

flourish

CDI IN BLOOM | accdis 2023

MAY 8-11, 2023



## The Importance of Being... You: Lessons in Authenticity

**Brian Murphy**

hcpro



## Learning Outcomes

- At the completion of this educational activity, the learner will be able to:
  - Describe the incredible impact Melissa Varnavas had on ACDIS
  - Examine ways to live authentically in both your personal and professional life
  - Name at least one Judas Priest song, which will make you the life of any party



Meet ...  
Melissa!





**She got her pony!**





“I am always astounded to realize just how many ACDIS members I personally call friends and how much of this ongoing CDI story we’ve shared together. We are genuinely concerned about each other; we share baby pictures and vacation stories. When we meet at the annual conference, it’s like gathering for a reunion. We hug. And when it’s time to depart a few short days later, we hug again.”

— *Melissa Varnavas*

Details Remain in Vegas ...











Easier Said Than Done ...



## "How are you?"

confused betrayed  
useless  
broken  
never good enough  
fragile anxious  
*I'm falling apart and*  
you don't notice it  
pathetic annoying  
lonely  
rejected  
defeated

## Conformity Comes With a Cost...

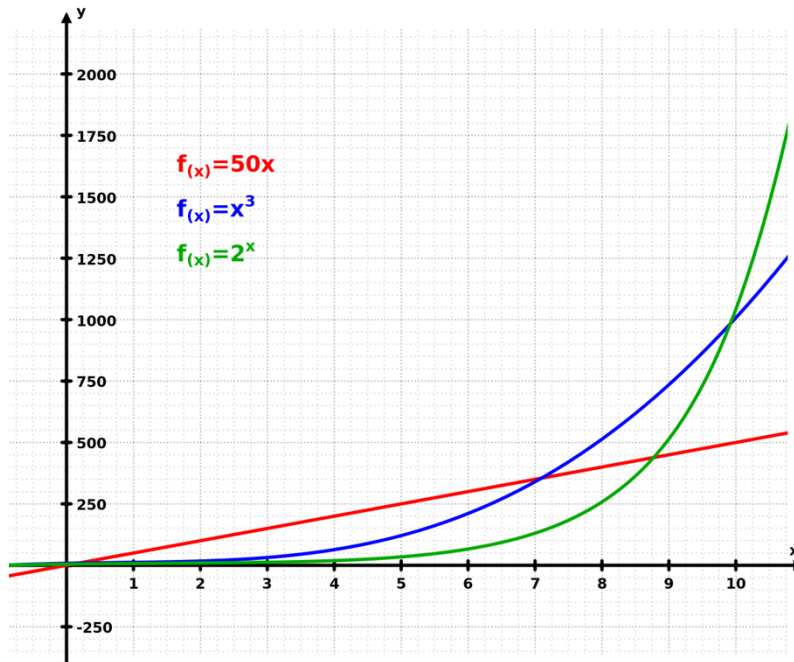


- Creativity
- Culture
- Your organization
- You

... yup, that's Melissa.



We spoke a little evil ...



