Getting Being Wrong Right

Martha Acosta, Ed.D.

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DMV SPRINGFIELD
DRIVER LICENSE
C4043243
CLASS: C
HOMER J. SIMPSON
742 EVERGREEN TERRACE
SPRINGFIELD, NT 49007
EXPIRES 05-12-96
SEX: M
HT: 6'
HAIR: NONE
WT: 240
EYES: BLUE
DOB 05-12-56
07/27/92
FD/92
09:29
23:04

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PREMISE 1: All living things need water
PREMISE 2: Roses need water
THEREFORE: Roses are living things

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

All insects need oxygen
Mice need oxygen
Therefore, mice are insects

Source: Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science, *Science*

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More than half of psychological experiments with significant statistical effects are not reproducible…

Source: Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science, *Science*

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…and two thirds of medical studies are ultimately refuted.

Source: Why scientific studies are so often wrong: the streetlight effect, *Discover*

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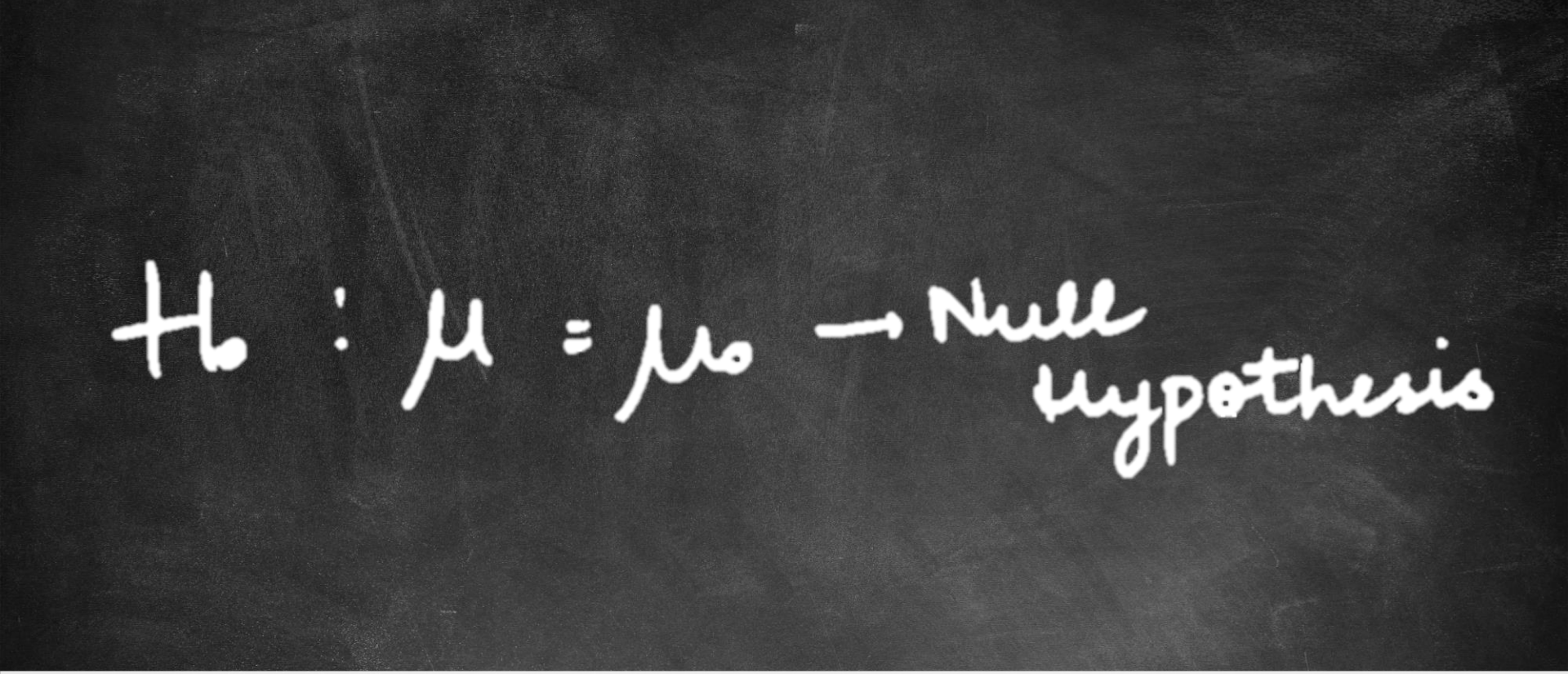

We can only disprove that we are entirely wrong

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In one word, describe how you feel when you get something wrong.

