



# Unconscious Bias and its impact in the Workplace

next lives here Friday, February 4th, 2022



#### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1) Define how Bias and Unconscious Bias impact our workplace behaviors
- 2) Examine how well-meaning people engage in Unconscious Bias
- 3) Identify Strategies and actions for managing our Unconscious Bias

## **Target Audience:**

Clinical Research Professionals (CRPs) at UC/H and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC): including Principal Investigators (Pls), Research Nurses (RNs), Critical Care Unit Nurses (RNs), Pharmacy Technicians and Regulatory Specialists.





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#### **Disclaimer Statement**

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- Maria Stivers, MS, CIP; Course Director No Relevant Relationships
- Nathaniel L. Harris, BS, Course Coordinator No Relevant Relationships
- Zachary Johnson, BS No Relevant Relationships
- Heather Muskopf, CME Program Manager No Relevant Relationships

#### Speaker:

**Chaderick O. Johnson** 

**Senior Director** 

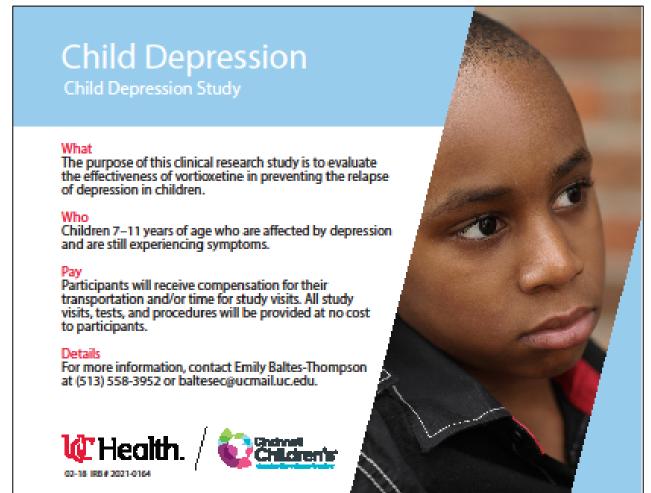
**UC Health Office of Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion** 

No Relevant Relationships





# February 2022 Study of the Month #1







# February 2022 Study of the Month #2



Adults with Type 1 Diabetes Needed for a Research Study

#### What

The purpose of this research study is to determine how not eating (fasting) impacts the ability to respond to low blood sugar in people with type 1 diabetes (T1D).

#### Who

Adult males and females, ages 21-40, with type 1 diabetes may be eligible to participate in this research study. Participants must have had diabetes for 5+ years and must not be obese or pregnant.

#### Pay

Participants may receive up to \$400 for their time, effort, and travel.

#### Details

For more information, contact Shana Warner, PhD at warners3@ucmail.uc.edu or (513) 558-5545, or Jason Winnick, PhD at jason.winnick@uc.edu or (513) 558-4437.











We are excited to announce the launch of the UC Office of Clinical Research site on Bearcats Landing! Visit Bearcats Landing by entering <a href="my.uc.edu">my.uc.edu</a> into your web browser (UC login required).





#### **Special OCR Town Hall Lunch & Learn Sessions**





Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 12:00noon - 1:00pm Virtual Presentation

#### **Effective Corrective and Preventative Action Plans**

This presentation discusses the importance of root-cause analysis, process development, and error-proofing in creating effective corrective and preventative action plans. Participants are invited to come with examples of errors in the research process to facilitate discussion of the presentation's key concepts.

#### **Amy Diane Short, MHSA**

Assistant Professor
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# **Today's Presentation:**

# Unconscious Bias and its impact in the Workplace

## Chad O. Johnson

Senior Director

UC Health Office of Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion









## Objectives:

- Define Bias and how Unconscious Bias can impact our behaviors
- Examine how well-meaning people engage in UB
- Identify strategies and action for managing our UB



Foundational rules for today:

Keep an open mind Listen – suspend judgement Engage, participate Stay in the present



#### Bias

- Bias is a <u>slant</u> or prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair.

When we are aware of our bias, that's conscious bias, when we are not aware, that's <u>unconscious bias</u> – and that's dangerous.

Unconscious or unintended bias is embedded in our feelings and beliefs and influences our behaviors and decision-making without our realization.











#### Quick Exercise!

- I will share six descriptions of people
- My ask of you is to jot down the first word or phrase that comes to your mind
- I'll give you about 10-15 seconds for each description
- We'll pause and have a few minutes to openly share



# A person in a wheelchair



# A Veteran



# A single mother with 3 children



# A person who smokes cigarettes



# A single father with 3 children



# A 6' 5" black male



#### Pause and have some dialogue

- 1. Did you find certain responses coming to mind immediately?
- 2. Where do those responses come from?
- 3. If unchecked, how can they impact our actions?

