



THE UNCONFERENCE: A Teaching Approach Improving Communication Amongst An Interdisciplinary Medical Team

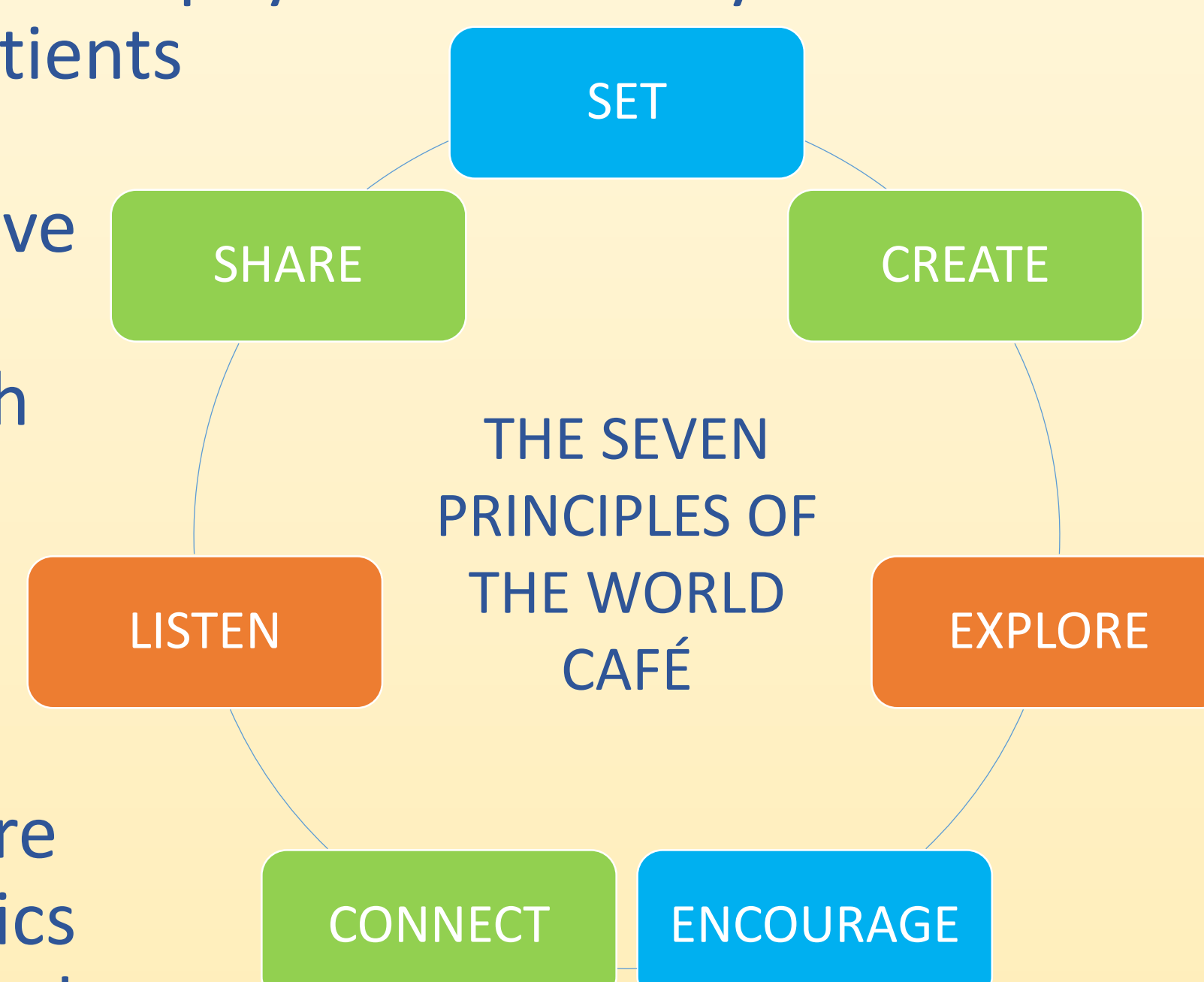
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THE UNCONFERENCE STRATEGY & WORLD CAFÉ TECHNIQUE

Effective communication is paramount for physicians as they communicate with multiple subspecialties and patients in the process of healthcare. Novel teaching methods rooted in reflective practice have been developed including the “Unconference” which is a platform for collaborative, transformative and self-directed learning. The world café is also a widely utilized active learning teaching strategy. Multiple tables are organized in one room with set topics based on one theme allocated to each table. Learners are distributed evenly throughout the room. Participants rotate periodically from station to station sharing and building upon one another’s ideas. A content expert or team leader is stationed at each table to foster growth in the established topic. The prevailing goal is for the learning experience to be casual, collaborative and conversational.



