## Interoception, The Eighth Sense: Related to Sensory Integration Baltic Nordic SI Congress March 25, 2022 Kelly J Mahler OTD, OTR/L www.kelly-mahler.com

Potential Trigger Warning:

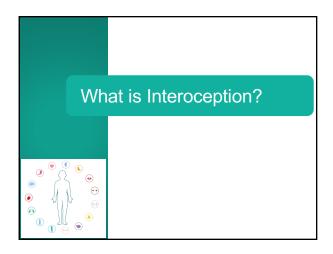
- You will be invited throughout this session to tune into your inner body signals.
- We will also discuss trauma.
- Please participate in this session in a way that meets your comfort level.

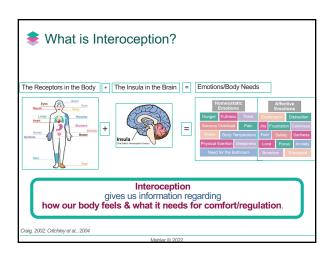
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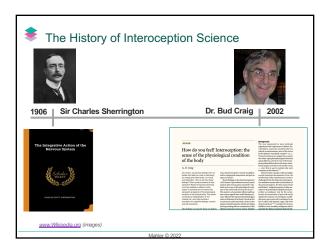
Your inner experience is always correct and valid.

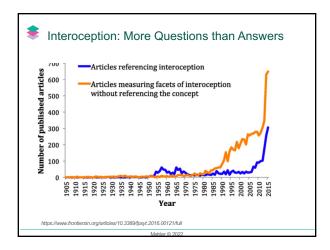
- There are no wrong interoception experiences. We all have very different inner experiences.
- Also, there is no wrong way to express the sensations you might notice.
- It is okay to not know how you feel.
- $\bullet$  It is okay to not want to feel.
- It is okay to not want to share how you feel with others.

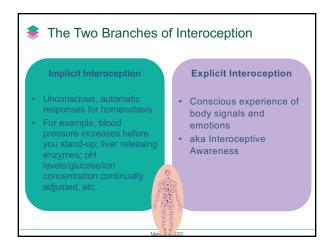
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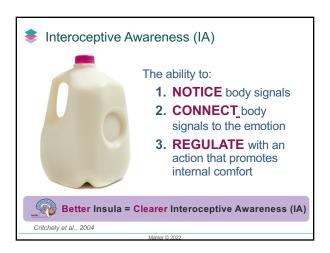


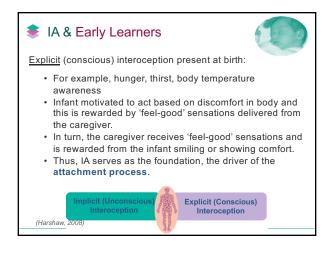


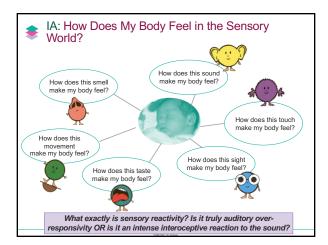


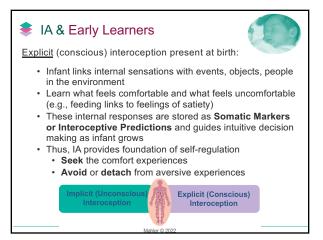


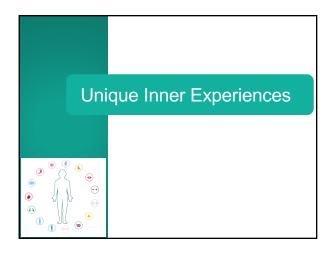






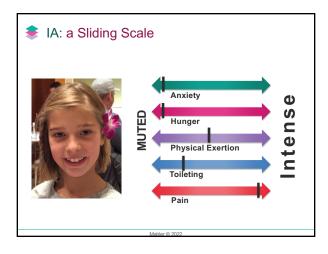


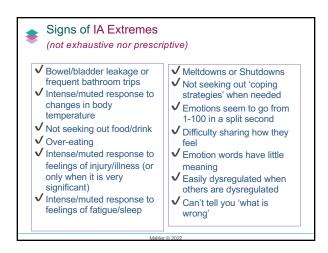




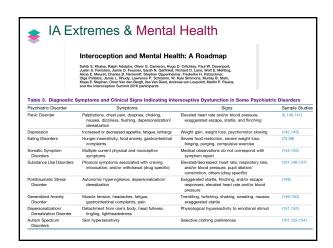


Body Signals	Sensory Processing Disorder	Characteristics
oo big	SMD: Over- responsive	Intense     Overpowering     Many body signals noticed all at once
too small	SMD: Under- responsive	Muted     Don't notice body signals until they are intense OR     They go completely unnoticed
dist <i>o</i> rted	Discrimination Disorder	Body signals are noticeable, but not clear enough to give specific detail about the exact location or type of feeling