A person in a wheelchair

A Veteran

A single mother with 3 children

A person who smokes cigarettes

A single father with 3 children

A 6' 5" black male





# Human beings, at some level need bias to survive

- Danger Detector we go out into the world every day and make decisions about what is safe or not, appropriate or not
- When an object, animal, or person is assessed to be dangerous, a "fight or flight" fear response occurs
- "It's better to be safe than sorry". Survival standpoint is not a negative trait – it is a necessary one
- We learn that "unfamiliar" = dangerous...

## Where does bias come from?





1. Culture

2. Brain



#### So where does bias come from?





#### Culture:

#### **Imprinting Stage**

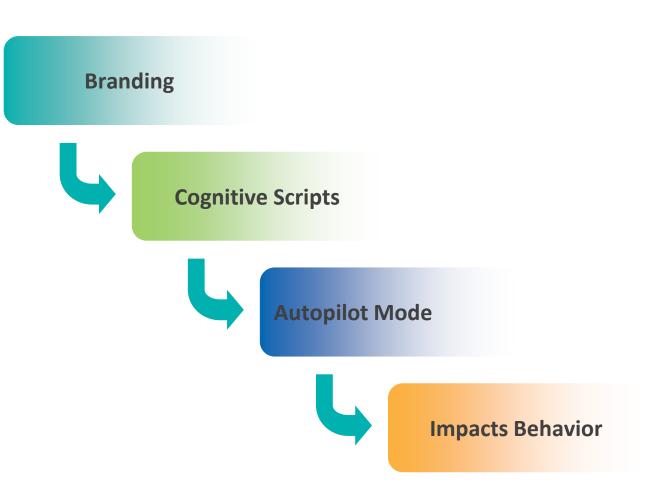
- What we were taught
- Our Environment
- Repeated Experiences
- Significant Emotional Experiences
- Recent Experiences

#### So where does bias come from?



#### Brain:

- Based on experiences, your brain goes into autopilot mode
- When I see X, I associate it with a past lived experience
- Often not intentional



## Cognitive Dissonance



- Feeling of discomfort resulting from having two different conflicting beliefs
- We try to hold on to incongruent or inconsistent beliefs and attitudes even when we learn they are wrong!
- Dissonance means "a lack of harmony", things don't match up, internal conflict... (and we don't like it either – so we want to get out of it.)
- Examples...

## Two approaches for getting rid of Cognitive Dissonance



#### Block approach:

- Easier and less energy extended
- Is a form of closedmindedness
- Does not have to be formally practiced – we are often unaware we are doing it

#### Entertain New Ideas approach

- Give information a chance and consider (play with) multiple perspectives.
- Does not require you to accept the information right away.
- Lets you imagine how things might be different if the information were true.
- Lets you practice "What If"

## Where unconscious bias shows up?



- Recruiting
- Mentoring
- Succession planning
- Making job assignments
- Giving employees developmental opportunities
- Relationship with leadership
- Customer and Patient interactions / relationships
- Listening to other ideas and suggestions

## Impact of Unconscious Bias



- 1. We tend to favor our own groups and their members while we discredit, belittle, or discriminate against groups to which we do not belong.
- 2. Even though we have groups with which we are uncomfortable, we tend to criticize others for feeling uncomfortable with our own group.
- 3. We create "micro-inequities" (those "little slights" that can occur day to day).
- 4. May cause us to move towards that which is similar to oneself and away from what is different.
- 5. While we work hard to remove conscious bias through our DE&I initiatives and HR processes, unconscious bias can work behind the scenes, undermining these efforts.

How else have you seen Unconscious Bias show up?



Tips and strategies to work through Bias

## General Tips and Strategies



Requirements vs. preferences, traditions and conveniences

- hiring, building teams, projects

Engage in skill building - Exposure to experiences that contradict the bias we struggle with

Highlight those that are role models and contradict common stereotypes

Cross mentoring programs involving all types of diversity

Be open and welcoming of feedback

Judge from a who vs. what standpoint

Watch for cultural patterns that might be misinterpreted

## Practice self-check technique



Before you make a decision or quick reaction, you need to ask yourself 3 questions

- 1. Will this decision help or hinder a peer, co-worker or my work environment?
- 2. What potential biases could impact my judgment?
- 3. Am I doing this for the right reasons or is one of my biases influencing this?

#### Self-reflection!



What perceptions do I hold that are not serving me?
What actions can I take to change these perceptions?
How can I arrange to expose myself to working with other types of individuals?



The beauties of nature come in all colors. The strengths of human kind come in many forms. Every human being is wonderfully unique. All of us contribute in different ways. When we learn to honor the difference, and appreciate the mix, we find harmony.

Unknown Author