## **Emotional Wellbeing** and Staff Resilience during COVID-19

Susan Wehry MD, Director, AgingME Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) Chief of Geriatrics, College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of New England







No one has been untouched

Collective

Individual

Stressful

Biopsychosocialspiritual uncertainty helplessness loss of control





# We are remarkably resilient

### Goal

Celebrate
Acknowledge
Beyond the pandemic

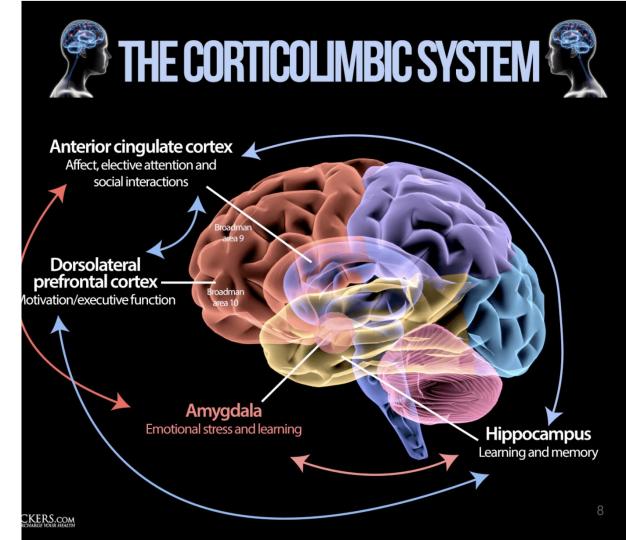
Frame experience

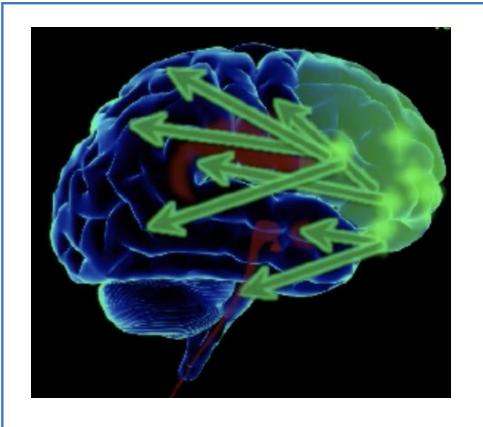
Cultivate resilience



We're getting tired, distracted, impatient, concrete

#### We need a reboot





Chill the amygdala!

Exercise your ACC

Reinstate the PFC

### The 3 Cs

Control

Coherence

Connection

Reich, J. W. (2006). Three psychological principles of resilience in natural disasters. Disaster Prevention and Management: An International Journal, 15(5), 793-798

## Actively replenish

Spend time in natural world In reality or virtually

Back to basics: Sleep. Exercise.

Eat well. Hydrate



### Name it

Acknowledge fear, loss, grief

Describe specific impact



#### Frame it

Tell stories

Extract lessons

Elicit specific concerns

Not everything is COVID



### (Re)Kindle

Creativity





relief efforts lift spirits stories make meaning

### Strengthen community

From coercion to kindness

Anxiety is contagious - so is calmness

Conversation is crucial

Assemble regularly - but virtually/distanced