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Blame is an ego defense against fear of failure

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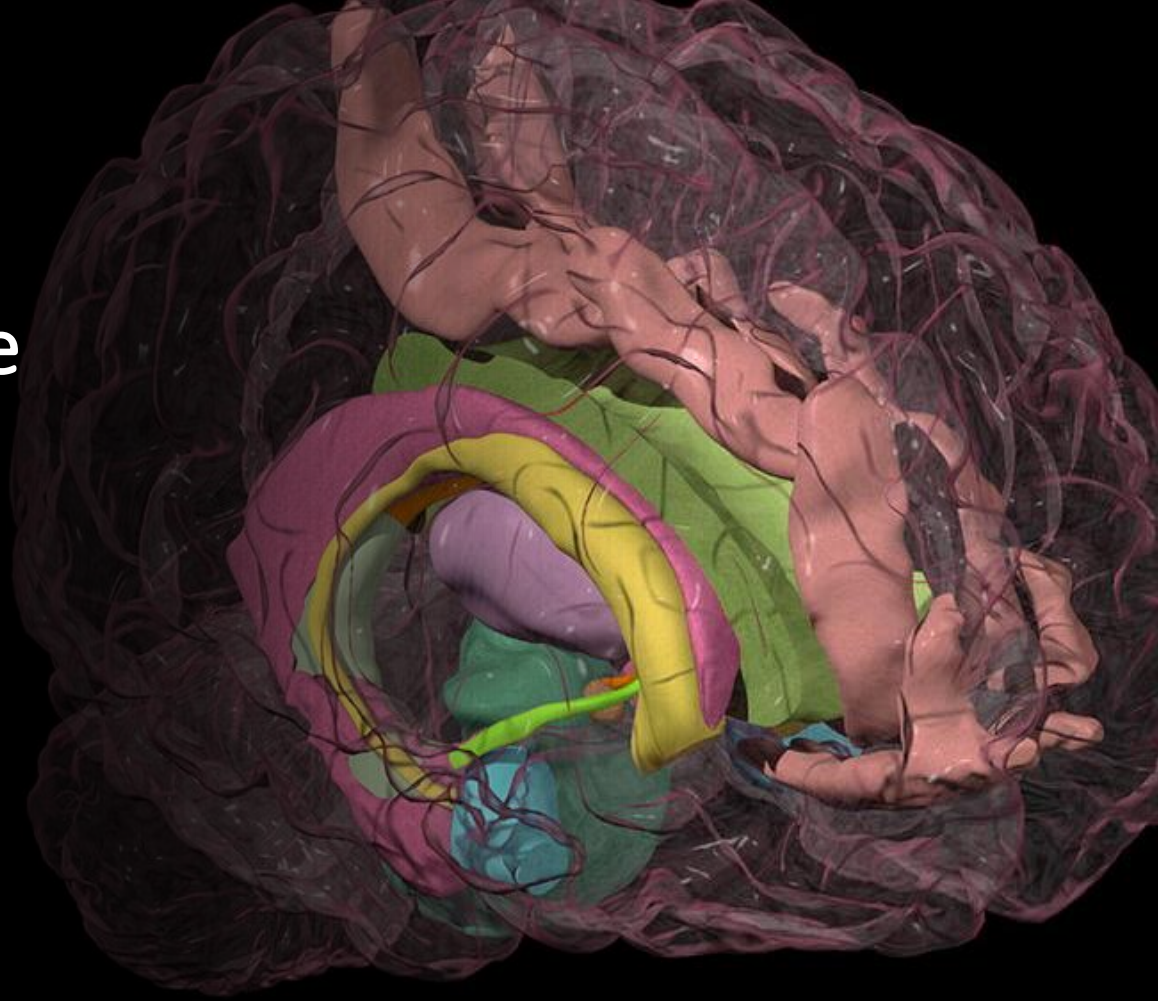
Students learn more from tests when they get the answers wrong.

Source: The Pluses of Getting It Wrong, *Scientific American*



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Failure is the occurrence of the unexpected, unintended, or unwanted

