



Dissemination Strategies to Bridge the Gap Between Research and Practice in the Cancer Control System

María E. Fernández, PhD

Lorne Bain Distinguished Professor in Public Health and Medicine

Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

Director, Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research

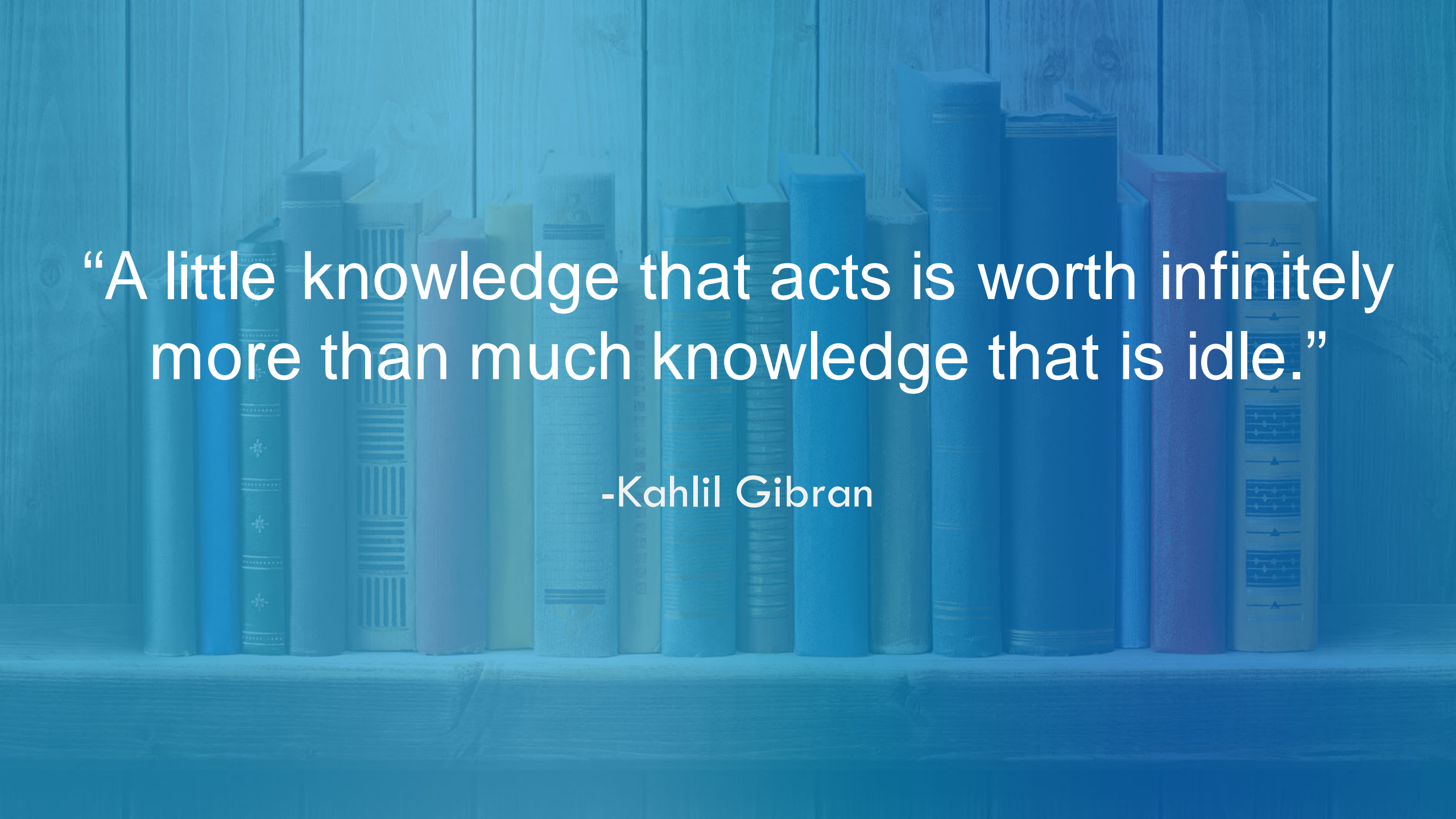
School of Public Health, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Disclosures

I have nothing to disclose.

Objective

- Define dissemination and implementation research and practice
- Discuss the challenges and opportunities of dissemination and implementation in a complex adaptive system
- Optimization of evidence-based cancer control interventions
 - Adaptation of evidence-based cancer control Interventions
 - Development and selection of implementation strategies

A row of books of various colors (blue, green, yellow, red) is standing on a wooden shelf. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue overlay. The quote is written in white text across the middle of the image.

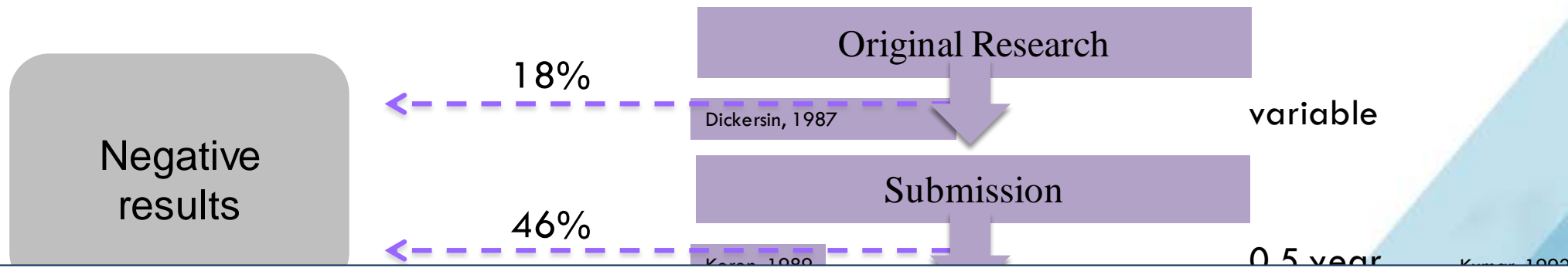
“A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle.”