PURPOSE

The purpose of our study was to develop, implement and evaluate an Unconference on communication for trainees, scientists, and radiologists in an academic radiology department.

METHODS

Using the Unconference approach, department members and associated radiology faculty selected session topics through an online survey: communicating ideas to a larger audience, communication in conflict resolution and communication with millennial learners. Following a plenary session on social media, individuals participated in a “world café” style session utilizing the three topic areas. Facilitated by content experts, small groups focused on learning through dialogue and reflection. Following the Unconference, an anonymous online survey was sent to participants to determine their opinions regarding this teaching strategy.



RESULTS AND FEEDBACK



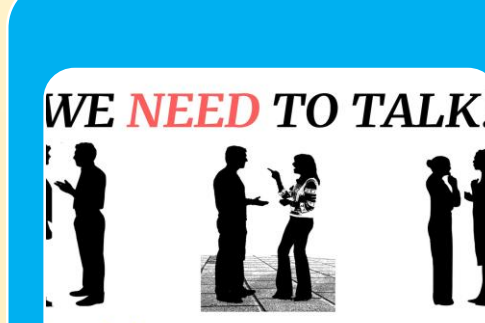
New Teaching Methods

“Excellent use of technology to teach use of technology”
“Provided context for ongoing changes and demands of clinical instructors”



To Tweet or Not To Tweet

“Interesting and relevant examples”
“Engaging speaker”



Difficult Conversations

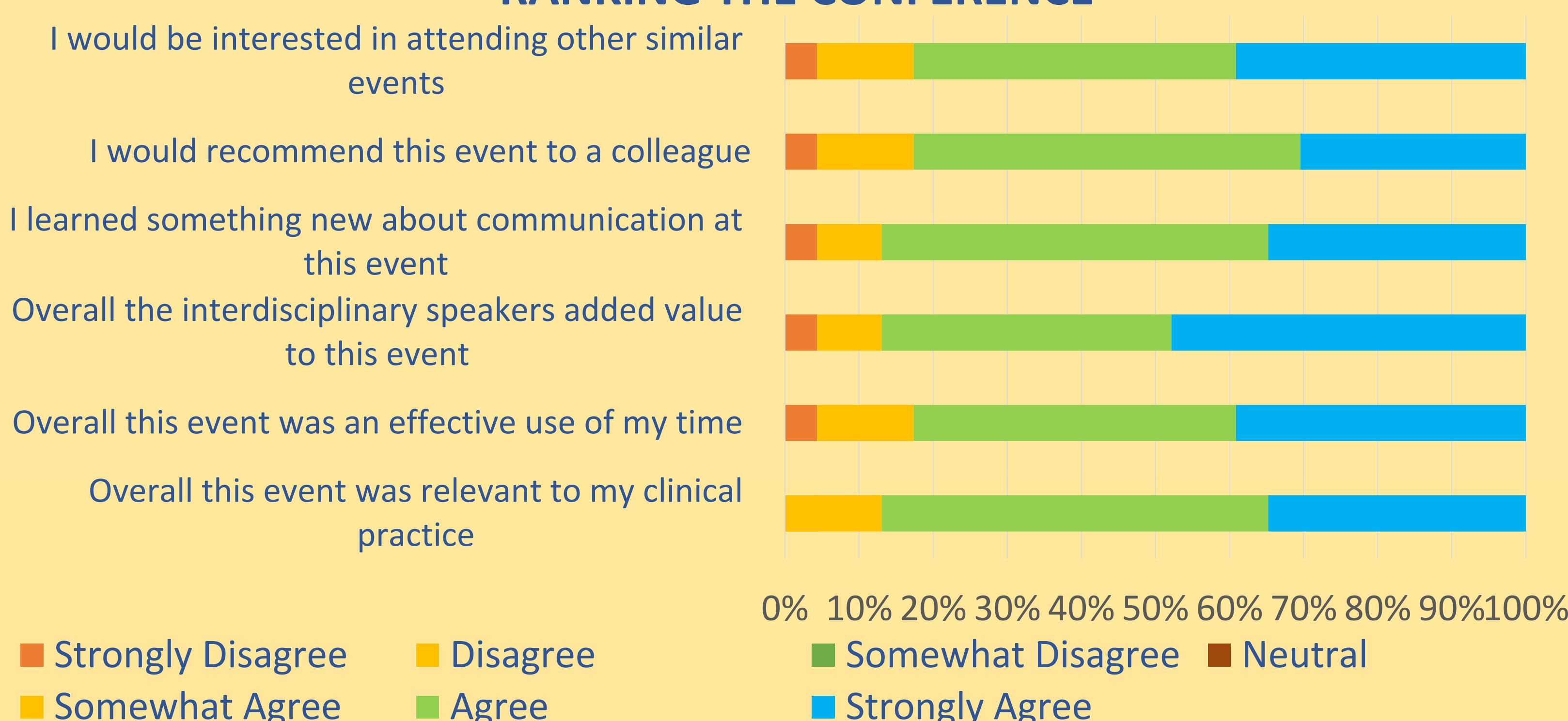
“Provided a better understanding of behavior in the work place”
“[It was helpful] to have members of faculty at all levels present for the discussion”