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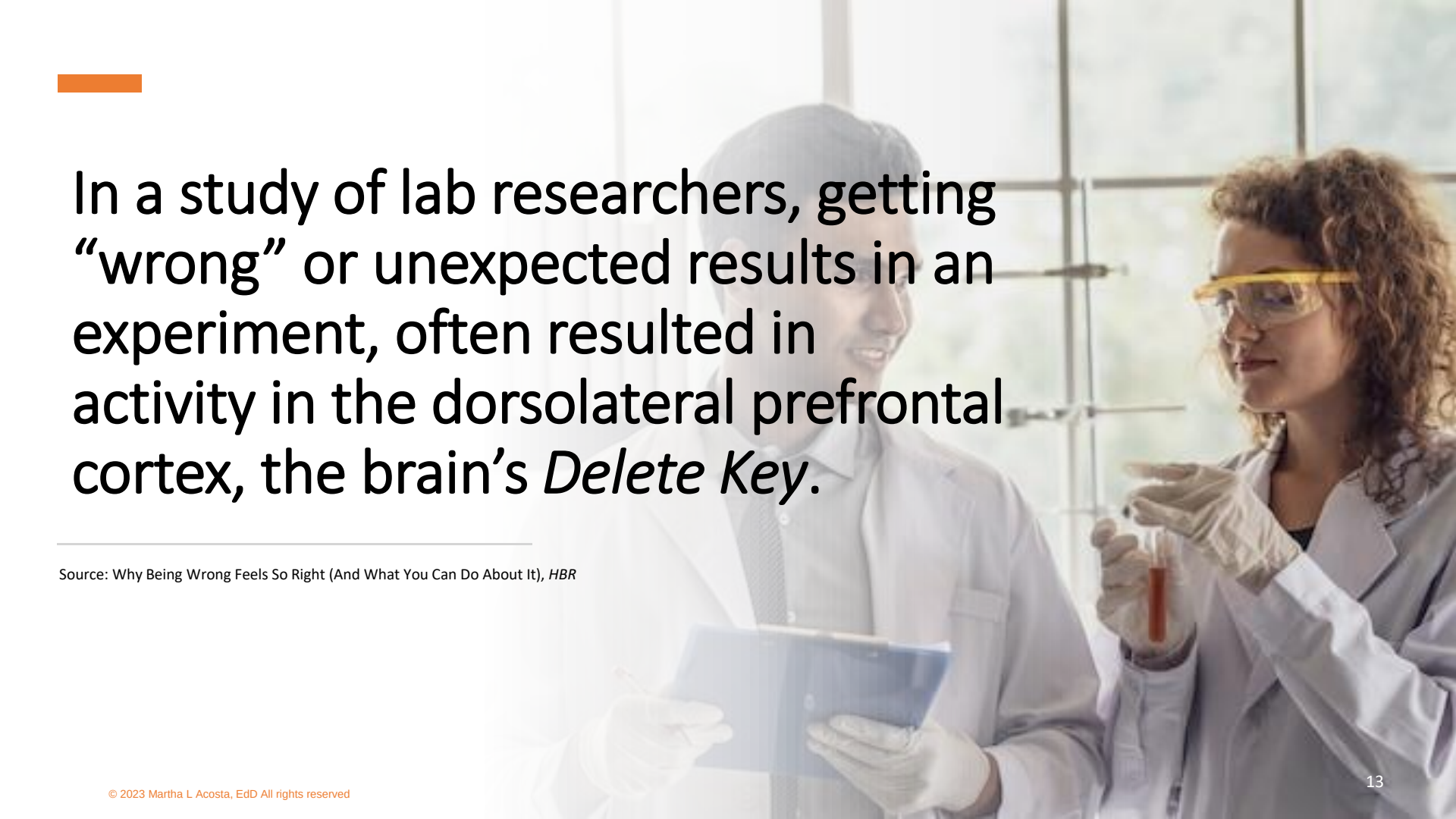
Don’t confuse bad outcomes with failure

In a study of lab researchers, getting “wrong” or unexpected results in an experiment, often resulted in activity in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, the brain’s *Delete Key*.

Source: Why Being Wrong Feels So Right (And What You Can Do About It), *HBR*



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Whenever you act on a decision, you are experimenting

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Get comfortable with being uncomfortable

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Make a failure resume

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What is something you have failed at?

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Condition yourself to being wrong

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In a study of 137 hospitals, a mere one-point increase in the standardized openness score was associated with a 6.48% reduction in mortality rates.

Source: Toffolutti & Stuckler, Health Affairs 2019

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Safety should be less “No! Don’t” and more “Yes! And…”

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Seek out bad news and scan for change

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Challenge assumptions and construct competing models