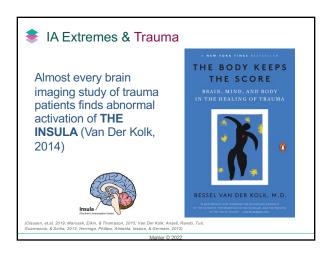


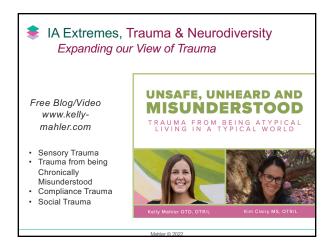


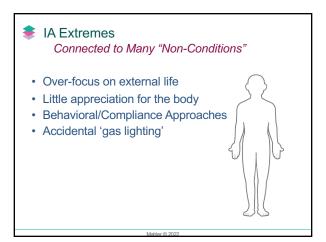


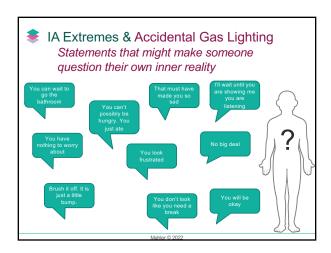


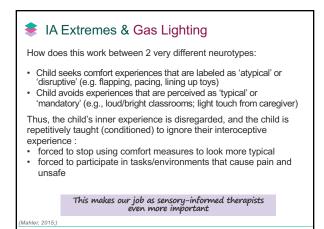
	es & Mental Health
Participating Organization(s)	National Institutes of Health (NIP)
Components of Participating Organizations	National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)
	National Eye Institute (NEI)
	National Institute on Aging (NIA)
	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
	National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)
	Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
	National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
	National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
	National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
	National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)
	All applications to this funding opportunity announcement should fall within the mission of the Institutes/Centers. The following NIH Offices may co-fund applications assigned to those Institutes/Centers.
	Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR)
nttps://grants.nih.gov/grants/gu	uide/rfa-files/RFA-AT-21-003.html