-Kahlil Gibran

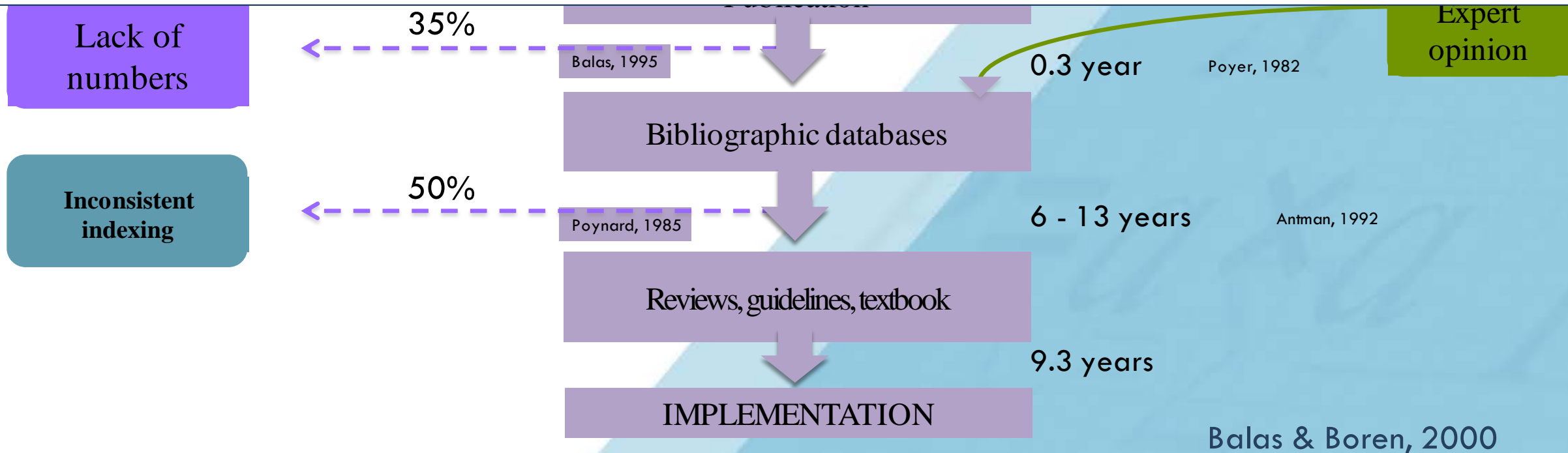
Definitions: Implementation & Dissemination

- **Dissemination** refers to the distribution of an innovation or intervention to a specific audience.
- **Implementation** refers to the integration of a new innovation or intervention within a specific setting or context.

"PUBLICATION PATHWAY"



It takes 17 years to turn 14 percent of original research to the benefit of patient care

