Disclaimer

The Schroeder Arthritis Institute’s Joy in Work Toolkit was prepared by Silvi Groe, Clinical Director, Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Toronto Western Hospital and UHN Joy in Work/Reconnect CD Sponsor. The contents reflect the program’s interpretation of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s Framework for Improving Joy in Work.

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Authorship

Silvi Groe, Clinical Director and UHN Joy in Work/Reconnect CD Sponsor, Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network

Samra Mian-Valiante, Director of Strategy, Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network.

Sandralee Rose, Project Manager, Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network.

Janice Da Silva, Project Coordinator, Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network
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Joy in Work is a central component to the Schroeder Arthritis Institute (SAI) Quality Framework. We cannot achieve high-quality care or the financial vitality of our organization without prioritizing the well-being of our health care workers [1]. Therefore, our Institute’s Clinical Operation arm, under the leadership of Silvi Groe, SAI Clinical Director and UHN’s Joy in Work Clinical Director Sponsor, is leading the first efforts at our organization to implement the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Framework for Improving Joy in Work to improve worker satisfaction, engagement, and wellness [2]. The SAI Joy in the Workplace initiative has been grounded in an Appreciative Inquiry (AI) approach and is focused on driving this work forward through a learner growth mindset that identifies opportunities versus deficits.

Purpose

This toolkit is designed to provide you, as SAI frontline managers, an overview of key steps that you can take to improve joy in work across your respective staff and teams. The toolkit leverages the tools, presentation decks, reading material and surveys that you participated in over the past year as part of the four-step process that was informed by the IHI Joy in Work Framework. An overview of the workplan is outlined below (Figure 1) and additional resources are linked throughout this document for easy reference.

Figure 1: SAI Joy in Work Plan
STEP 1

Introduce & Explore

| Introduce & Explore |

Informed by the IHI Joy in Work framework, Step 1 is focused on managers creating space to understand what matters to your staff (Figure 2). It is important to bring your staff together with protected time to garner these insights in a fun and interactive way. It is important to ensure you are using an appreciative inquiry approach to identify areas of action to enhance joy in your area. Emphasize to staff the importance of having a growth and learner mindset in enabling fruitful discussions [3]. It is critical that staff feel heard. As senior leaders and managers, you must also create a physiologically safe space for your staff to share any concerns or local impediments to joy in work [4]. As the manager leading this, it might be helpful to read further about how to enhance Joy in the Workplace and engage staff using Appreciate Inquiry methods. For easy reference, we have compiled a list of publications, books, and reports that you may find helpful to review to support you with undertaking this activity (Appendix A: Supporting Literature).

| Fundamental Needs |

It is important to remember that as per the IHI Framework, the fundamental needs of your staff that require the greatest attention are:

1. Physical and psychological safety
2. Meaning and purpose
3. Choice and autonomy
4. Camaraderie and teamwork

As a manager, it can be worthwhile to undertake some activities to better understand what are your staff’s perceptions across these 4 areas.

| Resources |

Here are some tools that you participated in your Joy in Work journey that you can leverage for your teams. Remember - Step 1 is about gaining insights into “what matters to your staff”.

Workshop 1 Presentation
Appreciative Inquiry (AI) Worksheet
Participant Experience Sample Survey Template
IHI Framework Appendix A (Pages 23-24): Step 1 Do’s and Don’ts
STEP 2
Analyze & Plan

| Analyze |

It is vital that the **voices of your staff are heard and represented** to them in a manner where they feel heard and listened to. In determining what plans of action you will co-create and move forward with, in Step 2, find creative ways to analyze and synthesize your staff's insights (from Step 1) to bring forward for further engagement. For example, you can develop theme-based word maps, bulletin boards, dot exercises and/or any other way you deem fit to reflect back to staff what you heard. It is important you give them an opportunity through this process to validate, add to, or modify these insights & areas for action to enhance joy in ways that they find meaningful. It is critical to do this co-creation work by maintaining the confidentiality of staff and preserving the psychological safety across your teams. Allow for free ideation during the first round of discussions to promote engagement from all staff.

| Plan |

When planning for actions to help enhance Joy in your workplace, there are some important **planning principles** for leadership and participants to consider:

- **Realistic**: Is the action within the abilities of this group to change?
- **Feasible**: Does the action require substantial budget? Is it sustainable?
- **Relevance**: Will the impact of the action influence joy in many or few?
- **Duplication**: Is there a current initiative already looking to address this?

