

# Health Systems Science in Education: A Workshop

Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education

## The Workshop: A Three-Part Series:

### ***Part 1: A Shared Understanding of Health Systems Science***

*October 24, 2023, 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. ET (virtual)*

### ***Part 2: The Importance of Health Systems Science Across Professions***

*November 1, 2023, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET (hybrid)*

### ***Part 3: Designing, Implementing, and Evaluating Successful HSS Training Programs***

*November 2, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET (hybrid)*



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**#HSS2023**





MedStar Health

It's how we **treat people.**

# A Shared Understanding of Health Systems Science

Pre-Workshop Virtual Session

**Raj Ratwani, PhD**

*Vice President of Scientific Affairs, MedStar Health Research Institute  
Director, MedStar Health National Center for Human Factors in Healthcare  
Associate Professor, Georgetown University School of Medicine*

# What is a “System”?

- A way to understand a phenomenon through a set of components that:
  - Interact
  - Follow a set of rules
  - Have boundaries
- System characteristics:
  - *Dynamic* and *interactive* components given rise to a unified whole
  - *Nonlinear* interactions
  - Outcomes are greater/different than the sum of their parts



# Systems Science in Complex, High-Risk Industries

- System science is a systematic process for studying the *inputs*, *components*, *interactions*, and *outputs* of a system.



Nuclear



Defense



Aviation



Rail



# Systems Science and Healthcare

- Health system science is the application of systems thinking to healthcare

*Formal definition:* Health systems science is a foundational framework for the study and understanding of how care is delivered, how health professionals work together to deliver that care, and how the health system can improve patient care and health care delivery. (American Medical Association)



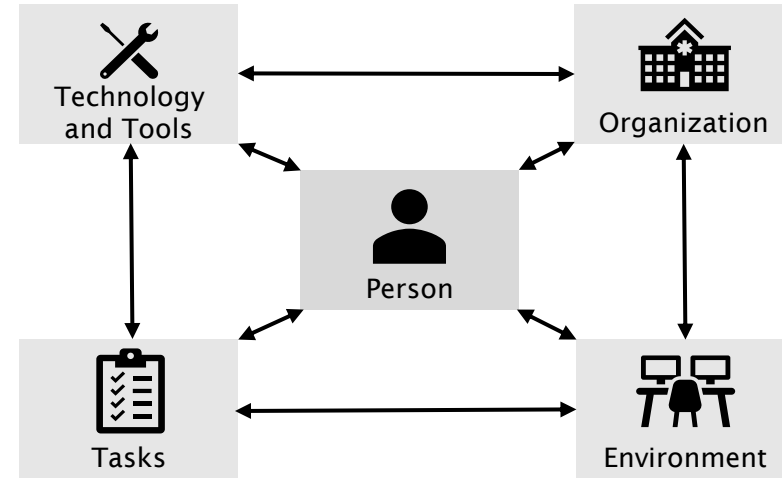
# Benefits of a “systems” approach

- Health system science can improve:
  - Organizational performance
  - Patient/Provider efficiency, experience, and satisfaction
  - Health outcomes
- Education & training in health system science is critical to achieving these improvements
  - Requires different health professions coming together in education and practice



# Health System Science Frameworks

- There are numerous frameworks to represent and study health systems that commonly represent:
  - The core system components (both social and technical)
  - The interactions between the components
  - Important inputs and outputs
- Example: Work system model for patient safety
  - SEIPS: Systems Engineering Initiative for Patient Safety



