, Support (MESS)

### **M** - Adjust/Optimize/Adhere anti-parkinsonian medications

- » Identify and treat medical conditions, delirium
- » Adjust medications causing cognitive/psychiatric problems

### **ESS** - Non-pharmacological approaches

- » Educational Programs
- » Skills: Psychotherapies  
OT, PT, ST, RT
- » Social Support, Support Groups
- » Support + Exercise + Fun: Singing, Yoga, Dance, Boxing, etc.
- » Address Caregiver Needs  
Home Care, Respite, Support

# Targeted and Individualized Treatment (2)

## Medications, Education, Skills, Support (MESS)

**M-** Add/Adjust/Optimize/Adhere specific psychiatric medications

- Anti-depressants
- Sleep medicines
- Anti-anxiety medicines
- Anti-psychotics
- Cognitive-enhancing agents

Consider other somatic treatments

- Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)
- Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS)
- transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS)
- Vagal Nerve Stimulation (VNS)
- Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)





# Skillfulness



# Humility



# Point Positive



# Hope