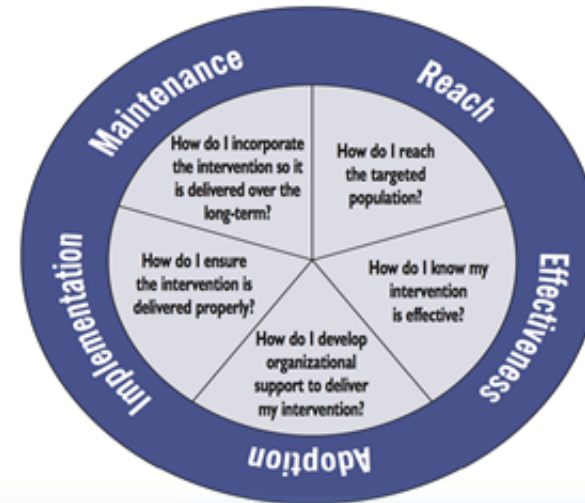


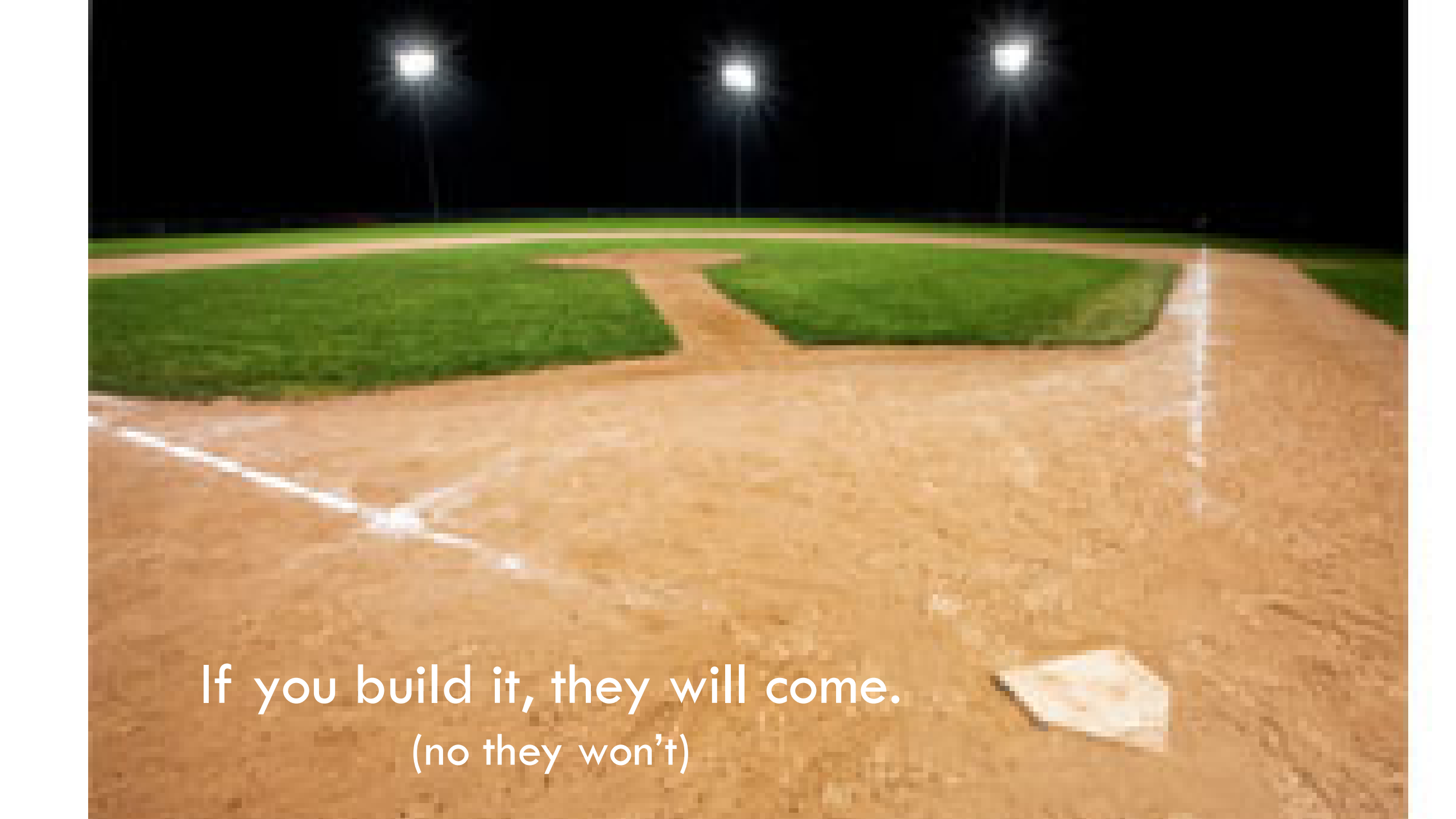
Cancer Control Intervention Impact

The ultimate impact of a cancer control intervention depends on:

- Effectiveness of the intervention
- Reach in the population

FIGURE 1. Elements of the RE-AIM Framework





If you build it, they will come.
(no they won't)

Research to Practice



"The latest research shows that we really should do something with all this research."

*"Closing the gap between research discovery and program delivery is both a complex challenge and an absolute necessity if we are to ensure that **all populations** benefit from the Nation's investments in new scientific discoveries."*

(National Institutes of Health)

Types of Evidence-Based Interventions (EBIs) that can be implemented and disseminated

- Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Clinical Innovations (e.g. new screening technology)
- Cancer Prevention Educational Programs (Packaged programs)
- Policies
- Strategies (USPSTF Community Guide Recommendation; e.g. mass media, one on one, provider reminders)

Implementation and Dissemination Challenges

Organizational and leadership support

Limited involvement of stakeholders and
policy makers

Limited knowledge among practitioners of existing
evidence-based cancer control interventions (EBIs)

Concerns about fit with previous practices
and with client needs

Researcher focused studies and designs
/little attention to external validity

Reference:

Dissemination & Implementation: Overview. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.div12.org/implementation/overview/>
Society of Clinical Psychology/American Psychological Association

Escoffery, Hannon, Maxwell, Vu, Leeman et al. 2015

Generating Practice-based Evidence



“If we want more evidence-based practice, we need more practice-based evidence”

Lawrence W. Green, PhD

Guiding Cancer Control: A Path to Transformation

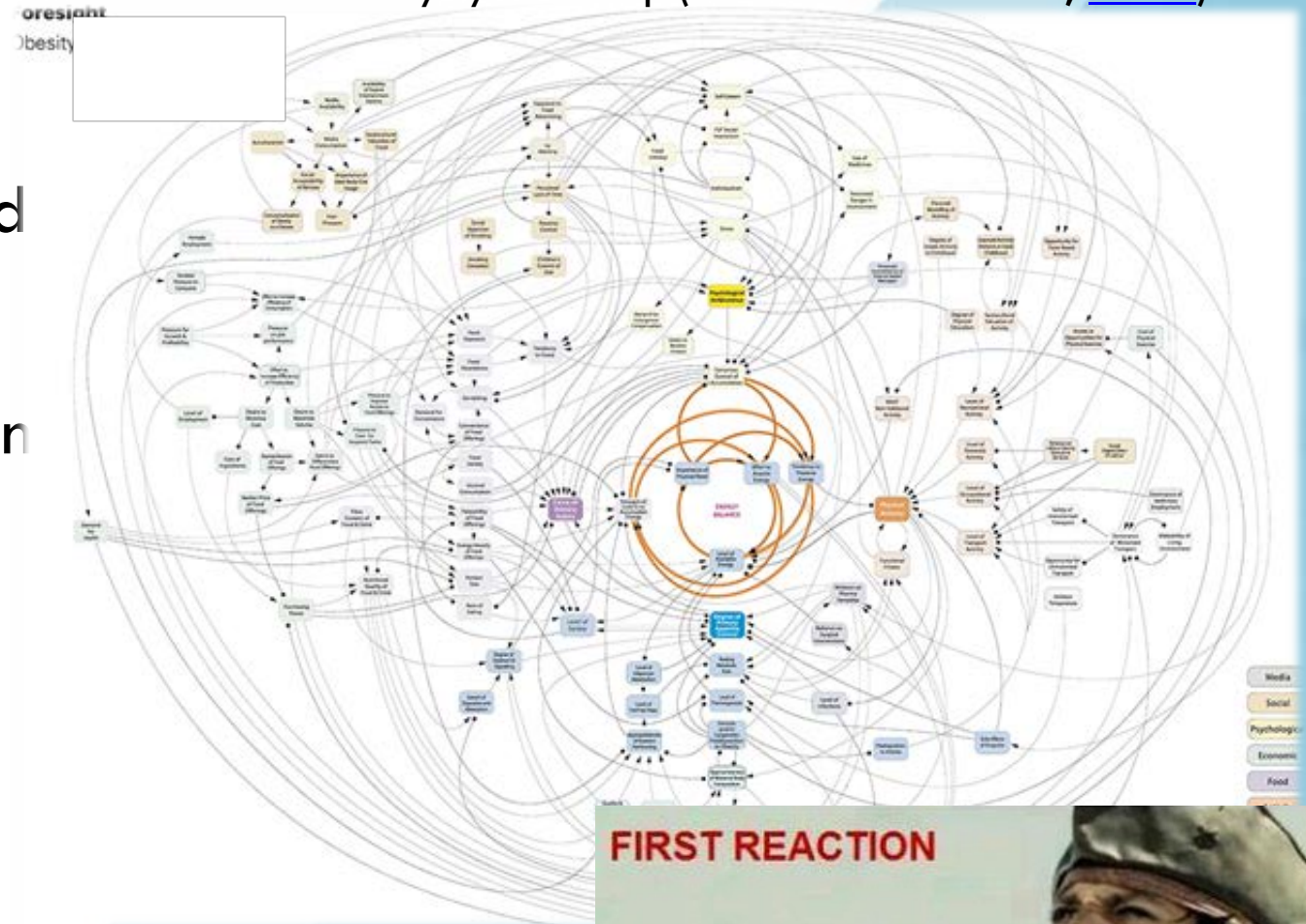
RECOMMENDATION A: A U.S. National Cancer Control Plan should principally ensure resource integration and operational coordination across the various components of the cancer control system, and should actively do the following:

- A1.** Improve the availability of preventive, screening, diagnostic, and therapeutic interventions.
- A5.** Apply the tools of complex systems analyses for assessing the “value” of cancer control interventions.
- A6.** Minimize the waste and harm stemming from disparate clinical practices, interventions lacking evidence of effectiveness, and conflicting clinical practice guidelines.
- A8.** Expand and support reproducibility strategies for developing reliable evidence in cancer control from biomedical, clinical, public health, and social science research.

Cancer Control in a Complex Adaptive System

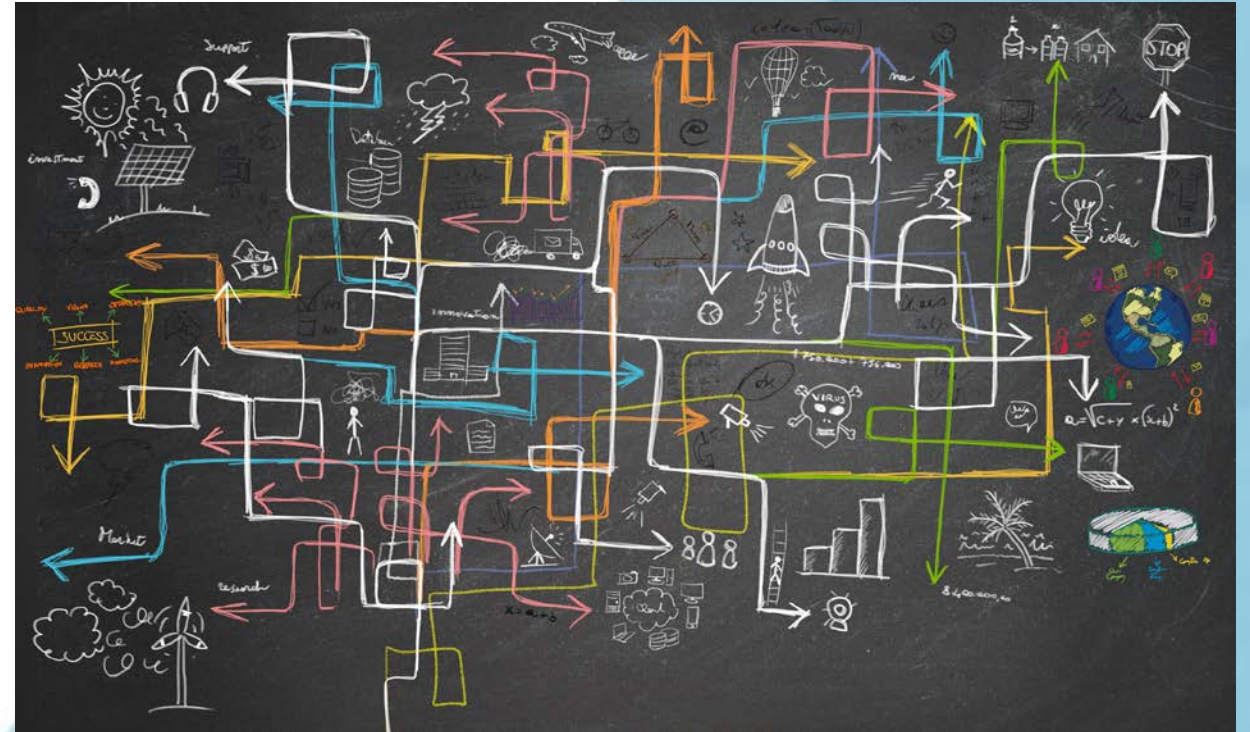
- Diverse components and actors that interact with each other and with the external environment.
- Property of both the intervention and the context.
- Unpredictability of effects.
- Invites new approaches to addressing the issue.