Carayon et al., 2006; Carayon et al., 2015





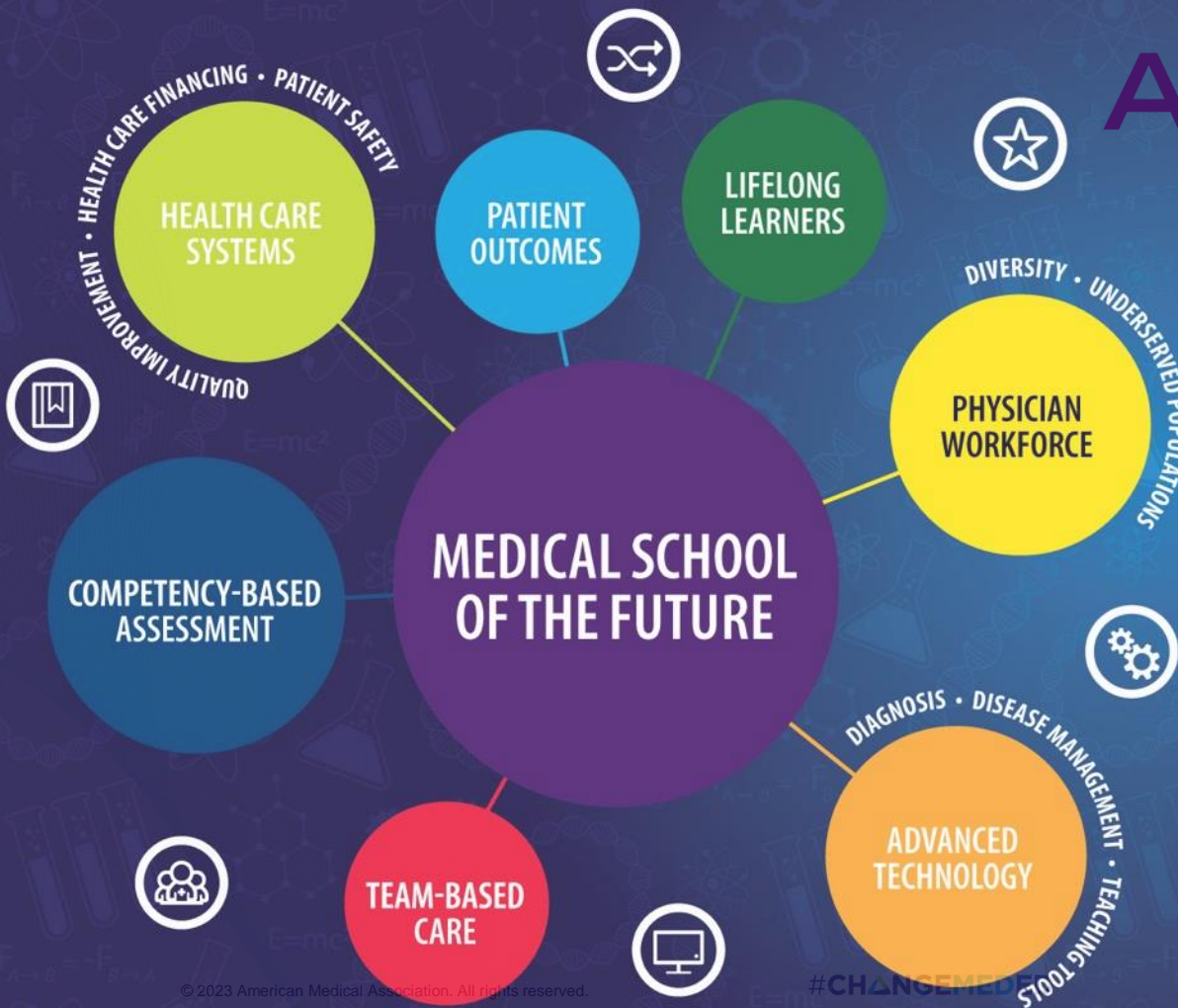
# Thank you

Contact: Raj Ratwani, PhD  
Raj.M.Ratwani@MedStar.net

**It's how we treat people.**

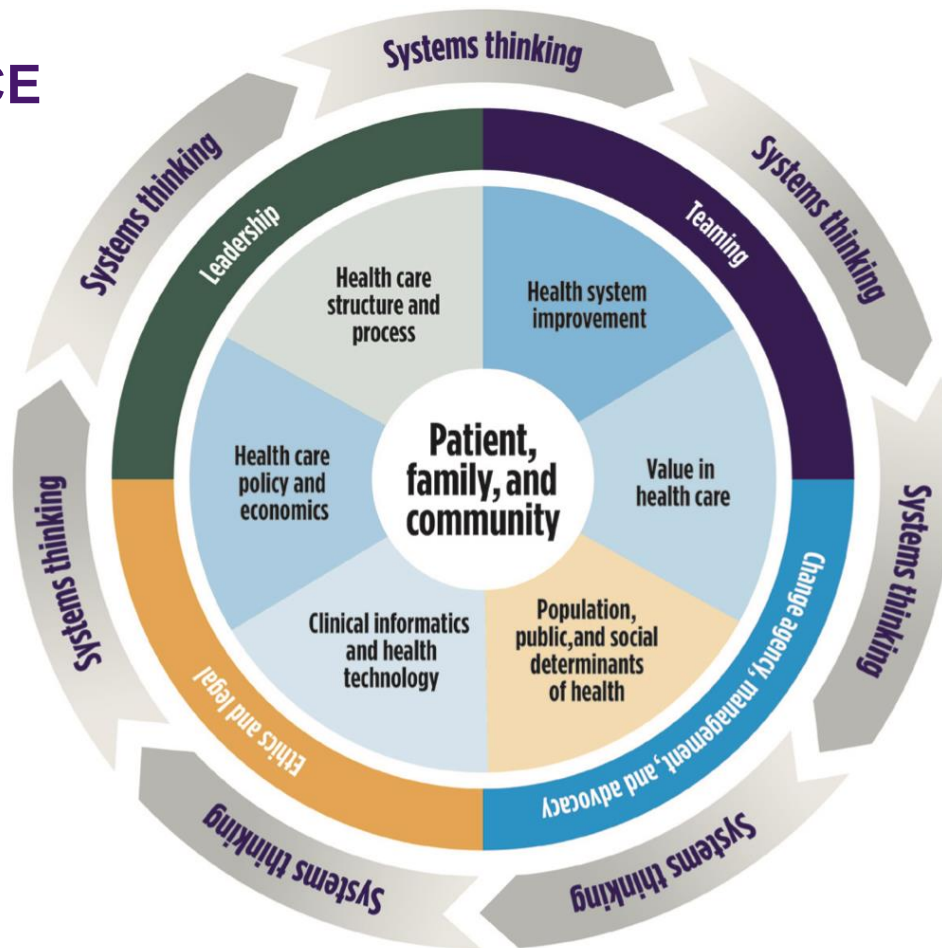


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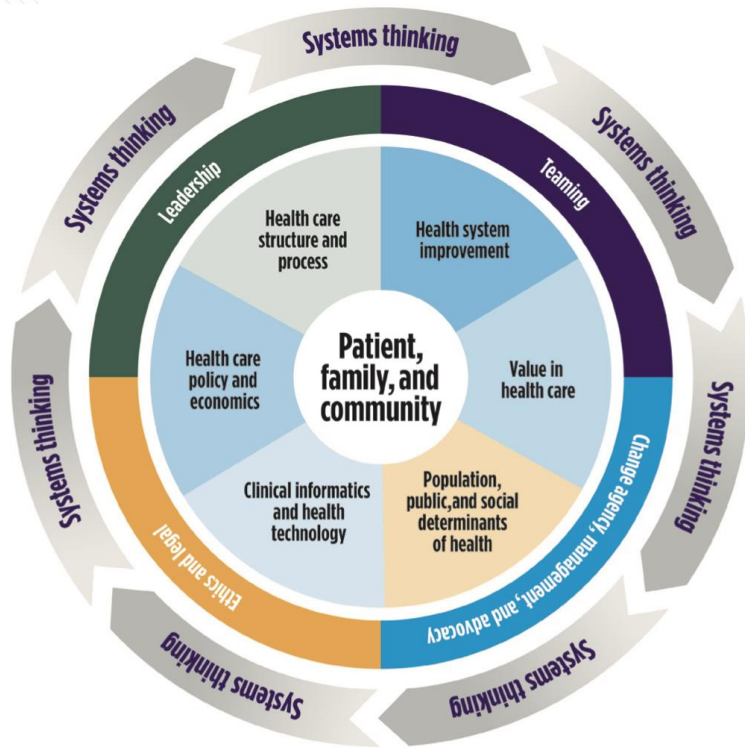


**REIMAGINING  
RESIDENCY**

# HEALTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE



# Training Systems Thinkers



## Systems Thinking



- Think/work across multiple domains for patients & families
