

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend an OR conference in Boksburg, South Africa May 10-13<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The conference was called the “South African Theatre Sisters Conference 2011”. The Keynote Speaker, Mrs. Debbie Smuts delivered a wonderful presentation “Captain of Your Ship”. It is important in the OR for all of us to be the best “Captain of Our Ship“ when team leading in our theatres. The following are some wonderful references that Debbie referred to in her keynote address, as to what a strong Captain/Leader would possess.

### **Captain/Leader Characteristic**

- Model the way ⇒ Firm belief & voice
- Inspiring the vision
- Challenge the process
- Enable others to act
- Encourage the heart

### **Captain/Leader Big 5**

- Passion
- Energy
- Enthusiasm
- Vision
- Positive Attitude

### **5 Rules To Be A Leader**

Innovation  
Mastery  
Authenticity  
Guts  
Ethics

### **Deeper Relationships = Stronger Leadership**

Helpfulness  
Understanding  
Mingle  
Amuse  
Nurture

Additionally some great quotes for inspiration:

“No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or get all the credit for doing it”  
(Andrew Carnegie)

“Adopt a gratitude attitude” (Oprah Winfrey)

“You can’t solve all of your problems by eating happy meals” (Ziggy)

All of the above acronyms and statements do indicate what I feel is needed to effectively be a leader. Whether it is in our workplace being team leader of our OR theatre, or of our department, or of course in our personal lives, we need to look at ways to strengthen ourselves as leaders, or to support others who act as our leaders. In the end we all become winners.

In final closing, I would like to also quote one statement that definitely reflects the flexibility and ingenuity of a strong leader:

“LIFE IS 10% WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU AND 90% WHAT YOU DO WITH WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU” (Anonymous)

For we all know, you can accept the lemons as they are, or **MAKE LEMONADE!!**