| Resources |

Here are some tools that you participated in your Joy in Work Journey that you can leverage for your teams. **Remember - Step 2 is where staff feel heard and seen when prioritizing and gaining consensus on how to improve Joy in your areas.**

- [Workshop 2 Presentation](#)
- [Thematic Analysis Word Map Generator](#)
- Ranking Exercises: [SLIDO poll](#), [Dot Method](#)
- [IHI Framework Appendix A (Page 24): Step 2 Dos and Don’ts](#)
STEP 3
Engage All System Levels

| Engage all System Levels |

Step 3 ensures that there are enough supports for implementing the action plans and it is important to engage all system levels. As you work through your team’s action plan(s), confirm that UHN resources are available to support the selected priority areas. Ensure you have grounded your work in alignment with UHN’s policies and regulations. Set expectations with your staff; removing impediments to joy is a joint responsibility and requires partnership with all system levels. It is also critical for everyone to dedicate time, attention, skills, and resources to improving joy in work.

| Resources |

Here are some tools that you participated in your Joy in Work Journey that you can leverage for your teams. Remember - Step 3 is where you co-create with your staff to improve joy in the areas you have prioritized.

- Workshop 3 Presentation
- Action Opportunity Proposal Template
- IHI Framework Appendix A: Dos and Don’ts (Page 25-26)
- Appendix B: Change Ideas for Improving Joy in Work (Pages 27-32)
Step 4 is focused on building on the previous 3 steps and tracking you and your staff’s progress in enhancing Joy in your work areas. This can be done using formal and/or informal evaluations such as PDSA cycles, celebrating small wins, daily huddles, onsite or off-site team-building activities, performance enhancement plans, or any other way that you feel will improve and sustain your team’s Joy in their work [5]. The key is to regularly check-in with your staff and teams to ensure the joy in work objectives are still meaningful to them and the efforts to enhance joy are considered to be valuable in meeting your objectives.

Resources

Here are some tools that you participated in your Joy in Work Journey that you can leverage for your teams. Remember - Step 4 is where you test changes to improve joy in work and iterate as needed to sustain your objectives of co-creating joy in work.

- Workshop 4 Presentation
- Brainstorming Template
- IHI Framework Appendix A: Step 4 Dos and Don’ts (Page 25); Appendix C: Assessment Tools for Improving Joy in Work Local-Level Measures (Page 36)
APPENDIX A
Supporting Literature

Quadruple & Quintuple Aim

- The Evolution of the Quintuple Aim: Health Equity, Health Outcomes, and the Economy
- The Quintuple Aim for Health Care Improvement: A New Imperative to Advance Health Equity
- On the Quintuple Aim: Why Expand Beyond the Triple Aim?
- The Quadruple Aim: care, health, cost and meaning in work

IHI Joy in Work

- IHI Joy in Work website
- IHI Framework for Improving Joy – White Paper (PDF icon below)
- How to Get Ready for “What Matters to You?” Conversations – IHI Youtube Series
- Four Steps Leaders Can Take to Increase Joy in Work – IHI Youtube Series
- Tips for Measuring Joy in Work
- Enjoying Work Takes Work
- How to Create Space for Joy in Work Amid Crisis and Change
- Equity Work is Joy Work
- IHI Conversation and Action Guide to Support Staff Well-Being and Joy in Work (PDF icon below)

Appreciative Inquiry

- Appreciative Inquiry: Theory and Critique

Ontario Healthcare System Pressures & Example of JIW

- Burnout and distress among nurses in a cardiovascular centre of a quaternary hospital network: a cross-sectional survey – PMCC
APPENDIX A
Supporting Literature

Burnout and distress among allied health care professionals in a cardiovascular centre of a quaternary hospital network: a cross-sectional survey – PMCC

Burnout and distress among physicians in a cardiovascular centre of a quaternary hospital network: a cross-sectional survey – PMCC

Embracing the Quadruple Aim: One hospital’s experience – Bluewater Health Case Study (Sarnia, ON)

Figure 2: The IHI Joy in Work Framework identifies 9 domains that impact Joy in Work.


*Reference Note*: Please reach out to Silvi Groe (Silvi.Groe@uhn.ca) for a copy