- Think/plan multiple steps ahead
- Understand impact of actions and inactions
- Engage and leverage the health system to provide quality care
- Anticipate system needs/pitfalls

## Teaming



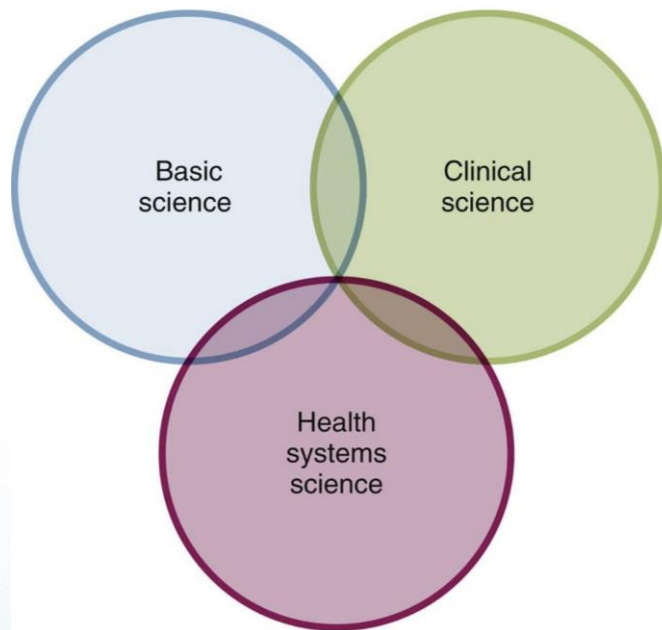
- Respect for team members; knows names, knows strengths/limits of team
- Roles & responsibilities; uses expertise
- Expresses gratitude & professional humility
- Emotional regulation
- Effective conflict management

Skochelak, Hammoud, Lomis, Editors.  
Health Systems Science Edition 2, Elsevier 2020.

