

**Looking for a webinar
to attend this spring?**



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**Statistics and
Applied Improvisation:
Strange but Necessary
Bedfellows**



Richard C. Zink, PhD

**Wednesday, March 18
10 am PT (1 pm ET)**

Zoom link in email

Sponsored by the QSN Educational Subcommittee

Overview from Dr. Zink

Applied improvisation? What does this have to do with statistics? A fair question, since the two topics could not be more different. But these diametrically opposed topics are exactly why statisticians and data scientists need exposure to applied improvisation! Our education and training leave little opportunity for the development of interpersonal skills, which are often just as important to our success in a multidisciplinary environment. Applied improvisation is the application of theatre games and exercises to help individuals develop and expand quick thinking, confidence, communication, and collaboration, all of which are essential for effective leadership for the modern quantitative professional. Any environment that requires the expertise of numerous disciplines needs effective communicators and collaborators to find the best solutions from the multitude of competing priorities and big ideas. These interpersonal skills become even more important when trying to engage more general audiences. In this talk, I will describe my journey with applied improvisation and discuss the very real benefit of this training for practitioners of statistics.

About Dr. Zink

Richard C. Zink is a biostatistician and software developer who has spent more than 20 years in and around clinical trials and medical product development. He is author, editor, and contributor to 10 books on statistical topics in clinical trials and clinical research. Richard holds a Ph.D. in Biostatistics from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he serves as Adjunct Professor of Biostatistics, providing seminars related to his research, teaching classes on clinical trials and data visualization, and collaborating in student research. He also serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor for the Department of Public Health Leadership and Practice, where he offers courses in applied improvisation to public health professionals. Richard teaches courses and workshops on applied improvisation locally and at conferences for scientific and professional organizations. He was awarded the distinction of Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2020.