- 48 department members attended the conference
- The plenary sessions were ranked by 87% of attendees as being the most helpful
- Participants consistently liked the balance between didactic content and the session organization



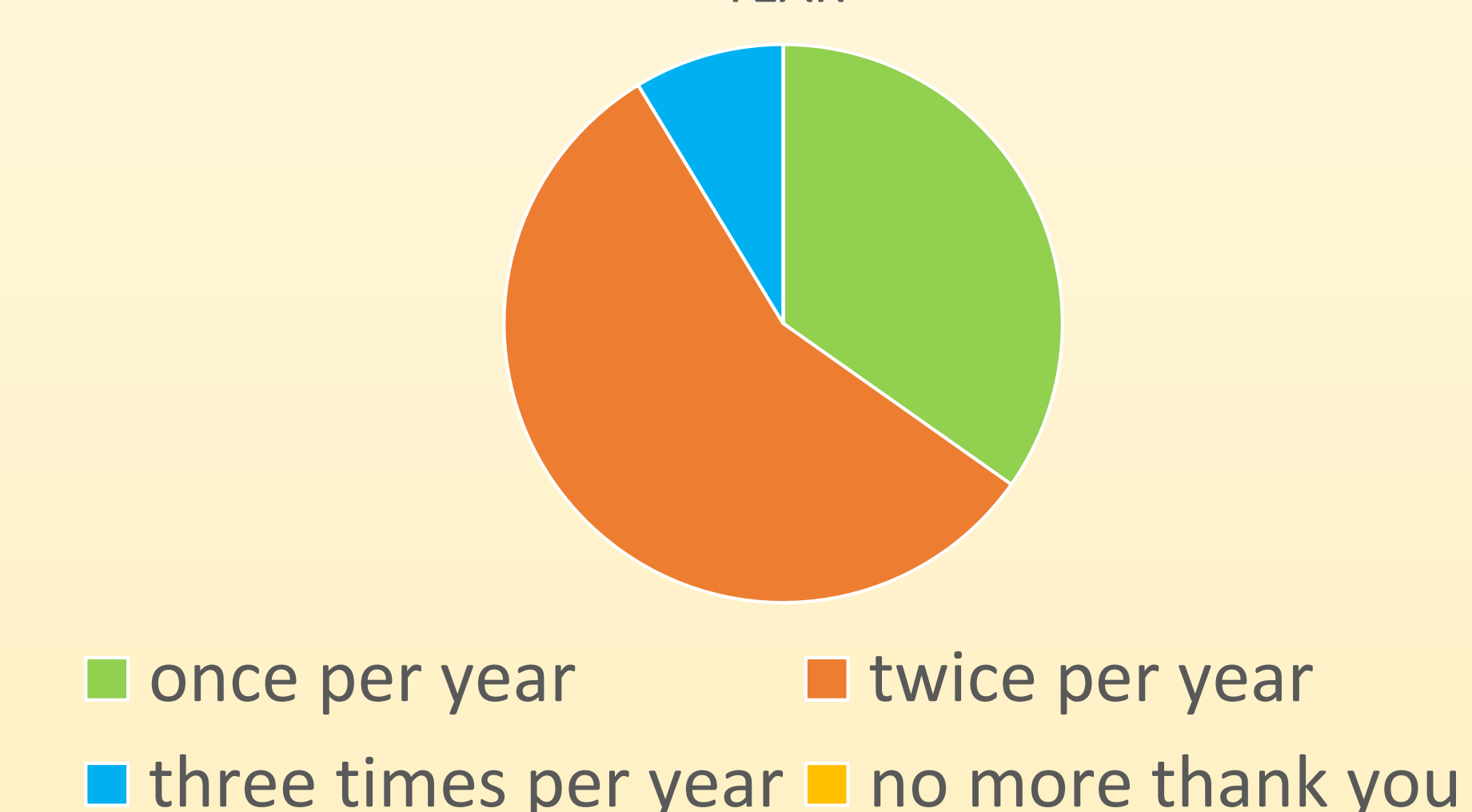
- “New teaching methods” was ranked by 80% of respondents as being the most helpful small group session
- Reasons for this included:
 1. Practicality
 2. Importance in millennial learners
 3. Gamified nature of the session