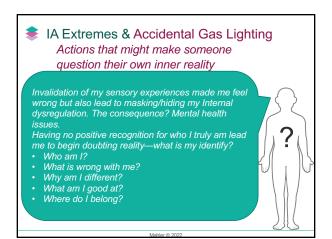


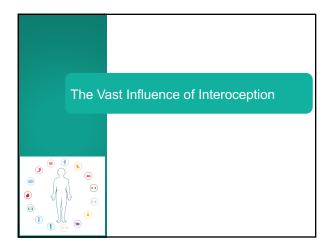


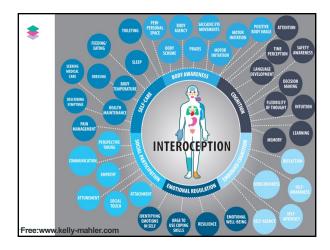


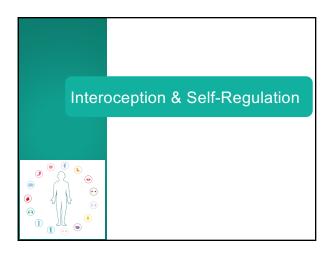


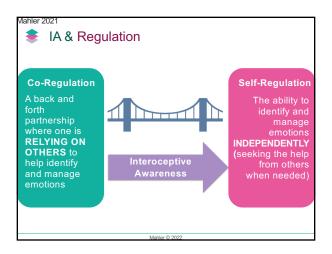


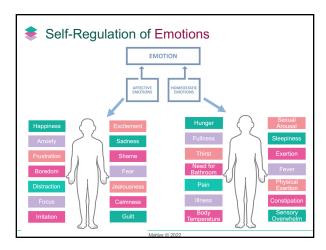


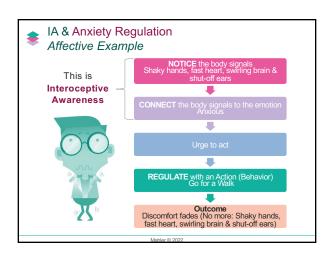




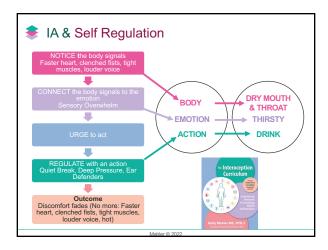


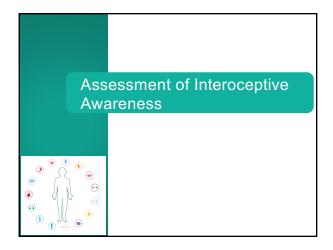






A Breakdown in IA	
A Breakdown in Noticing: Unreliable, missing or noisy body signals.	
"Before working on interoception, my anxiety seemed to come out of nowhere. I didn't feel it coming. All of a sudden, I would be overcome with anxiety—screaming, shaking, crying. And then people would say things to me like "make a smart choice" or "use your words". Don't you think I would if I could?!?!."	
A Breakdown in Connecting: Confusion over meaning of body signals "I noticed feelings in my body, but didn't understand what they meant. I'll never forget when I figured out the buzzing feeling in my body and my blurny feeling eyes were an early sign of auditory overwhelm. Once I made that connection, it helped me to get my headphones on sooner and tell my partner that we need to	
leave—like now."	
A Breakdown in Regulating: You know how you feel, but missed valuable opportunities to learn what is regulating.	
"When someone would tell me to take a break, I had no idea what to do during the break. I had no idea what things helped me feel good. Calm was just a word that had no meaning to me—that word had no meaning in my body. So, I would just sit there or even worse refuse the break and the staff would get mad at me."	



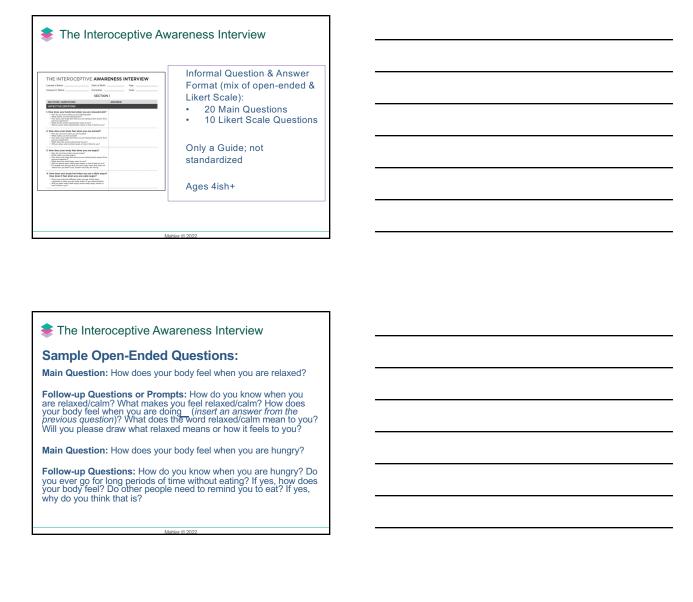




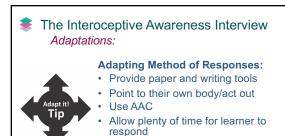
A Widespread Debate	
·	
What is the Best Way to Measure Interoception?	
Main Categories of Assessments	-
Objective Measures:	
Heartbeat Detection Tasks (tracking or discrimination)  Passintant Tasks (a principality passint pass Operficial act of the control of t	
<ul> <li>Respiratory Tasks (e.g., inspiration resistance Garfinkle et al, 2016)</li> </ul>	
Self-Report:	
<ul> <li>Porges Body Perception Questionnaire (BPQ; Porges, 1993)*</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Multidimensional Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness- Version 2 (MAIA-2; Mehling, et al, 2018)*</li> </ul>	
The Comprehensive Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness	
(Mahler, 2016)	
Observation-based/ Caregiver Report:  The Observation Assert of Internation Assert	
The Comprehensive Assessment of Interoceptive Awareness     (Mahler, 2016)	
Observations of Interoception Experience (Mahler, 2014)	
*Open Access (free)	-
DOWN HOLLOW ZUZZ	•
* A	
* Assessment of IA	
The <b>main goal</b> of interoception assessment is to	
gain deeper insights into a person's internal	
<b>experience</b> which can in turn be used to provide	
more meaningful supports	
3	
Interoception assessment is not about	
right/wrong or above average/below average	
rigit/wrong of above average/below average	
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★ Comprehensive Assessment of Interoceptive	
Awareness-3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition	
Awareness-3 Edition	
O Out Assessment	
THE COMPREHENSIVE 3 Sub-Assessments:	
ASSESSMENT OF INTEROCEPTIVE 1. The Interoceptive	
AWARENESS Awareness Interview	

The Assessment of Self-Regulation

The Caregiver Questionnaire for Interoceptive Awareness



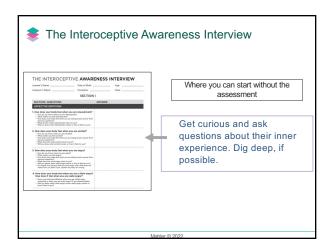
Aware	Unaware
"My heart beats faster"	"I don't know"
"I feel my neck pulse"	"When I feel bad"
"My hands clench"	"When I hit someone"
"My muscles get tense"	"When I throw something"
"My face gets warm"	"Angry"
"My toes start to curl and get tight"	"I feel mad"