Obesity system map (Vandenbroeck et al., [2007](#)).



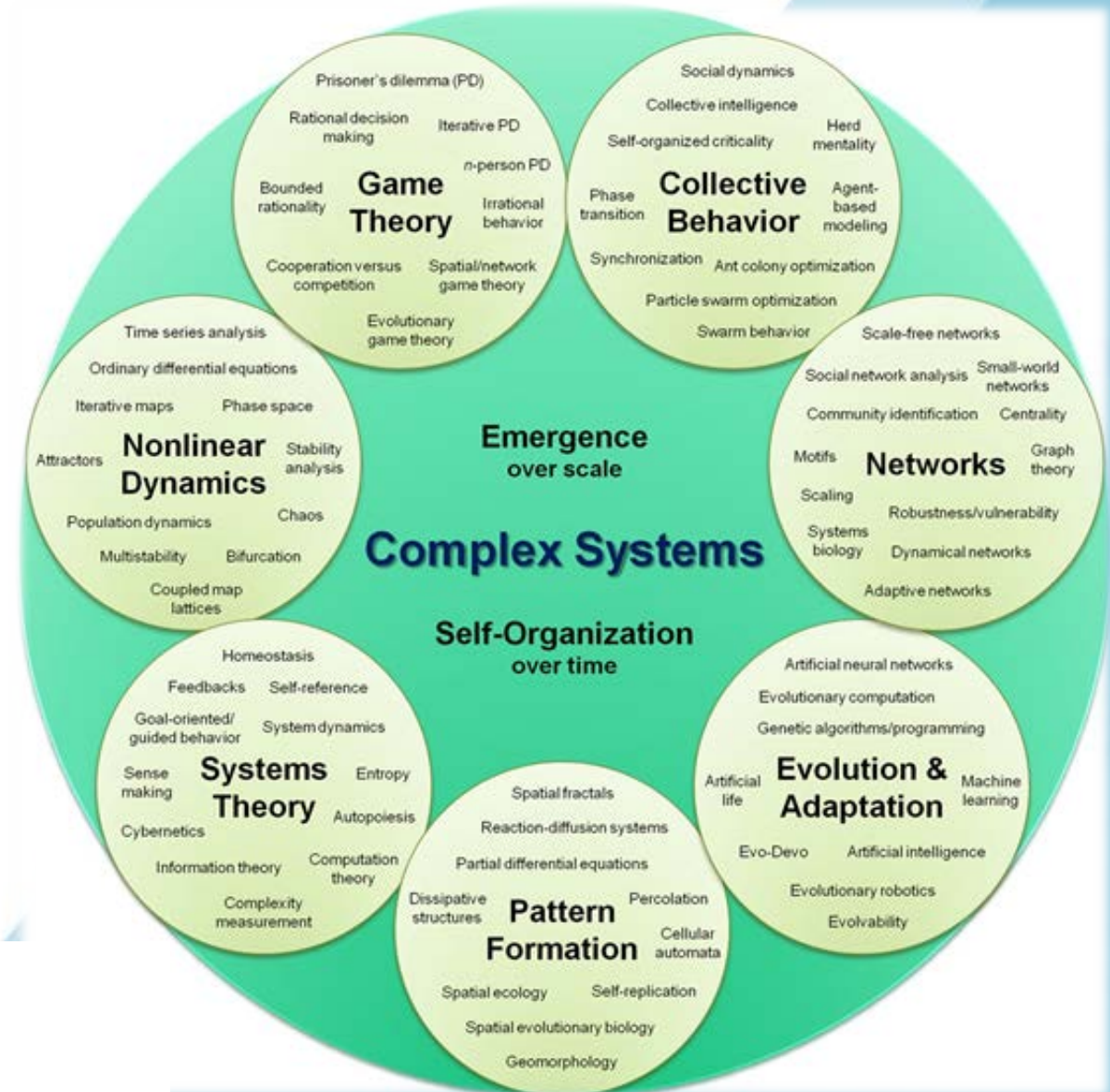
How do we improve dissemination of evidence-based interventions for cancer control in a complex adaptive system?

I trust my gut,
Our project is too complex
for logic and evidence.



Dissemination of Cancer Control in Complex Adaptive Systems

- Apply the tools of complex systems analyses for improving implementation and dissemination of EBI.
- Engage key stakeholders at multiple levels to better understand and intervene.
- Use systematic processes for developing D&I strategies using theory, empirical evidence, and advances in implementation science.



Definitions: Dissemination & Implementation Research

- **Dissemination research** is the scientific study of targeted distribution of evidence (knowledge, interventions, practices, policies) to a specific public health or clinical practice audience. The intent is to understand how best to spread and sustain evidence-based interventions.
- **Implementation research** is the scientific study of the use of strategies to adopt and integrate evidence-based health interventions into clinical and community settings in order to improve patient/population outcomes.