RANKING THE CONFERENCE

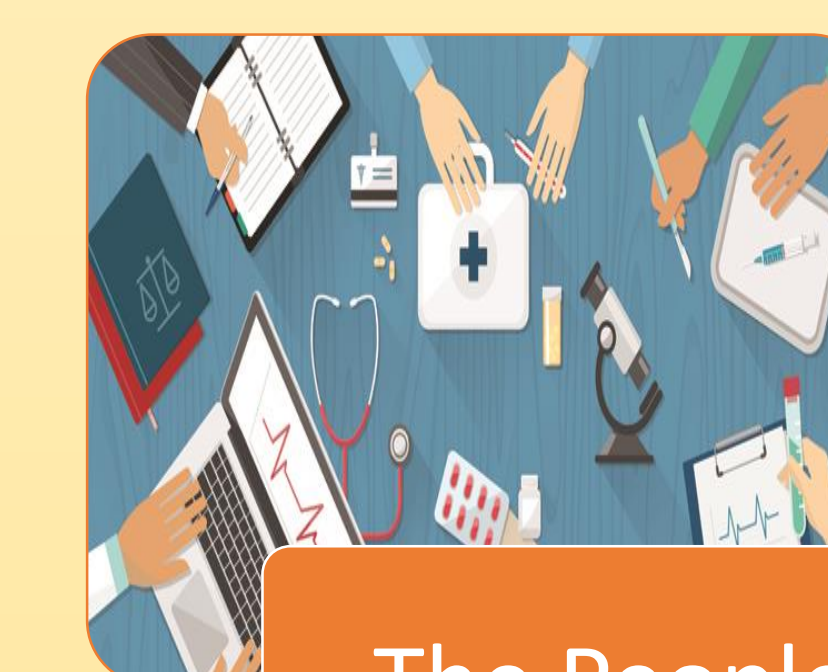


FUTURE DIRECTIONS

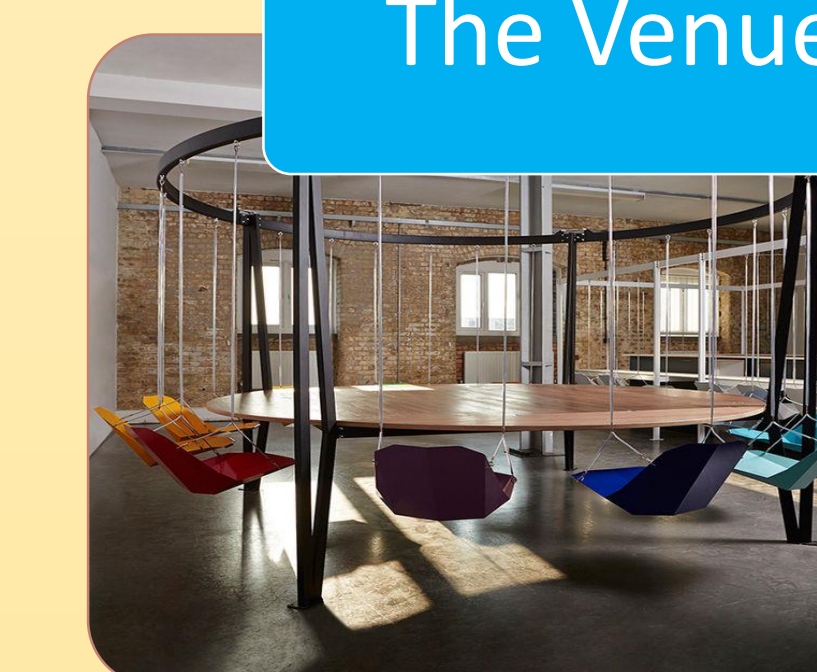
NUMBER OF APPROPRIATE UBC DEPARTMENT RADIOLOGY EVENTS SIMILAR TO THE COMMUNICATION SUMMIT PER YEAR



DISCUSSION



The People



The Venue



The Topics

CONCLUSION

1. Communication is an **integral part of working in an interdisciplinary team**
2. Radiologists feel they need further enrichment in communication
3. The **Unconference** and **World Café techniques** are an effective way to enhance understanding of communication
4. These strategies work for **engaging a multidisciplinary** radiology department
5. This conference provides a basis to interact with both **colleagues** and **patients**