

When everyone else's noise is your signal - Simple principles of Leadership for the Chief Resident

**Louis Pangaro, MD, MACP
Professor of Medicine**

**Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Bethesda, Maryland**

Disclosure

- I have no financial conflicts.
- The opinions and assertions expressed herein are mine and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Uniformed Services University or the Department of Defense.

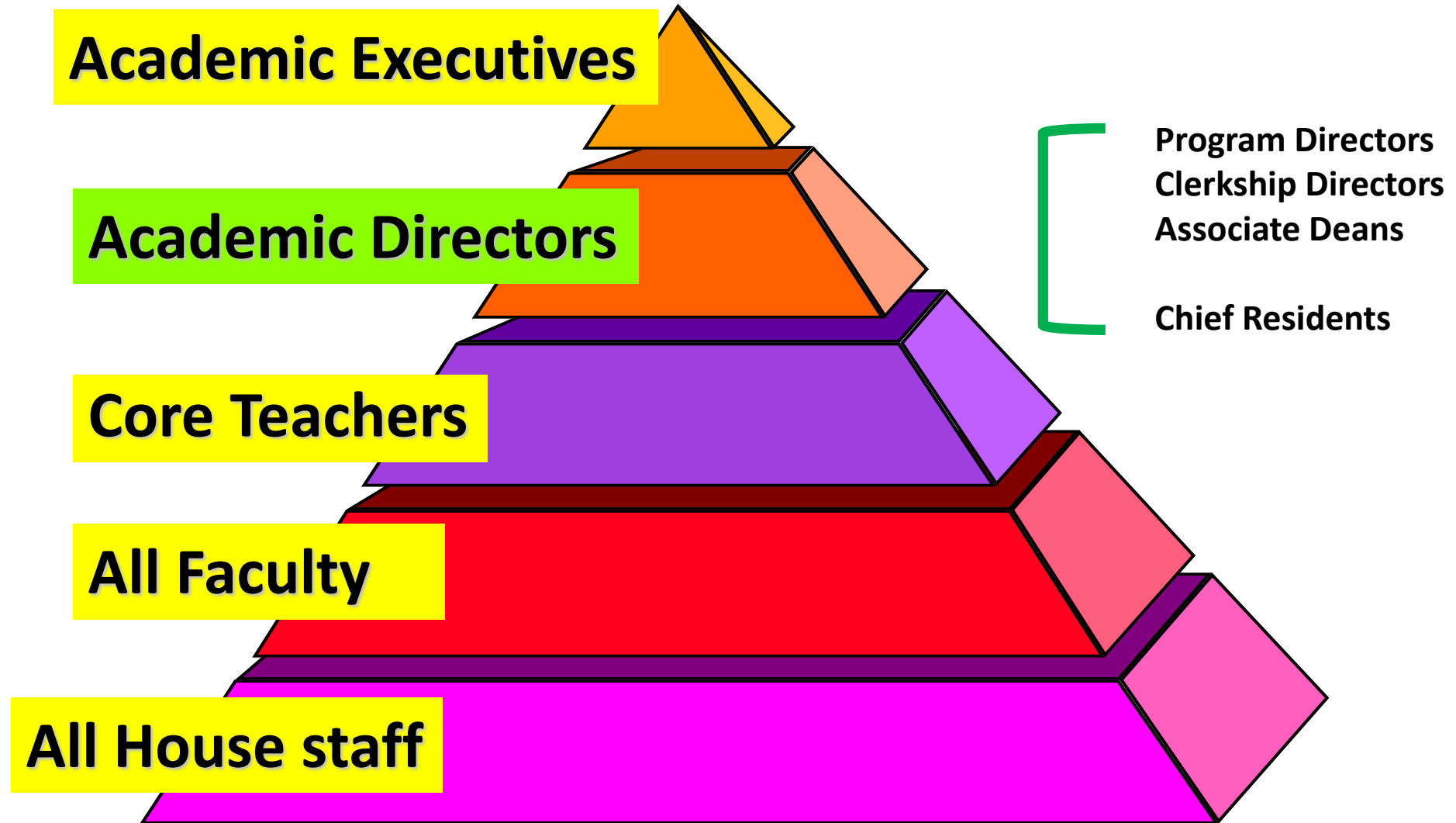
What is your role ?