**Creativity =  
Growth**

23

## Make Room for Authenticity at Work

1. Create creative jobs
2. Encourage creativity
3. Build in time for people to be people

24

*We become leaders  
the day we decide to help  
people grow, not numbers.*

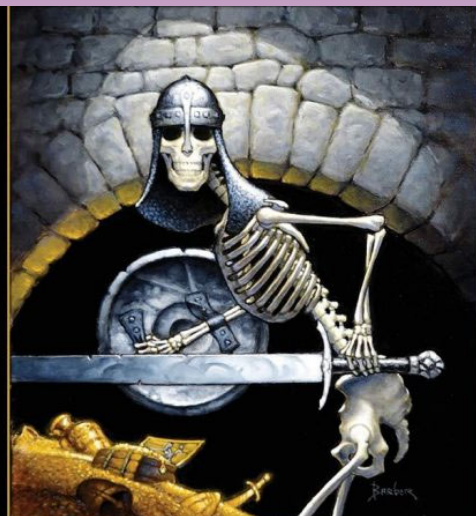
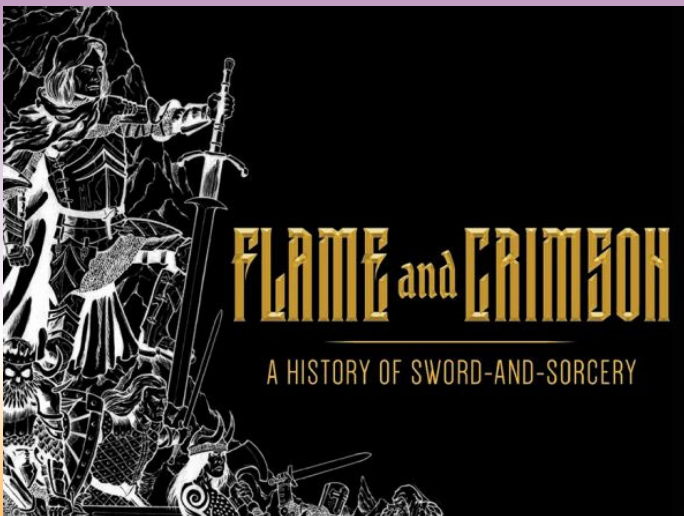
— Simon Sinek



## Mr. ACDIS ...



## Not a CDI Title ...





... my wife and I. Still married.  
Somehow.



My living room ...





## Live Authentically ...

1. Be yourself
2. Harness your passions
3. Let them bloom, in others
4. *Memento Mori*
5. Remember Melissa



## Melissa's Impact: *Spirit of Service*

She inspired, encouraged, and truly believed in anyone who wanted to succeed in this career. I met her for the first time at the AHIMA CDI summit in VA 2015. She saw my CCDS pin, just earned it in April that year, and made a huge deal of that accomplishment. We even took a selfie to commemorate ...a bad one but I will treasure it more now.

— Dawn Diven, System Enterprise Director of CDI, WVU Medicine

Melissa was so valuable in establishing our APDIS group. She offered so much advice and support and helped to create our adaptation of the ACDIS emblem. We probably would not exist as our own chapter group without her insight and support. APDIS offers our sympathies to Melissa's family in this part of their journey.

— Valerie Bica, Pediatric CDI Specialist, Nemours Al duPont Hospital

I met Melissa at the 2nd or 3rd Annual ACDIS Conference. She welcomed me and the attendees as if we were coming home for a family reunion. She always had a smile on her face and her sweet soul radiated joy through her sparkling eyes. She was such a cheerleader of our accomplishments whether it was being a speaker at the conference or getting a promotion. She truly made each one of us feel the 1:1 connection of knowing our names and conveyed genuine care when she asked how we're doing. Her contribution to the success of ACDIS is unmeasurable and she will be sorely missed.

— Holly Kalua, CEO at NurseCoach

What I will miss most about Melissa will be her willingness to help and her kindness. She played a huge role in providing support to the local ACDIS chapters and was always a joy to talk to.

— Faisal Hussain, Executive Director of CDI, Wellstar

Melissa was such a joy to talk to in every single conversation. She truly was and will remain one of a kind. Many prayers and sympathies to all her families—personal and professional. She will be greatly missed. We should all seek to live and give of ourselves just like she did every single day.

— Crystal Salter, Director of Revenue Cycle Assessment and Compliance

She was a light. I remember when we worked together in ACDIS journal segments and then on from there to her moderating the quarterly calls when I was on the board. As ACDIS grew, she was the perpetual friendly face. Friend to absolutely everyone who somehow managed to still make each individual feel cared for and important. I still remember my last communication with her earlier this year.

— Katy Good, CDI Director, Panoramic Health

*Always in our hearts,  
MV.*





flourish  
CDI IN BLOOM | **acdis 2023**