Implementation Science

Implementation Science

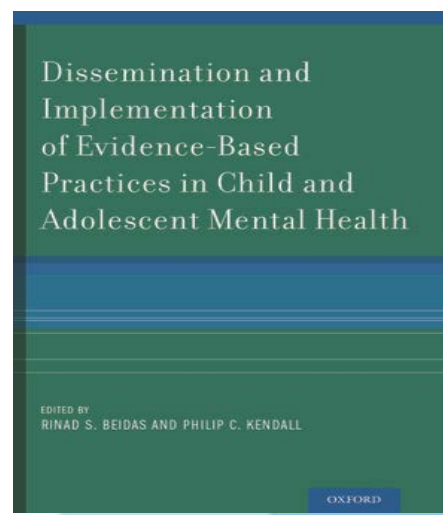
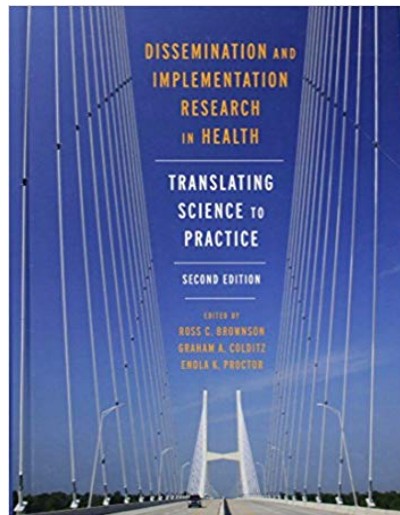
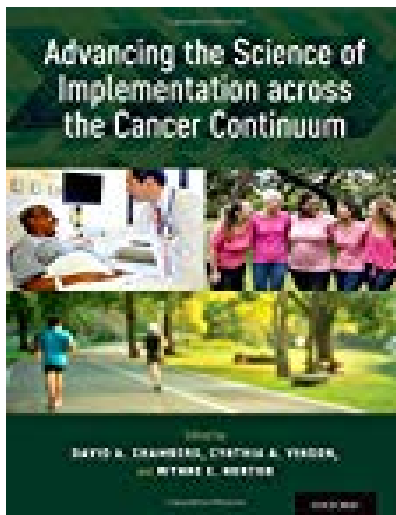


Research article

Open Access

Fostering implementation of health services research findings into practice: a consolidated framework for advancing implementation science

Laura J Damschroder*¹, David C Aron², Rosalind E Keith¹, Susan R Kirsh², Jeffery A Alexander³ and Julie C Lowery¹



Center for Scientific Review: Dissemination and Implementation
Research in Health Study Section



5th Biennial Society for
Implementation Research
Conference: September 12-14,
2019



[12th Annual Conference on the
Science of Dissemination and
Implementation in Health](#)
December 4-6, 2019

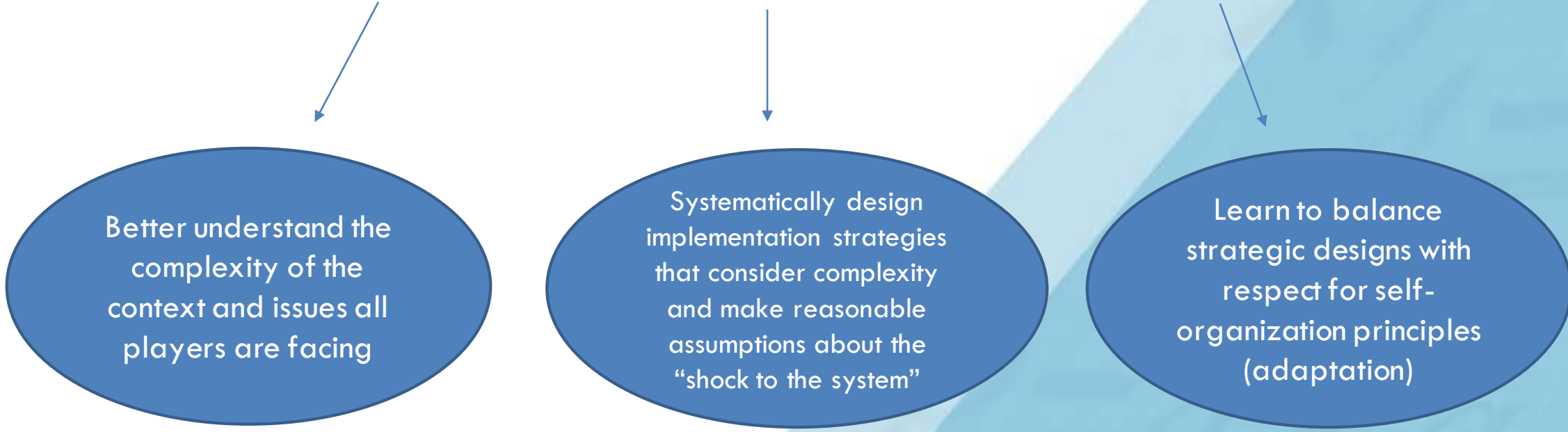
Research to Practice



Wait, what? You are saying we need more research to figure out what to do with all of this research?

Addressing Complexity to Enhance D&I

To address complexity, dissemination and implementation strategy planners must:



Better understand the complexity of the context and issues all players are facing

Systematically design implementation strategies that consider complexity and make reasonable assumptions about the “shock to the system”

Learn to balance strategic designs with respect for self-organization principles (adaptation)

Reference:

Sarriot, E., & Kouletio, M. (2014). Community Health Systems as Complex Adaptive Systems: Ontology and Praxis Lessons from an Urban Health Experience with Demonstrated Sustainability. *Systemic Practice and Action Research*, 28(3), 255–272. doi: 10.1007/s11213-014-9329-9

