

# Yes, And to Better Communication

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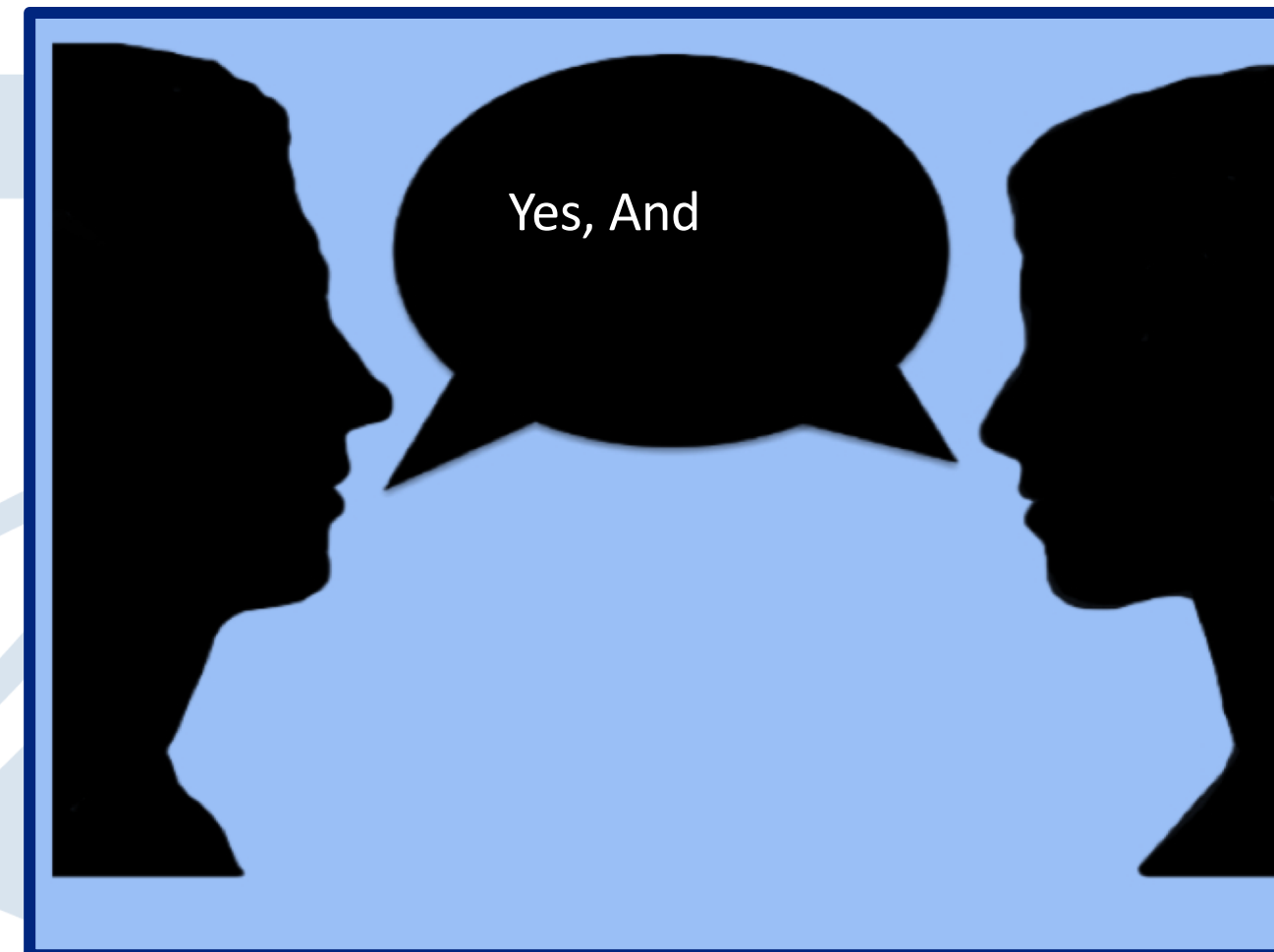


## Abstract

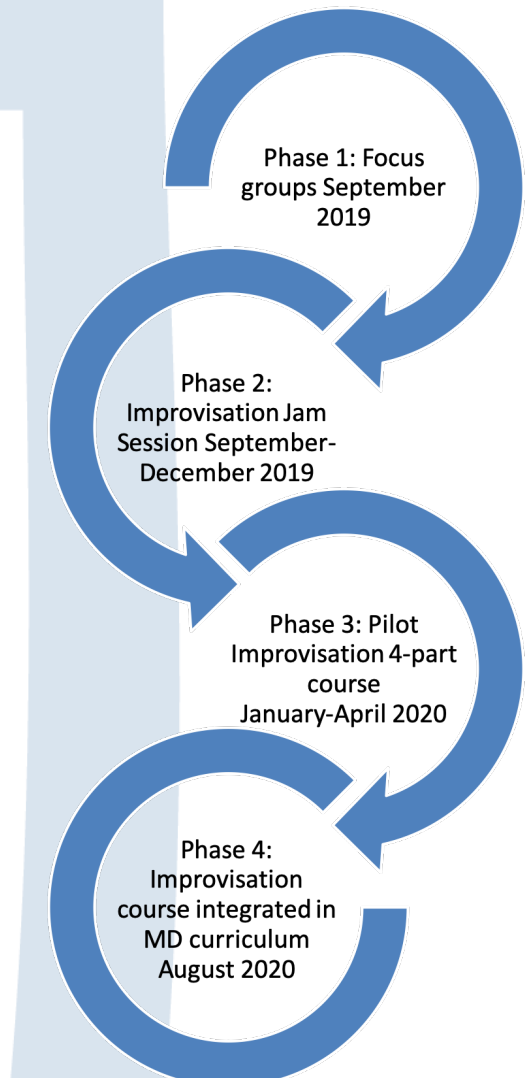
Patient- physician encounters may follow a structure but are never scripted. There is an element of improvisation with every encounter; the physician doesn't know what the patient will say or ask. This requires the physician to improvise; be present and adaptable. While the application of theatrical acting and improvisation techniques have been reported in medical journals, these reports provide a broad view and approach to those applications and lack a thematic, structured approach to integrated it to the curriculum of medical training. The author proposes an improv course to integrate into the MD curriculum.

## Background & Purpose

Future physicians will need the skills of interpersonal communication, collaboration and adaptability to practice medicine and build strong patient relationships. The core principles of Improvisation such as; Yes, And; Listening; and Giving the Gift can be applied to their learning to build and develop these skills. In this project, I am going to explore the question- **Can an Improvisation training improve medical learners' communication skills?**



## Project timeline



## Methods

Using the think out loud approach, the author is planning to start with two focus groups to find out learner's perspective on their communication training, skills, and their thoughts on improvisation. From there, they plan to take a thematic analyst approach to find themes. Based on those themes, will construct a pilot improvisation series of four 75-minute workshops. Using the Kirkpatrick model, analyze and evaluate their reactions, learning, changed behaviors to the improvisational workshops. After the pilot, offer this four-part workshop to medical learners interested in improving their communication skills.

## Expected Results

**Phase 1:** Focus group results-  
- 20 learners will self-reflect on their communication skills and discover ways they can improve those skills.  
- Themes of trust building, patient connection, body language, verbal cues, and adaptability will come out.

**Phase 2:** Improvisation Jam session  
- Expose improvisation guidelines and exercises to small group of learners

**Phase 3:** Pilot 4-part Improv course  
- Large percent of learners will want to experience something new from the standard medical curriculum to better their communication skills.

**Phase 4:** Improvisation course  
- Learners that complete the improvisation training will be better communicators with their patients.

## References

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