Chief residents

- support the key missions of their residency program and
- provide direction for their residents,
- functioning as key mentors and advocates.

“Opportunity for leadership in the clinical setting.”

Northwell Health



Why are we here?

Beyond survival, personal goals for the year

- “This is what I did.”
- Write down a few of your interests or themes.

Simple principles of leadership

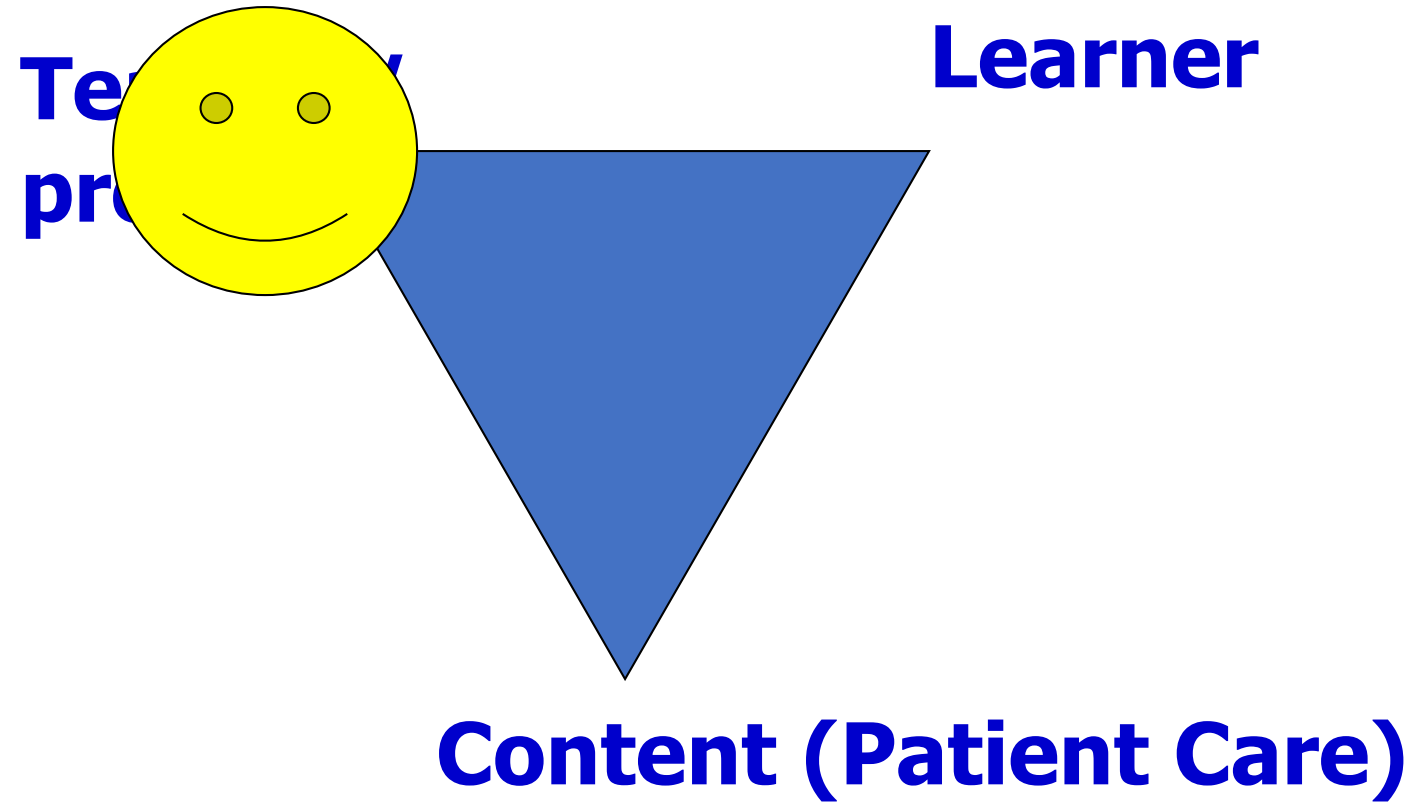
**Embrace complexity,
act with simplicity.**

A promise of duty and expertise

Pellegrino, 1995

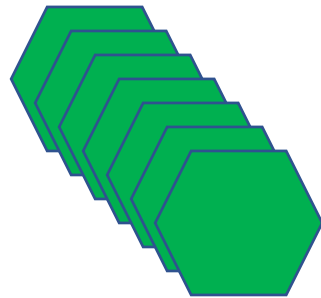
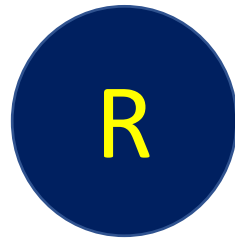
Why are we here
as teachers?