Ridinger, Bonnet, Schlundt, Tekian, Riddle, Lomis. Defining Successful Practice Within Health Systems Science Among Entering Residents: A Single-Institution Qualitative Study of Graduate Medical Education Faculty Observations. Acad Med. 2021 Nov 1;96(11S):S126-S135



# HEALTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE



Resources developed collaboratively:

- Textbook (in 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)
- Online modules
- NBME subject examination
- Value-added roles for learners
- Faculty development programs
- Implementation guide
- Multiple peer-reviewed publications

*(more to come during the Nov 2 “how to” session)*

AMA resource [landing page](#)



**CHANGE**  
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# Travis T. Threats, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair

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# SLP Scope of Practice- Collaboration

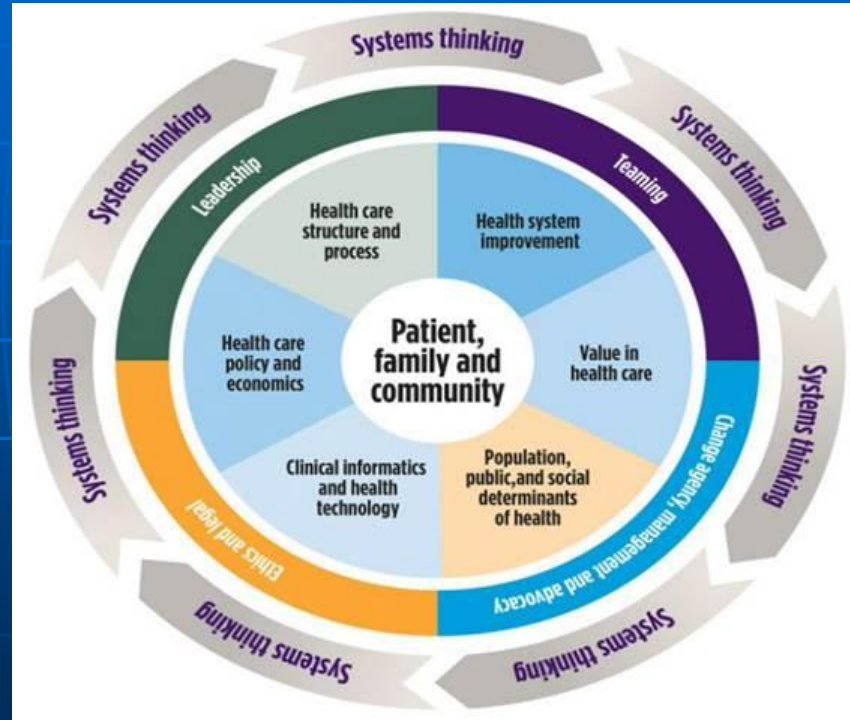
- SLPs share responsibility with other professionals for creating a collaborative culture. Collaboration requires joint communication and shared decision making among all members of the team, including the individual and family, to accomplish improved service delivery and functional outcomes for the individuals served. When discussing specific roles of team members, professionals are ethically and legally obligated to determine whether they have the knowledge and skills necessary to perform such services. Collaboration occurs across all speech---language pathology practice domains.



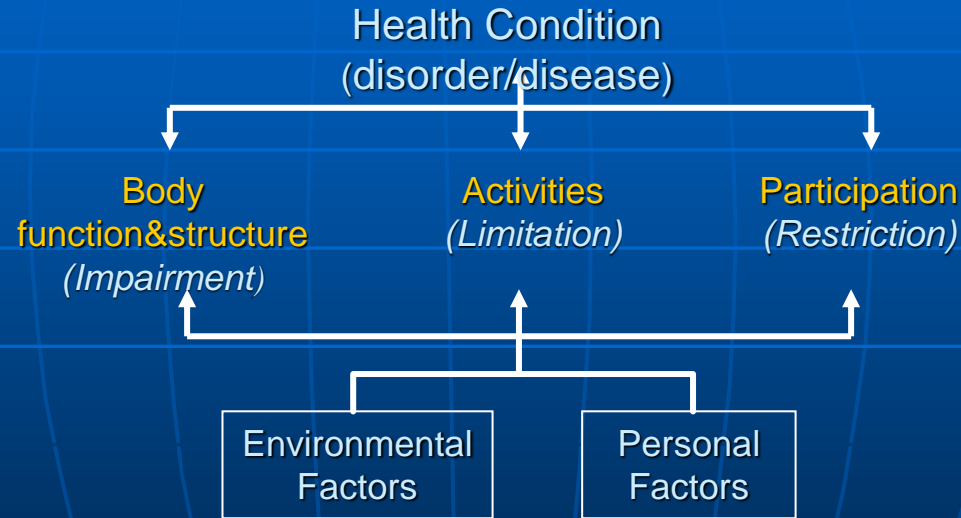
# SLP Scope of Practice Populations and Systems

- In addition to direct care responsibilities, SLPs have a role in (a) managing populations to improve overall health and education, (b) improving the experience of the individuals served, and, in some circumstances, (c) reducing the cost of care. SLPs also have a role in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. SLPs serve in roles designed to meet the demands and expectations of a changing work environment.