Optimization of Evidence-Based Cancer Control Interventions

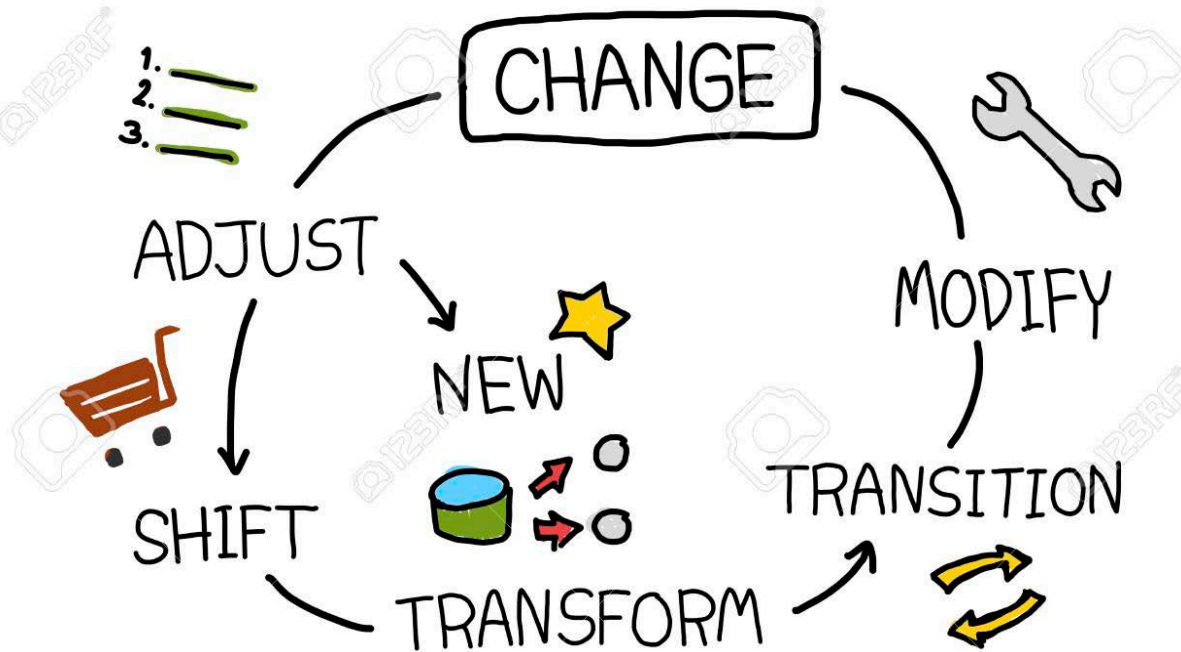


Optimization is: “A deliberate, iterative and data-driven process to improve a health intervention and/or its implementation to meet stakeholder-defined public health impacts within resource constraints”.

- Adaptation
- Developing, Selecting, and Tailoring Implementation Strategies

Wolfenden L, ...Fernández ME, Yoong S. Optimisation: defining and exploring a concept to enhance the impact of public health initiatives. *Health Research Policy and Systems*. 2019. In press.

Program Adaptation



“Planned or purposeful changes to the design or delivery of an intervention”

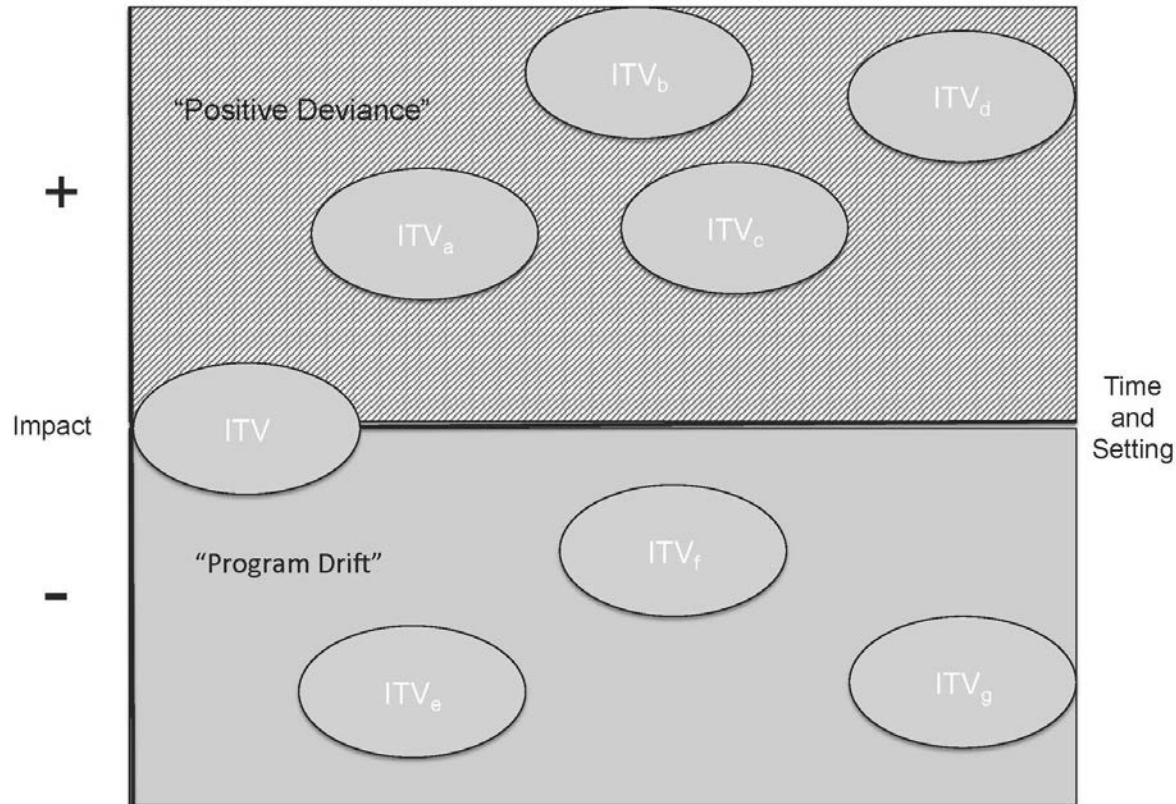
Fidelity?