The goal: progressive independence of the learner

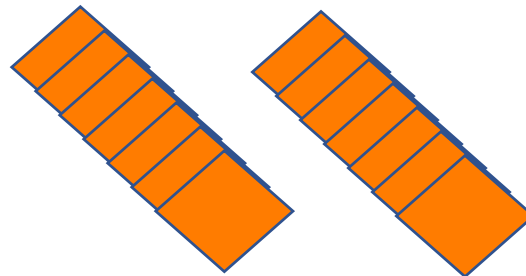
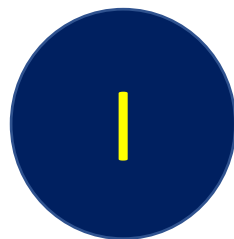


after Stanford FacDevProgram

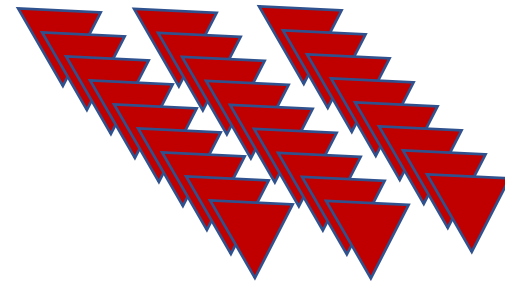
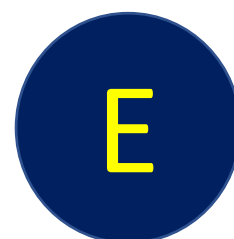
Competence (Readiness)



**6 ACGME competencies,
7 CanMed roles**



**13 EPAs for
students**



**23 milestones
23 sub-competencies**

UNDERSTANDING



ACTION

The rhythm of RIME:

H&P..... ..S.O.....

Reporter

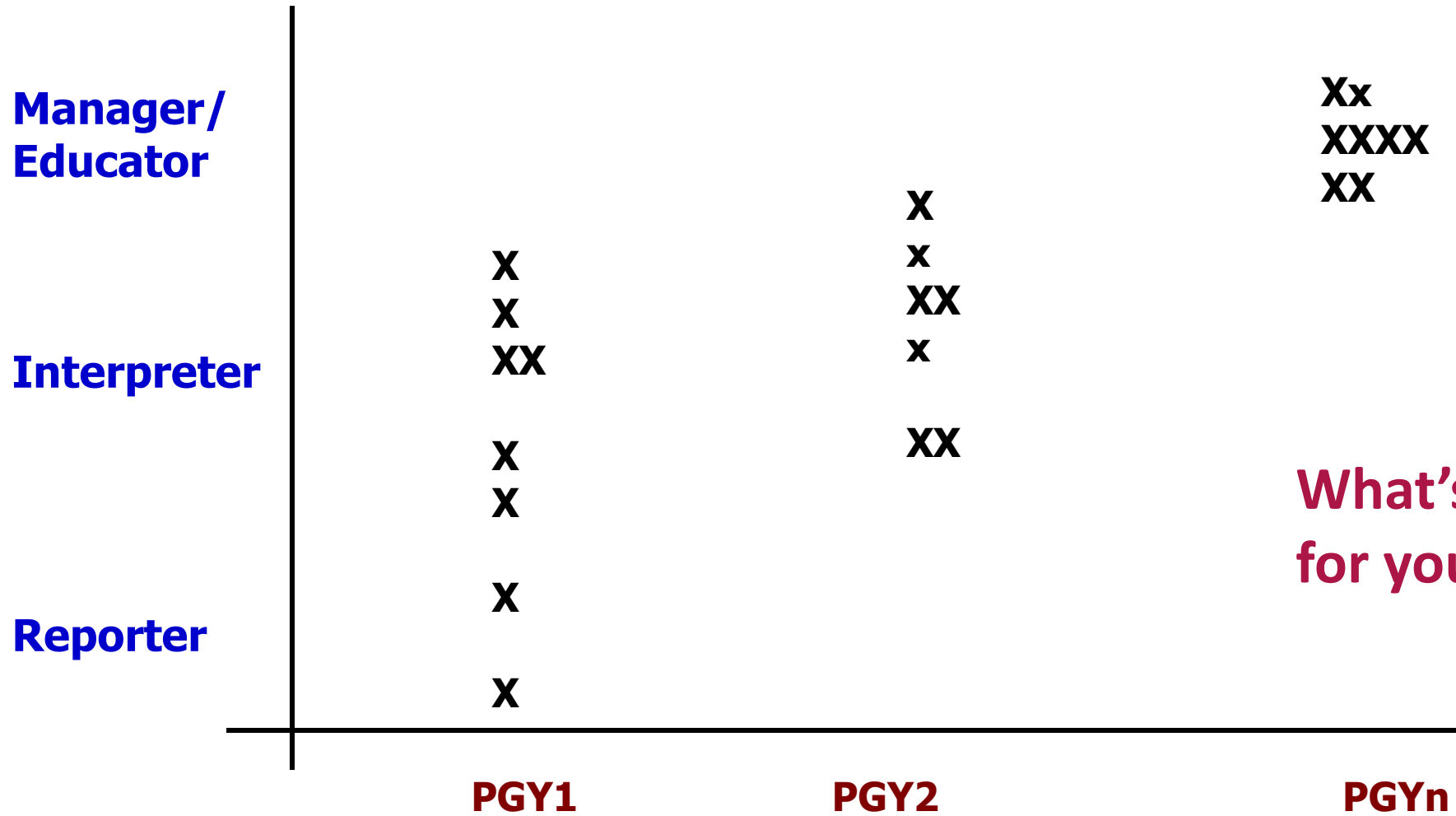
Assessment..... ..A.....

