



ENHANCING PRACTICE CONFERENCE 2018

Leading and Facilitating within Practice Development in Healthcare

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Dr Thomas D. Seeley – Keynote day two August 23rd 2018

Title

Swarm Intelligence in Honey Bees

Abstract

Swarm intelligence is the solving of a cognitive problem by two or more individuals who independently collect information and process it through social interactions. With the right organization, a group can overcome the cognitive limitations of its members and achieve a high collective IQ. To understand how to endow groups with swarm intelligence, it is useful to examine natural systems that have evolved this ability. An excellent example is a swarm of honey bees solving the life-or-death problem of finding a new home. A bee swarm accomplishes this through a process that was discovered at the Zoological Institute of the University of Munich in the 1940s, and that has been analyzed more deeply in recent years. It includes collective fact-finding, open sharing of information, vigorous debating, and fair voting by the hundreds of bees in a swarm that function as nest-site scouts. Thomas Seeley will show how these incredible insects have much to teach us when it comes to achieving collective wisdom and effective group decision making.

Biopic

Thomas D. Seeley, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA

Tom Seeley is the Horace White Professor in Biology at Cornell University. His research focuses on collective intelligence in animal groups, especially honey bee colonies. In recognition of his scientific work, he has received the Alexander von Humboldt Distinguished U.S. Scientist Award and has been elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

For more details see <http://nbb.cornell.edu/thomas-seeley>