Can you remember when you thought you knew everything there was to know? We can’t even keep up with our shopping lists in the rapid pace of society today, let alone feel confident in our knowledge on most things! If you have not said the title words in the past week (or maybe even the past 2 days), something is wrong. The most likely “wrong” that you feel is overwhelmed by making it through the day and keeping up (or trying to) with the literature in your defined specialty and role. Even in that narrower view relating to the literature, we may have difficulty keeping current!

What is the value of saying the words in the title? It is a simple value: the four words of “I didn’t know that” provide you with the opportunity to remind yourself you are learning, and that learning is not the mere reinforcement of what you already knew. If we think about what Brene Brown (2015) says, we are making ourselves vulnerable because we are opening up to others the fact that we don’t know it all. In doing so, we may stimulate deep conversations with our learners who feel equally overwhelmed with the rapidity of change and the explosion of information that is relevant to any given practice area.

Some of our “wows” are funny because they relate to the mundane. Others are dramatic because they are changing the very core of any given practice. Think, for example, if you thought the idea of surgeons playing video games was silly. Yet, that behavior seemed to allow them to be better able to function in robotic surgery than those who did not participate in playing video games. If robotic surgery isn’t growing at a specific hospital, we might question how surgeons spend their time. But, if the number of individuals served by such technology is growing, maybe we should simply be amazed that playing games is a good thing.

What happened today that allowed you to say “Wow, I didn’t know that?”

REFERENCE

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