# Health Systems Science



# World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) Framework



# ICF contributions to Health Systems Science

- Clinical Informatics – coding scheme to track
- Comprehensive integration of 1) health condition, 2) real life functioning, 3) environmental factors (social determinates of health) and 4) personal factors (specific demographic and individual characteristics of persons)
- Activity/Participation codes (e.g. eating) often so broad cannot be addressed without transdisciplinary approach
- Person orientation- no health professions listed in the ICF
- Ethical guidelines state to be used to seek social justice and equity for persons with functional health limitations to participate fully in society as they wish

## Example of ICF framework intervention - Case presentation

- 70-year-old woman who has had a stroke, resulting in mild aphasia and dysarthria, mild oral stage dysphagia (swallowing disorder), moderate right arm paresis
- Has relatively intact cognitive abilities.
- 5 years ago, fitted for hearing aid that she rarely uses.
- Has dentures but since the stroke they are ill fitting
- Has incontinence

# Crucial life factors

- Husband died 1 year ago, before stroke
- Two children, one with special needs who still lives with her and the other in another state
- Was born in Mexico, been in the United States since she was 16 years old, fluent in conversational English but more comfortable talking in Spanish
- Previously worked as a housekeeper in a hotel
- Lives only on her husband's Social Security check and he was a construction worker

# ICF framework example - Intervention Goal

## ■ Beginning at the end

- Important life activity for this devout Catholic woman is going to Mass, often more than once a week
  - Activity/Participation code –
    - d9300 Organized religion- Engaging in organized religious ceremonies, activities, and events

# Professions involved using Health Science System lens

- Speech-language pathology
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Nutrition
- Psychology
- Optometry
- Nursing
- Physicians
- Social work
- Interpreters
- Dentistry
- Long term care specialist
- Pastoral care



# ICF - Environmental Factors

## Possible Facilitators and Barriers

- e 1251 Assistive products and technology for communication
- e 145 Products and technology for the practice of religion and spirituality
- e 2501 Sound quality
- e 310 Immediate family
- e540 Transportation services, systems and policies
- e580 Health services, systems and policies
- e325 Acquaintances, peers, colleagues, neighbors and community members

# System barriers for speech-language pathology

- Insurance coverage including Medicare
- Definition of “medical necessity”
- Lack of knowledge of other health professionals about the full scope of practice
- Limited public knowledge of the field in health settings

## Consequences to not addressing personal religious needs

- Possible depression
- Social isolation
- Non-compliance with medications
- Physical, cognitive, and mental decline

NASEM IHPE Forum Pre-Workshop:  
A Shared Understanding of Health  
Systems Science  
24 October 2023

Peter Maramaldi, PhD, LCSW, MPH


Simmons School of Social Work

Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Harvard Chan School of Public Health

# Beginnings of HHS in SW: Charity organizations at the end of the 20th century

- Ida Cannon, a visiting nurse St. Paul Associated Charities deepened her understanding of the connections between poverty, occupation and disease
- Influenced by Jane Adams, the Settlement House movement, [the proliferation of the social work profession to ensure that immigrants and other vulnerable people, gain tools and skills to escape economic and social poverty](#), Cannon moved to Boston to study at Boston (Simmons) School of Social Work
- HMS Professor Richard Cabot invited her to aid in development of social service department at Mass General Hospital
- Her goal was to “make medical care effective” and “cure consumption”. In 1907, Cannon was named “Head Worker” and, in 1914, “Chief of Social Service”, a position she held for thirty-one years as she promoted social work in medical setting across the United States

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General Assembly Minutes


## Cannon, Ida M. (1877-1960)

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Ida Cannon was responsible for establishing the first social work department in a hospital in the United States. Convinced that medical practice could not be effective without examining the link between illness and the social conditions of the patient, Cannon diligently worked at creating the field of medical social work. During her long career, she worked as a nurse, a student of sociology, a medical social worker, Chair of Social Services at Massachusetts General Hospital, author of a seminal book in the medical social work field, consultant to hospitals and city administrations throughout the United States, professor and designer of a training curriculum for medical social workers. Cannon saw the emergence of medical social work as part of the Progressive movement, because it sought to humanize medical practice.


### Collections



#### BIOGRAPHIES

*that protects the minority and  
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#### SPECIAL FEATURES



<https://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/biographies/ida-m-cannon/>



# Social Work's disciplinary competencies sit squarely in Health System Science

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A profession devoted to helping **people function** the best they can **in their environment.** [National Association of Social Workers](#) (NASW)

Social workers help people **prevent** and **cope** with problems in their everyday lives. Projected to grow faster than most occupations [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS)

Social work professionals are found in a wide variety of environments from hospital and universities, to communities of all types [Council on Social Work Education](#) (CSWE)

# Areas of Social Work Practice

## Degree levels:

BSW

MSW

DSW

PhD

- **Micro-level practice**
  - Work directly with **individuals** and help them cope with their situations.
- **Mezzo-level practice:**
  - Work with **groups** instead of individual clients.
- **Macro-level practice:**
  - Lead and establish **social change** on a large scale through **organizing, policy change, and administration.**



[Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards](#)

# Estimates of the SW workforce vary

Table courtesy of Brianna M. Lombardi, PhD, MSW

UNC School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine,  
Carolina Health Workforce Research Center at the Cecil G.  
Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Research Assistant  
Professor in the School of Social Work.

