



Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section - 2015

I28 The Power of Intuition in Deception Detection

Christopher Fischer, MD, UCLA Medical School, 760 Westwood Plaza, C8-193, Los Angeles, CA 90024*

After attending this presentation, attendees will be competent in identifying the strengths and limitations of using intuition for detecting deception and learn how intuition can be applied to different fields in forensic science. Drawing from recent research in several different disciplines, this presentation proposes that the ability to detect lies can be improved by harnessing the power of intuition.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by integrating knowledge and research from several different disciplines to provide a clear and coherent picture of the latest understanding of the use of intuition for detecting deception.

Humans tell lies all the time. The lies told range from minor, inconsequential white lies to major, high-stakes lies. Humans are also extremely poor lie detectors and fare no better than chance at telling whether or not someone is lying or telling the truth. Although humans are poor at ascertaining when someone is lying or telling the truth, there is some evidence that a small number of individuals are particularly skilled at detecting deception. Some researchers have postulated that these individuals are able to deliberately look for and find ultra-fast, subtle changes in facial expressions (microexpressions) and other behaviors that serve as cues that someone is not being genuine; however, other researchers argue that there is no difference in individuals' abilities to detect deception and question whether people are really able to detect different cues.

This presentation proposes that accurate deception-detection ability does not rely on any conscious and deliberate discovery of cues that someone is lying, but instead relies on intuitive or unconscious processes. Dual-Process Theory postulates that humans operate using two types of thinking or "systems" when making decisions — one intuitive and the other deliberate. Intuitive thinking is considered a fast, automatic, unconscious process, whereas deliberate thinking is considered a slow, conscious, analytic process. This presentation explores the potential application of intuition to detecting deception. Recent research demonstrates that by forcing people to use their intuition, accuracy of deception judgments increases substantially. Implications of these findings and future potential for intuition in different fields will be discussed.

In the spirit of the 2015 American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Scientific Meeting, *Celebrating the Forensic Science Family*, and the three major planks of the meeting, this presentation is a collaboration between a mentee and mentor, involves learning from a variety of disciplines including psychiatry, psychology, law-enforcement, and evolutionary biology, and is designed to stimulate discussion and future research into the field of deception detection.

Intuition, Deception, Detection