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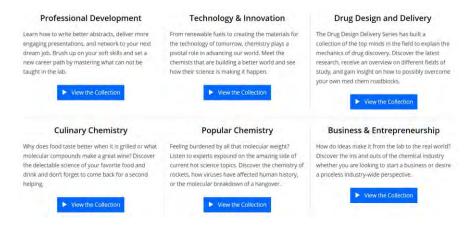
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- Consultants provide personalized career advice to ACS Members.
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# Virtual Office Hours: LinkedIn Profiles for Chemists





### Thursday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> @12pm ET

- Optimize your LinkedIn profile
- How to attract new career opportunities
- Best practices of virtual networking

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A science podcast by the **American Chemical Society** about things small in size but BIG in impact.



Sam Jones, PhD Science Writer & Exec Producer



Deboki Chakravarti, PhD Science Writer & Co-Host



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# Get in touch with the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Respect

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Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Office of DEIR at <a href="mailto:diversity@acs.org">diversity@acs.org</a>

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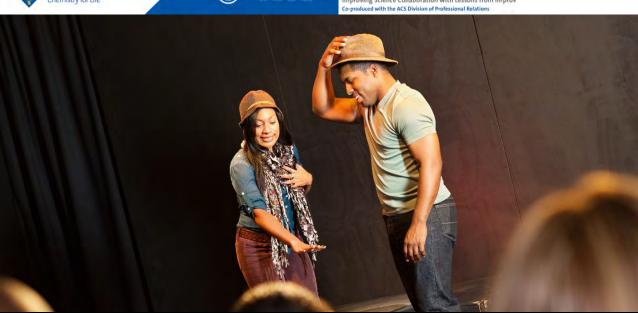




Wednesday, February 2, 2022 | 2pm ET

### Yes And!

Improving Science Collaboration with Lessons from Improv



THIS ACS WEBINAR IS WILL BEGIN SHORTLY... SAY HELLO IN THE QUESTIONS WINDOW!





Yes and! Improving Science Collaboration with Lessons from Improv





Presentation slides are available now! The edited recording will be made available as soon as possible.

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This ACS Webinar is co-produced with the ACS Division of Professional Relations.

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# Professional & Leadership Skills Skills that help you lead others as a professional also help you stand out from the crowd. Professional differentiation is important, but it cannot come at the expense of team goals. Chemical Professionals and Leaders understand the power of collaboration and how to contribute to a team. Honing your ability to commit to workplace collaboration can help you reach your career goals.

Photo by Randy Fath on

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# **Audience Survey Question**

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON THE INTERACTIVE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT



According to a Queens University study, what percentage of employers rate collaboration as "very important" for their success?

- About a Quarter
- About Half
- About Three-Fourths
- Almost All (95%)

\* If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!





- Second City is a world-renowned improvisational theater company that has been the home of some of the most famous comedians for the past 6 decades.
- Successful Improv is often viewed as funny, outrageous, or over-the-top in order to entertain audiences, but it is much more...
- Successful improv requires a group effort where everyone contributes to create a unique experience for the audience and players.

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https://www.secondcity.com/

# Improvisation in the workplace



- What actors do on the stage, we do in the lab, in the office, or at home...
- We deal with crazy situations all the time: some are funny, some are serious, some are unimaginable, but all are real.
- We are usually never alone when dealing with these situations, so our ability to work with others is vital for personal and professional success.





# Core Tenet of Improv: *Yes, And...*



- This common phrase is at the center of all improvisational theatre, so it should also be at the center of our workplace interactions.
- Yes, And is a framework to help you:
  - Accept the contributions of others
  - Support their involvement
  - Contribute your own ideas.
- We will break down the two key concepts within this binary phrase: 'Yes' & 'And'

# **Audience Survey Question**

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON THE INTERACTIVE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT



### Do you work with a colleague that always says "no"?

- Yes
- No

# Every group has a 'Negative Nelly'



- Many offices, laboratories, and work settings have a token "Negative Nelly"
- Providing criticism of other's ideas is relatively easy when they don't have alternatives of their own.
- Collaboration is built upon finding ways to make ideas work.
- Yes, And helps you create a framework for interacting, engaging, and collaborating with others to maximize your chance for success.



<sup>\*</sup> If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!

# Getting from No to Yes



# NO YES

- The concept of 'Yes' creates trust between individuals as it embodies the acceptance of another persons ideas as being satisfactory or valuable.
- 'No' places judgement of the other persons offering as being insufficient, which can extend to the other person and their overall worth.
- 'Yes' and 'No' lie on two opposite sides of the *acceptance spectrum* when it comes to the acceptance and support of people and their ideas.

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# 'And' there is always a 'but'



### **AND**

• The concept of 'AND' builds upon the offering and provides momentum (p) towards a successful solution.