Interpreter

Plan..... ..P.....

**Manager/
Educator**

x = proficiency with a patient



What's in the core for your specialty?

Expectations = expertise and duty

- Of residents
- Of yourselves

- Matching leadership style to needs and situation

Your expertise and duty = Leadership

- a process
- whereby chief residents
- influence
- residents
 - to assure patient care
 - and to progress to independence

Based on Northouse, 8th edition, 2019

Education = leadership

- E-ducation
 - Ex- ducere
 - to lead out of (dependency)
 - Ped-agogy
 - leading a child (to adulthood)
- Leading = balance of tasks and relationships

Relationships (duty)

- focus on feelings
- flexibility
- motivating

- independence of others

- “transformation”
- influence

Tasks (expertise)

- focus on understanding
- consistency, standardization
- achieving outcomes

- consistency of others

- “transaction”
- control

Three cases and leadership principles

1. The beginner or resident with skill problems
2. The resident with problems in professionalism
3. The advanced resident

The beginner or resident with expertise problems

- Dr MR is a 32yo PGY1
 - an accountant before Osler Med School.
- In October MR starts a clinic month
 - outpatient attendings tell you MR seems to get all the clinical facts,
 - but does not offer own diagnoses, much less a plan.

- What are minimal expectations ?

UNDERSTANDING  **ACTION**

reporter/interpreter → manager/educator

medical school residency

Frame of Reference

Performance Dimensions

REPORTER

Gather a history and perform a physical exam
Document a clinical encounter in the patient record
Provide an oral presentation of a clinical encounter
Collaborate as a member of an interprofessional team

INTERPRETER

Prioritize a differential diagnosis following a clinical encounter
Recognize a patient requiring urgent or emergent care
Recommend* and interpret common diagnostic and screening tests

MANAGER

Enter and discuss orders and prescriptions
Give or receive a patient handover to transition care responsibility
Obtain informed consent for tests and/or procedures
Perform the general procedures of a physician