	<b>ACS</b> (American Community Survey )	<b>ASWB</b> (State Licensure Data)	<b>NPPES</b> (National Plan and Provider Enumeration System by CMS)	<b>OEWS/BLS</b> (Occupation Employment and Wage Survey / Bureau of Labor Statistics )
	Weighted self survey	State license agencies reported	Self-reported	Weighted Employer reported
<b>Estimate date</b>	2019 ACS 1 Year	November 2021	November 2021	2021 Employment
<b>Estimate</b>	1,022,859	541,635	284,793	677,400
<b>Available subcategories</b>	Highest Education Master degree or higher: 409,532	Clinical: 325,442 Master: 143,051 Bachelor: 68,445 Associate: 4,697		Child, family & school: 340,040 Health: 173,880 MH/SUD: 113,790 All other SW: 49,390



Social Work's  
disciplinary  
competencies are  
grounded in  
ecology: Ecological  
perspective of  
person-in-  
environment

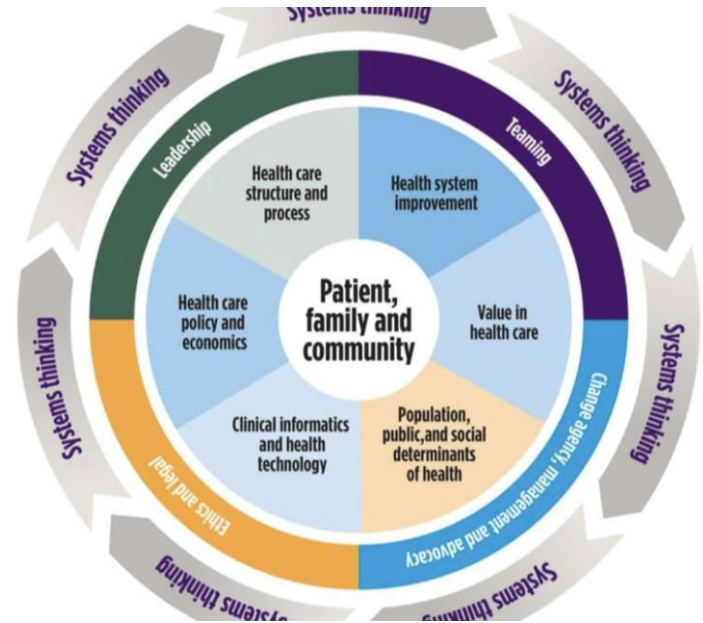
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpu.2020.00131/full>

## Ecological Model of



Adapted by Tash

## The Social Ecological Model of Health

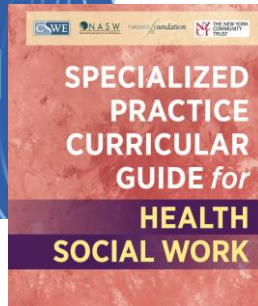


# Highly complementary models

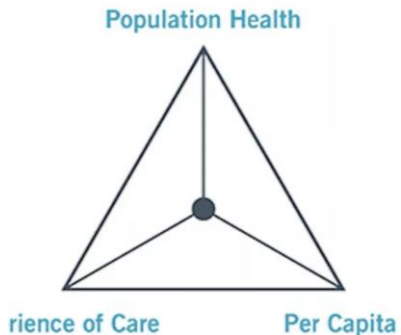
## Social Determinants of Health



[HealthyPeople 2030](#)



## The IHI Triple Aim



## The Quadruple Aim



## Some exemplars of SW's participation in HSS

Biopsychosocial Models (including genetics)

Person in Environment (including providers)

Ecological Perspective (dynamic interplay)

Social Systems theories (micro, mezzo, macro)

Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity—[Required curricular competencies by the Council on Social Work Education](#)

# Health Systems Science: PT Profession

*Catherine Quatman-Yates, DPT, PhD*

*Catherine.quatman@osumc.edu*



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER AND  
HEALTH SCIENCE COLLEGES

# Health Systems Science in Physical Therapy Education

## CAPTE

Commission on Accreditation  
in Physical Therapy Education



## ACAPT

### Mission

We promote justice, equity, diversity, and inclusivity, as we foster continuous improvement to elevate the educational community, profession and public by furthering quality in physical therapy education and practice.

### Vision

Transforming Physical Therapy education to empower innovation, ensure excellence, and advance the profession for populations served.

### Scope of Accreditation Activities

CAPTE accredits physical therapist professional education programs offered at the clinical doctoral degree level by higher education institutions in the United States and internationally. CAPTE also accredits physical therapist assistant education programs offered at the associate degree level by higher education institutions in the United States.



### PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



Center for Excellence in  
Academic Physical Therapy  
*Powered by innovation, inquiry & inclusion*

# Systems Science in PT Profession

## Perspective

### Movement Variability and the Use of Nonlinear Tools: Principles to Guide Physical Therapist Practice

Regina T Harbourne, Nicholas Stergiou

Fields studying movement generation, including robotics, psychology, cognitive science, and neuroscience, utilize concepts and tools related to the pervasiveness of variability in biological systems. The concepts of variability and complexity and the nonlinear tools used to measure these concepts open new vistas for physical therapist practice and research in movement dysfunction of all types. Because mounting evidence supports the necessity of variability for health and functional movement, this perspective article argues for changes in the way therapists view variability, both in theory and in action. By providing clinical examples, as well as applying existing knowledge about complex systems, the aim of this article is to create a springboard for new directions in physical therapist research and practice.

RT Harbourne, PT, MS, PCS, is Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy Department, Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 985450 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-5450 (USA). Address all correspondence to Ms Harbourne at: rharbour@unmc.edu.

N Stergiou, PhD, is Director of the Nebraska Biomechanics Core Facility, College of Education and College of Public Health, University of Nebraska at Omaha and University of Nebraska Medical Center.

[Harbourne RT, Stergiou N. Movement variability and the use of nonlinear tools: principles to guide physical therapist practice. *Phys Ther*. 2009;89:267-282.]

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#### JOURNAL ARTICLE

### Optimization of Movement: A Dynamical Systems Approach to Movement Systems as Emergent Phenomena

Andrew A Guccione ✉, Brian T Neville, Steven Z George

*Physical Therapy*, Volume 99, Issue 1, January 2019, Pages 3–9,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ptj/pzy116>

#### JOURNAL ARTICLE

### Toward Systems Science in Rehabilitation

Alan M. Jette

*Physical Therapy*, Volume 96, Issue 3, 1 March 2016, Pages 270–271,

<https://doi.org/10.2522/ptj.2016.96.3.270>

**Published:** 01 March 2016

### PTJ: Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry as a Potential Leader in 'Systems Science'

[Review](#)

**Date:** Monday, November 19, 2018

"What are the risk-adjusted outcomes for individuals with a specific classification/movement diagnosis?" "Are patient outcomes better if the treatment provided matches the patient's classification/movement diagnosis?"

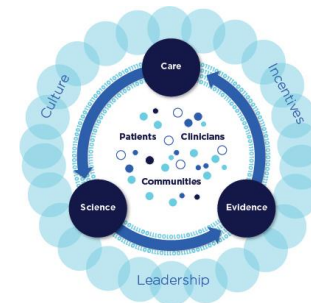
Those are the kinds of questions that can be answered through systems science, which emphasizes collecting and analyzing clinical data using a common language, say authors of a "Point of View" article in the November issue of *PTJ* (*Physical Therapy*). They believe it's a scientific approach that could make APTA's Physical Therapy Outcomes Registry (Registry) a crucial tool in reducing unwarranted variation in practice.



# Learning Health Systems Work

The premise of a learning health system was first introduced by the Institute of Medicine and defined as a system:

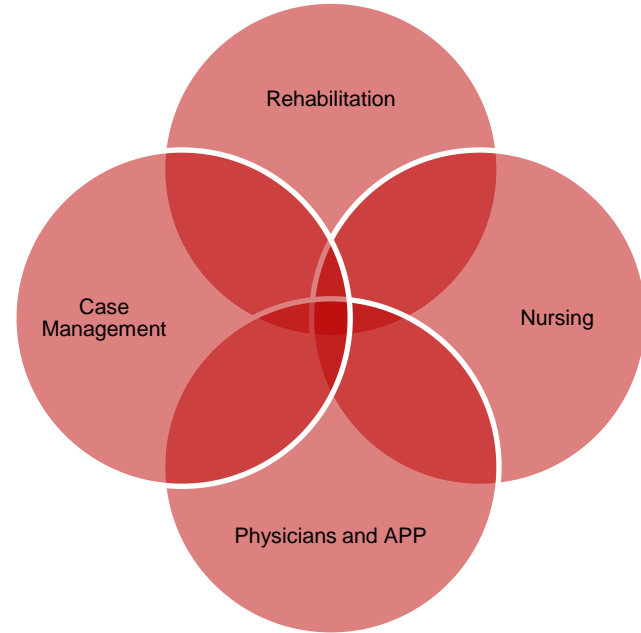
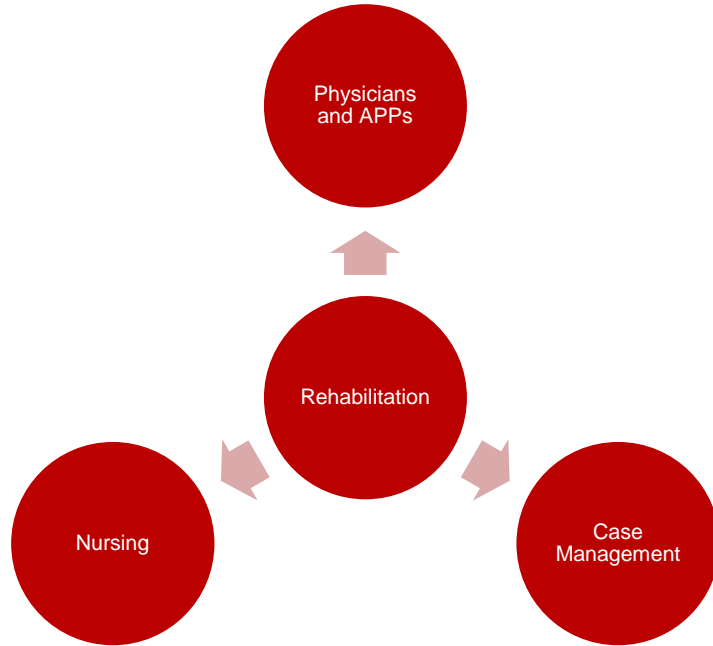
*“in which science, informatics, incentives, and culture are all aligned for continuous improvement and innovation, with best practices seamlessly embedded in the care process, patients and families as active participants in all elements, and new knowledge is captured as an integral by-product of the care experience.”* (IOM, Best Care at Lower Cost, 2013)