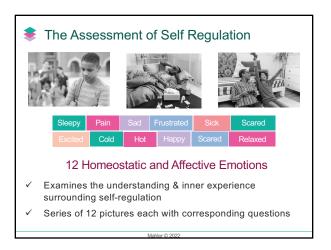


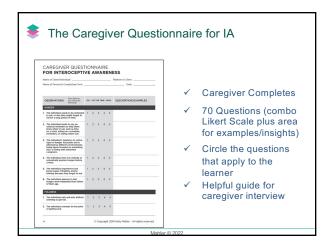
## Questions:

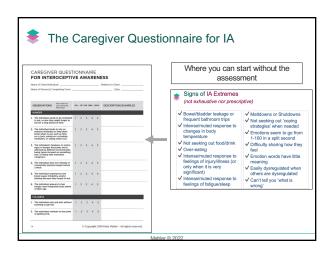
- Write questions on paper
- Make question cards and turn it into a game

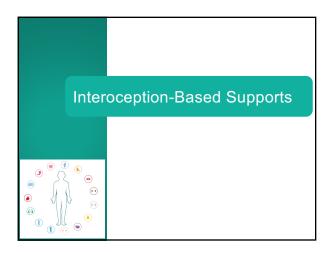
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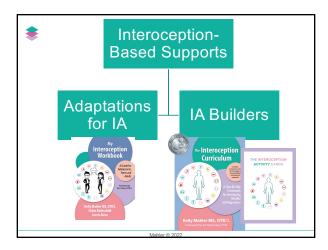






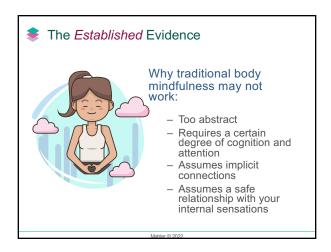


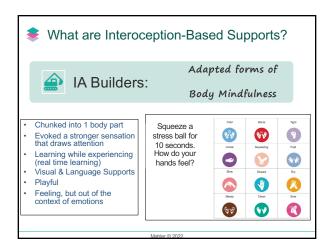


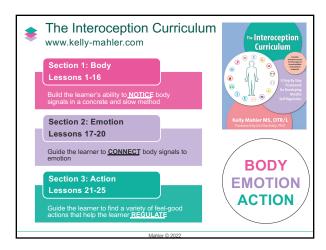


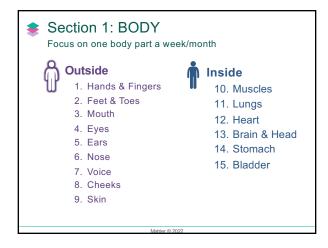


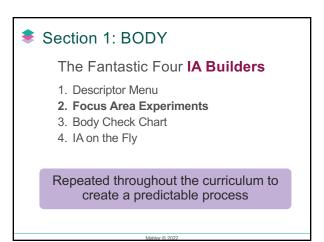




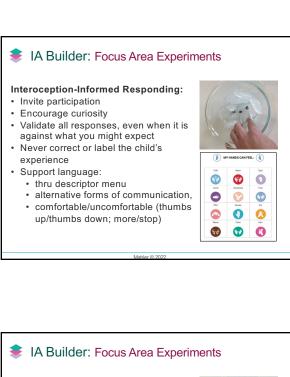


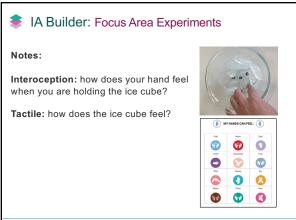


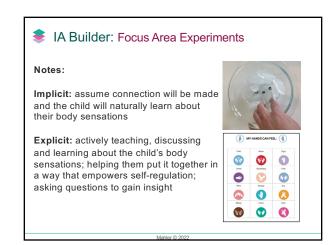


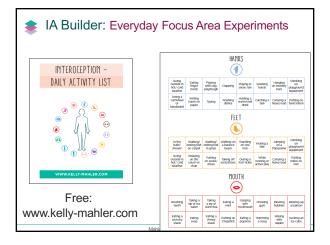








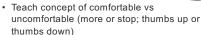






How does your body feel on the swing?

- Different speeds
- · Different positions
- Different swings
- Zoom in on one body part-how do your hands feel? Eyes? Feet? Stomach?



 What can you do on the swing to change the way your body feels right now?

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## IA Builder: Focus Area Experiments

## Assessment concepts:

- Learn a lot about the child's inner experience (especially by explicit inquiry whenever possible)
- How do they respond to certain experiments? Which are they drawn to? What do they avoid?
- What makes their body comfortable/uncomfortable?
- How can you best support their ability to share their inner experience with others?
- How to use what you learn to educate others about having fair expectations?



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