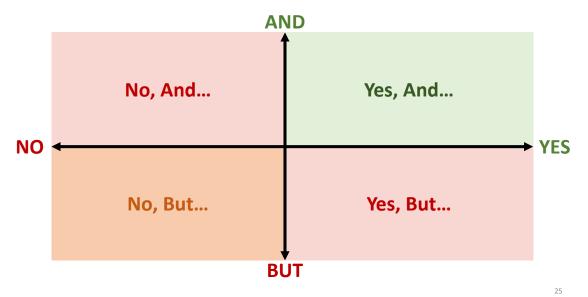
$$p = mv$$
  $momentum = mass x velocity$ 

- The concept of 'BUT' rejects the substance of the offering and redirects it in a contrary direction.
- 'BUT' deemphasizes any previous offering relative to the new one (anything important always comes after the 'BUT').
- 'AND' and 'BUT' are at opposite ends of the collaboration continuum for building ideas collaboratively.

**BUT** 

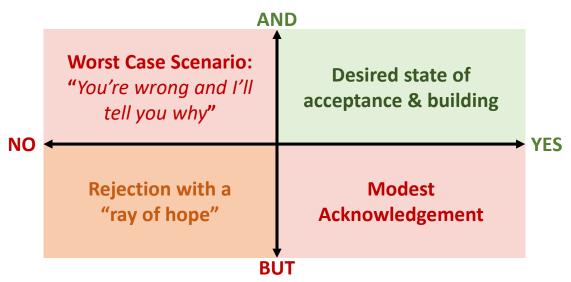
# Yes, And: An Acceptance & Building Framework





# Yes, And: An Acceptance & Building Framework







# **Audience Survey Question**

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON THE INTERACTIVE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT



### Should you say "YES" to everything?

- Yes ☺
- No

# Yes, And is many things, but it isn't all things...



- **Yes, And** is not meant to create an army of "yes men/women" that blindly accept the first idea that is thrown out by a team member.
- There are many instances where saying "Yes" can be harmful:

I know this is outside your Hey! I have this great I know you were role, but could with your work capacity. opportunity that I really need against this during our Can you handle one your support extra work? doesn't align with your team meeting, but can more thing? on this. Are goals. Want to do it? you lead this project?

<sup>\*</sup> If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!

# Using Yes, And to commit to collaboration



- Challenge yourself to find something in an offering that you agree with and then build upon it within the context of collaborative work.
- "Yes..." you may agree with problem statement or the scope or the intent behind the solution.
- "And..." you want to build off of those concepts while incorporating your contribution to the group effort.
- Yes, And creates a moment where you can put your trust in the team to reciprocate by accept your contribution and building upon it in return, thereby completing the cycle.



The Trust Fall Exercise

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### Yes, And: an opportunity to grow

- Perceived inexperience or feelings of uncertainty can lead to shying away from a *Yes, And* approach towards collaboration.
- Commitment to collaboration can provide you the opportunity to learn new things and bolster professional relationships.
- Yes, And helps develop courage, perseverance, and resiliency that is the hallmark of a professional chemist.





### Resources & Next Steps



### • Next Steps:

- Observe how the Accept & Build Framework manifests itself at an upcoming meeting or group discussion.
- Practice your approach to accepting others contributions by starting with "yes..." and incorporating your ideas by following with "and..."
- Attend, watch, or participate in an improvisational theatre show with "Yes, And" in mind

### Resources:

- "Yes, And" book by Kelly Leonard & Tom Yorton
- ACS Institute Competency: <u>Fostering Effective Teams</u>
- ACS Division of Professional Relations (acsprof.org)

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# Summary



- Collaboration requires our personal commitment to building a team that is capable of creating something that we couldn't achieve alone.
- Collaboration is built on a foundation of trust that occurs through reinforcing instances of acceptance and building.
- Yes, And is a framework that will help you improve your personal commitment to collaboration and improve your professional abilities.



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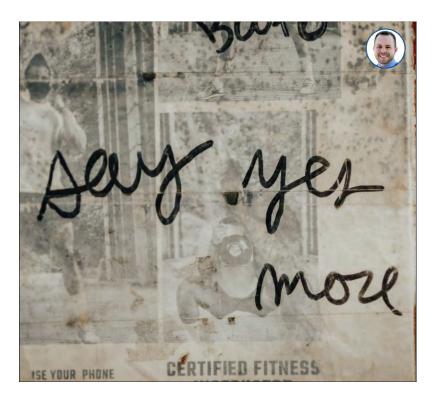
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# Closing Thoughts

- Credit for success is infinitely divisible, so successful collaboration will benefit your career.
- Find ways to lead even while you're being led.
- Yes, And is a tool and a choice: know when to use it and when not to.









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Register for Free!

### What You Will Learn:

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