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The Interculturalist, at Ease in Imbalance

In the United States, we wake up each day to the news with trepidation. What's the latest tweet? Who has been harassed? Who has been fired? Is North Korea really going to bomb us? The news from the rest of the world is no different, dampening our spirits further. A new war, a new famine, another attack. It feels as if imbalance is the norm. This workshop will explore how we can be present in imbalance. How do we listen to, embody and enact, where the goal is not to understand the other, but to listen, talk, and walk together to productive levels of imbalance? Grounded in Parker Palmer's metaphor of the undivided self, we will explore the role of listening when the world around us is deeply imbalanced. As interculturalists working in educational, political, corporate, non-governmental, health, or social organizations, we will practice having dialogue with those who have diametrically opposite perspectives.



Dr. Nagesh Rao, is Special Advisor, Inclusion & Faculty Affairs, Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (HCOM), Ohio University, with 25 years of research and applied work analyzing the intersection among health, culture, and communication in HIV/AIDS prevention, family planning, drinking and driving, drug use, doctor-patient communication, and healthcare systems. Nagesh recently helped create a new Office of Inclusion for the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine with a vision for all students, faculty, and staff across three campuses. The vision includes appreciation of all aspects of diversity and the creation of a fair, equitable, and inclusive climate, in order to produce outstanding physicians and make HCOM an ideal place to work, learn, and grow.

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