EDUCATOR

Form clinical questions and retrieve evidence
Identify system failures and contribute to safety and improvement

gathers and synthesizes essential information

1. Gathers and synthesizes essential and accurate information to define each patient's clinical problem(s). (PC1)				
Critical Deficiencies			Ready for unsupervised practice	Aspirational
Does not collect accurate historical data	Inconsistently able to acquire accurate historical information in an organized fashion	Consistently acquires accurate and relevant histories from patients	Acquires accurate histories from patients in an efficient, prioritized, and hypothesis-driven fashion	Obtains relevant historical subtleties, including sensitive information that informs the differential diagnosis
Does not use physical exam to confirm history	Does not perform an appropriately thorough physical exam or misses key physical exam findings	Seeks and obtains data from secondary sources when needed	Performs accurate physical exams that are targeted to the patient's complaints	Identifies subtle or unusual physical exam findings
Relies exclusively on documentation of others to generate own database or differential diagnosis	Does not seek or is overly reliant on secondary data	Consistently performs accurate and appropriately thorough physical exams	Interpreter Synthesizes data to generate a prioritized differential diagnosis and problem list	Efficiently utilizes all sources of secondary data to inform differential diagnosis
Fails to recognize patient's central clinical problems	Inconsistently recognizes patients' central clinical problem or develops limited differential diagnoses	Uses collected data to define a patient's central clinical problem(s)	Effectively uses history and physical examination skills to minimize the need for further diagnostic testing	Role models and teaches the effective use of history and physical examination skills to minimize the need for further diagnostic testing
Fails to recognize potentially life threatening problems	Observer	Reporter	I - M	R, I, M/E

REPORTER

**Document
by AUGUST!**

- Gather a history and perform a physical exam
- Document a clinical encounter in the patient record
- Provide an oral presentation of a clinical encounter
- Collaborate as a member of an interprofessional team

INTERPRETER

- Prioritize a differential diagnosis following a clinical encounter
- Recognize a patient requiring urgent or emergent care
- Recommend* and interpret common diagnostic and screening tests

Are interns ready for roles as reporter and interpreter?

EPA 1: Gather a history, perform physical examination	78
EPA 2: Develop a differential diagnosis	72
EPA 3: Recommend and interpret diagnostic and screening tests	70
EPA 4: Enter and discuss orders/prescriptions	69
EPA 5: Document a clinical encounter	98
EPA 6: Present orally a patient encounter	94

Beginners: Situational and Path-Goal Approaches

- Situational*: the balance of direction and support
 - With beginners coaching should BE EXPLICIT about what success looks like
 - On going partnering to have gradual improvement over time
 - Feedback, Stimulation, “Cortrosyn”
- ***What’s your assessment of how ready her current teachers are to support this?***
 - What do you as chief need to do to create conditions for her progress?

*Blanchard, 2013

Beginners: Situational and Path-Goal Approaches

- Path-Goal:
 - GOAL: Can Dr MR tell you what readiness for PGY2 looks like?
 - Does this fit with her own wants and needs?
 - PATH: Can Dr MR describe the steps in patient care?
 - Does Dr MR feel confident about following these steps?
- ***What's your assessment of current teachers are to support this? –***
 - What do you as chief need to do to create conditions for MR's progress?

The resident with problems in duty

- Dr JN , PGY2, has excellent procedural skills but publicly berates nurses, staff and junior members of the team.
- What might feedback and coaching look like?

Transformational Approach*

- Role modelling and inspiration
 - Not angry with Dr JN
- Considering the individual
 - What's the need underneath
- High expectations
 - Duty = professional relationships
 - Stop this at once (suppression ,“dexamethasone”)
- What do you as chief need to do to create conditions for MR's progress?