## LeRRn's Specific Aims

- 1:** Create a LHS Innovation Hub that partners researchers with healthcare systems and engages stakeholders, including patients, providers, administrators, payers and policymakers, to develop rehabilitation-focused LHS research questions.
- 2:** Provide funding and methodological/technical support for LHS Scholars and Pilot Study Awardees to transform research ideas into full-scale studies conducted in real-world practice.
- 3:** Develop a knowledge repository, tailor LHS resources for rehabilitation and disseminate materials to advance best practices in rehabilitation LHS research. LeRRn will serve as a resource and incubator for rehabilitation researchers interested in LHS research.

# Models of Cooperation vs. Collaboration





# Health Systems Domains, Activities, and Processes

Operational Excellence

Patient Safety and  
Quality

Health Equity

Evidence-Based  
Practice

Health IT

Systematic Evidence  
Searches and Guideline  
Development

Population Health  
Efforts

Health Services Research

Improvement and  
Implementation  
Sciences

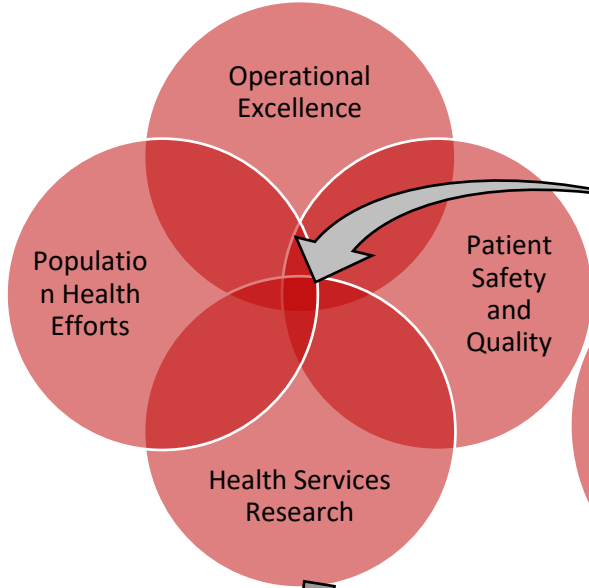
Systems Science

Facilitation and  
Dissemination

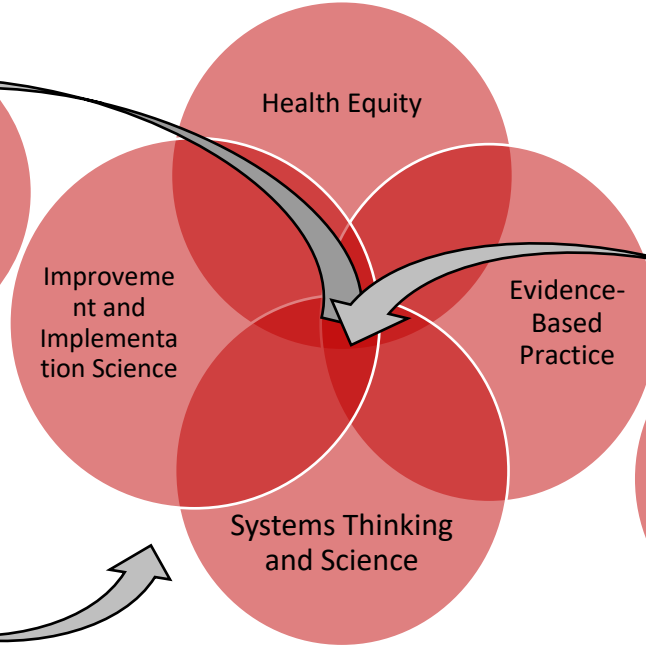
Data Collection,  
Extraction, and  
Analysis

# Learning Health System Science In Practice

## Domains of Focus



## Methodologies and Frameworks



## Associated Processes

