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Randoms

Who's in Charge

In every gathering there are the leaders and the led. Usually who is who is readily apparent. In many situations, however, who is really in charge is not easily discerned. The person whose name is set in bronze may have the office with a view, but does this individual have more to say than the secretary who answers the phone, the dispatch person transporting the patient, or the technologist doing the study? Whether it is in medicine or in business, the people on the front line may not be in charge, but they are usually in control. To make any complex system work, everyone involved has to pull in the same direction at the same time. To accomplish this, it's best to seek motivation from the ground up. That's the role of the boss.

The boss is the orchestra leader. The boss sets the tempo, defines the work, and tries, either by inspiration or intimidation, to get the best, or the most, from each member of the orchestra. In return for the effort of each player, the leader provides the music and instruments to make the concert.

The ability to motivate is the key to being a successful boss. Like the incumbent politician, the successful boss stores up a good supply of cliches and truisms. Stay the course; use it up, wear it out, make do or do without; if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Of course, even if it isn't broken, it often could benefit from a new look. The boss should provide the inspiration to look in a creative way and provide the tools to make the vision that grows from that look into a reality.

So who is really in charge? Although some are anointed and entitled, true success only comes to organizations in which everyone realizes that they are each, in fact, the boss. Each is responsible at one time or another for either carrying the flag forward or following its lead. Once anyone refuses to lead, or to follow, then the end is in sight.

H. William Strauss, Editor
The Journal of Nuclear Medicine

The Scintigraphic Appearance of Alzheimer's Disease: A Prospective Study Using Technetium-99m-HMPAO SPECT

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