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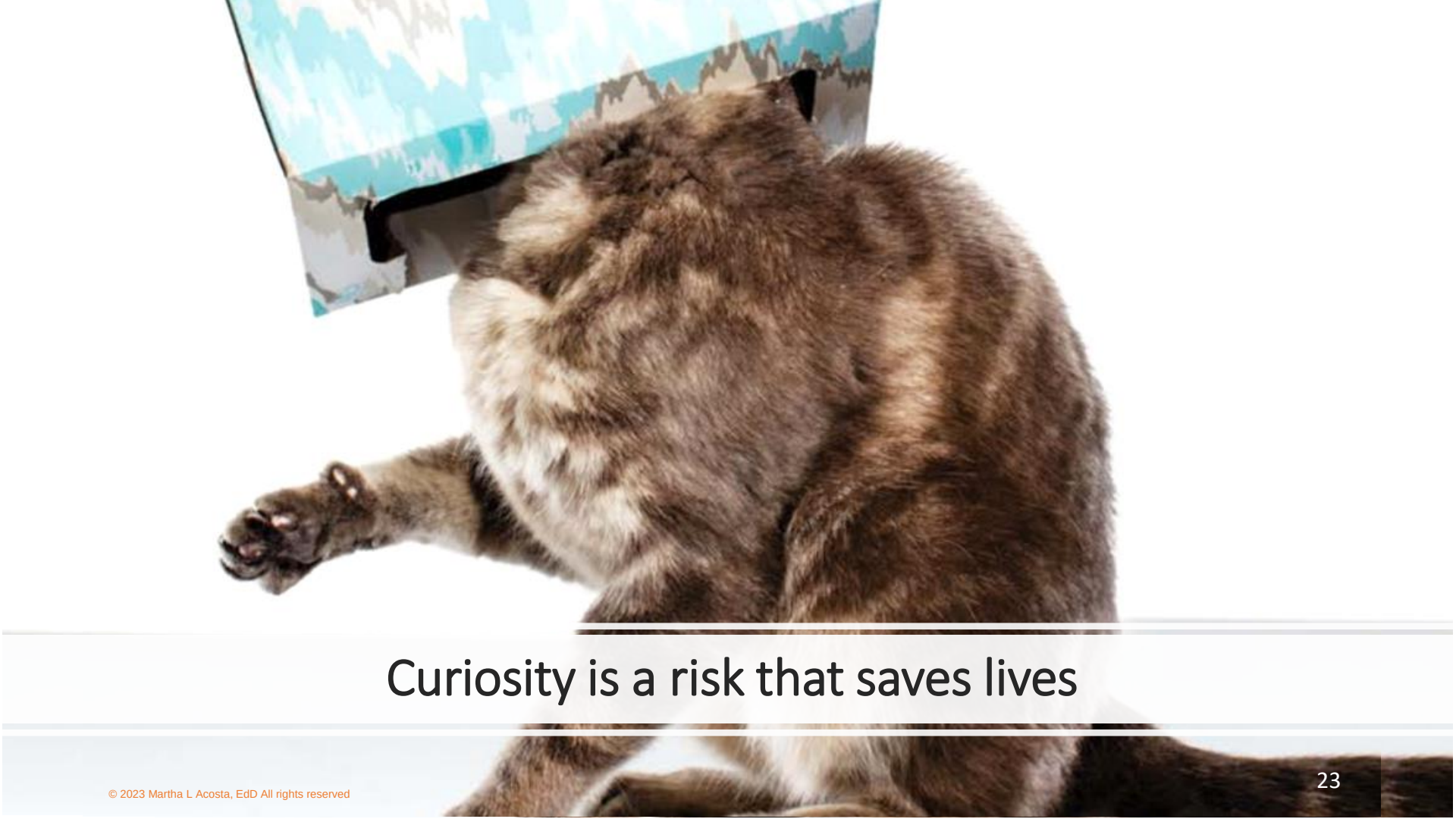

Curiosity is a risk that saves lives

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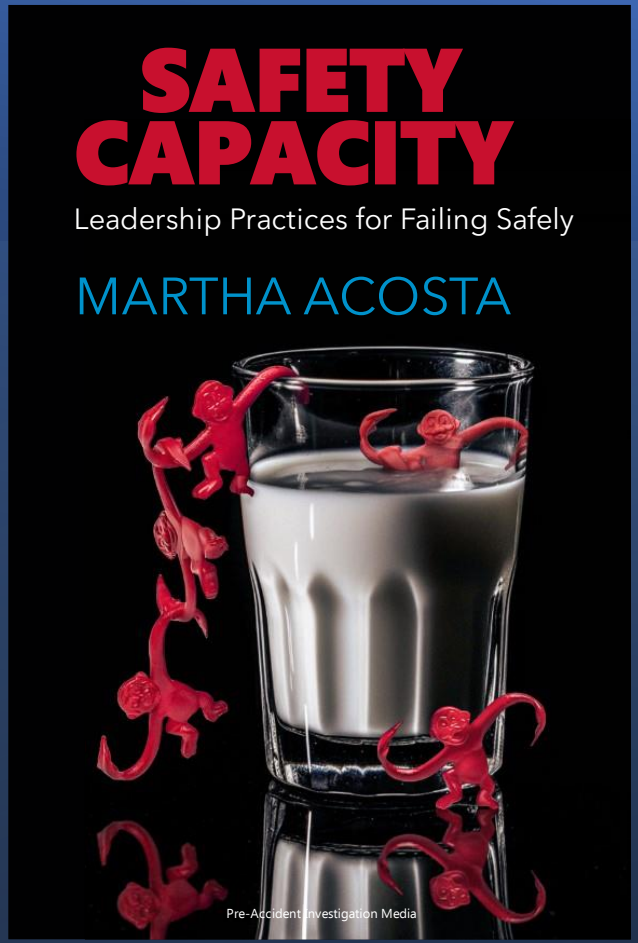
September 1



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