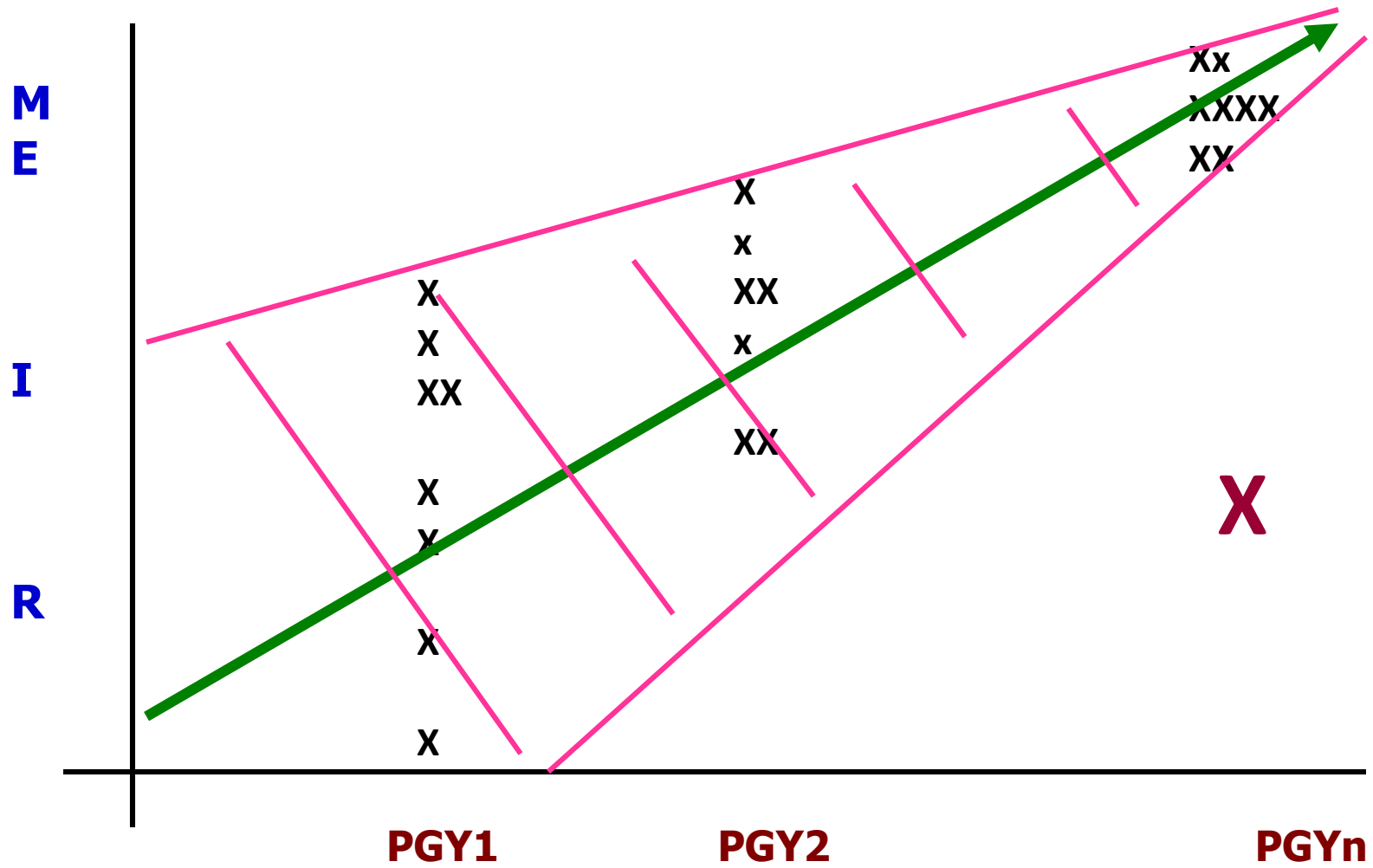
*Burns, 1978; Bass, 2006

The advanced resident

- Dr JJ, PGY2 , shows proficiency in patient care and in directing junior house officers.
- Research oriented: publishing case reports and working with faculty
- Micromanages the late year PGY1s.
- Wants to be selected as Chief Resident.

Leading Residents for Adaptivity

- Technical challenges: what micromanagement can work for
 - known problems, known solutions
 - task emphasis; path-goal works
- Adaptive challenges: from manager to educator, “aspirational”
 - Unknowns – need for independent problem solving
 - Relationships and support
- Your own Leadership behaviors:
 - Identify the challenges – “How can I help?”
 - Get on the balcony and give the work back
 - Protect voices from below; regulate distress



Adaptivity Checklist for the Chief Resident

Communication/Interpersonal Skills:

- Addresses conflict diplomatically; conducts difficult conversations
- Is approachable, listens to others
- Facilitates discussions among residents; group decision-making
- Maintains confidentiality; recognizes boundaries

Advocacy Skills:

- Able to present viewpoints effectively

Adaptivity Checklist for the Chief Resident

Ability to Develop Others:

- Encourages and facilitates development in other residents

Personal Skills That Support Leadership:

- Manages one's emotions (keep cool)
- Organizes well, keeps timelines
- Attends to details
- Demonstrates flexibility; adapts

Leadership as creativity, empowerment

Teaching = fostering independence = leadership

- **With beginners - be explicit, help them visualize the path**
- **With others: “How can I help?”**

- Thank you for your attention!
- Revise you own goals for the year!