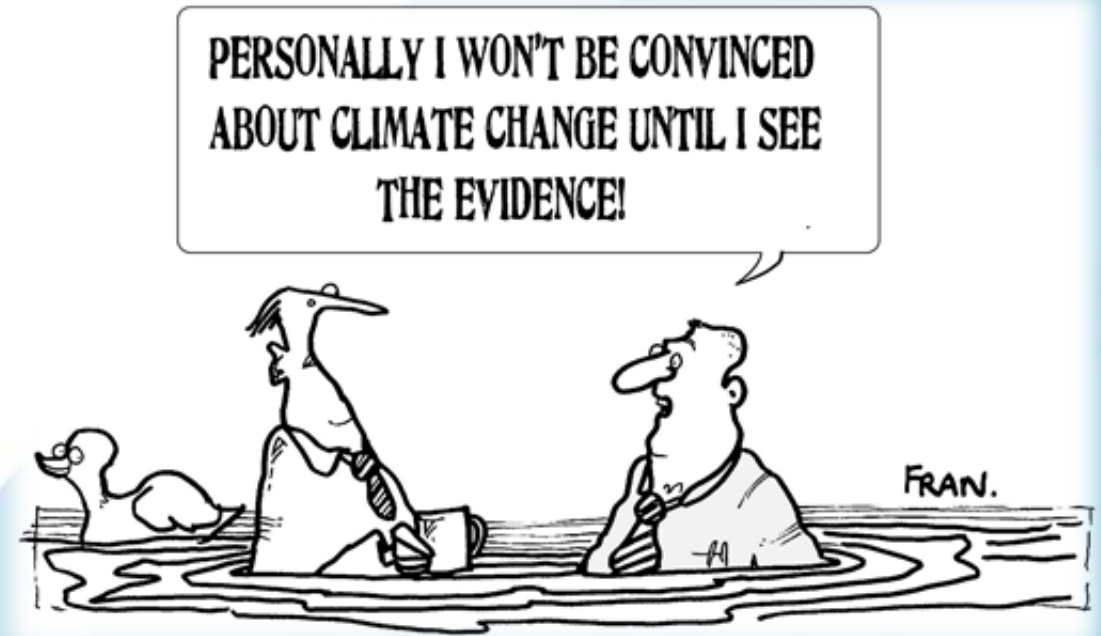
Core Elements: required components that most likely produce the EBI's effectiveness. Core elements include:

1. Content
2. Delivery strategies
3. Methods/ mechanisms of change

Assumptions limiting progress...



Program Drift



Permanence of Evidence Base

Fidelity vs Adaptation



Historical view of fidelity vs adaptation

A mature view of fidelity and adaptation



Implementation and Dissemination Strategies

Methods or techniques used to enhance the adoption, implementation, sustainment, and scale-up of a program or practice.

Proctor, Powell, & McMillen (2013); Powell, Garcia, & Fernandez (2018)

Effective Dissemination and Implementation Strategies

Intervention Category

Intervention Examples

Dissemination Targeting
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Train the trainer, academic detailing, treatment algorithms, role modeling, multiple dissemination strategies, postal delivery

Dissemination Targeting
ORGANIZATIONS

Example: HMOs

Evidence-based manuals, workshops, targeted approaches to management, passive dissemination of worksite interventions

Dissemination Targeting
INDIVIDUALS

Media awareness campaigns & peer leader programs

References:

Ellis, P., Robinson, P., Ciliska, D., Armour, T., Brouwers, M., O'Brien, M. A., ... Raina, P. (2005). A Systematic Review of Studies Evaluating Diffusion and Dissemination of Selected Cancer Control Interventions. *Health Psychology, 24*(5), 488–500. doi: 10.1037/0278-6133.24.5.488

Updated Compilation Types of Implementation Strategies

Implementation Science (2015) 10:21
DOI 10.1186/s13012-015-0209-1

RESEARCH

Open Access

A refined compilation of implementation strategies: results from the Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change (ERIC) project

Byron J Powell^{1*}, Thomas J Waltz², Matthew J Chinman^{3,4}, Laura J Damschroder⁵, Jeffrey L Smith⁶, Monica M Matthieu^{6,7}, Enola K Proctor⁸ and JoAnn E Kirchner^{6,9}

- Use Evaluative and Iterative Strategies
- Provide Interactive Assistance
- Adapt and Tailor to Context
- Develop Stakeholder Interrelationships
- Train and Educate Stakeholders
- Support Clinicians
- Engage Consumers
- Utilize Financial Strategies
- Change Infrastructure

Powell, et al. 2015; Powell*, BJ, Garcoa, KG, Fernández ME, Implementation Strategies. In: *Advancing the Science of Implementation across the Cancer Continuum*. 2018. Eds. Chambers, DA, Vinson, CA, Norton, WE. 2018, Oxford Press.

Challenges in Selecting Implementation and Dissemination Strategies

- ❑ While some compilations exist, they may be less relevant for certain settings (clinical vs public health or community settings)
- ❑ Strategies included in compilations are broad and may represent qualitatively different things (delivery channel, assessments, processes)
- ❑ Underutilization of conceptual models and theories,
- ❑ Variations related to the EBPs and the contexts in which they are implemented

Strategies: A Research Agenda



Enhancing the Impact of Implementation Strategies in Healthcare: A Research Agenda

Byron J. Powell^{1,2,3}, Maria E. Fernandez⁴, Nathaniel J. Williams⁵, Gregory A. Aarons⁶,
Rinad S. Beidas^{7,8,9}, Cara C. Lewis¹⁰, Sheena M. McHugh¹¹ and Bryan J. Weiner¹²*

1. Need to Enhance Methods for Designing and Tailoring

Methods to Improve the Selection and Tailoring of Implementation Strategies

Byron J. Powell, PhD

Rinad S. Beidas, PhD

Cara C. Lewis, PhD

Gregory A. Aarons, PhD

J. Curtis McMillen, PhD

Enola K. Proctor, PhD

David S. Mandell, ScD

- 🔗 **Group Model Building**
- 🔗 **Conjoint Analysis**
- 🔗 **Concept Mapping**
- 🔗 **Intervention Mapping**

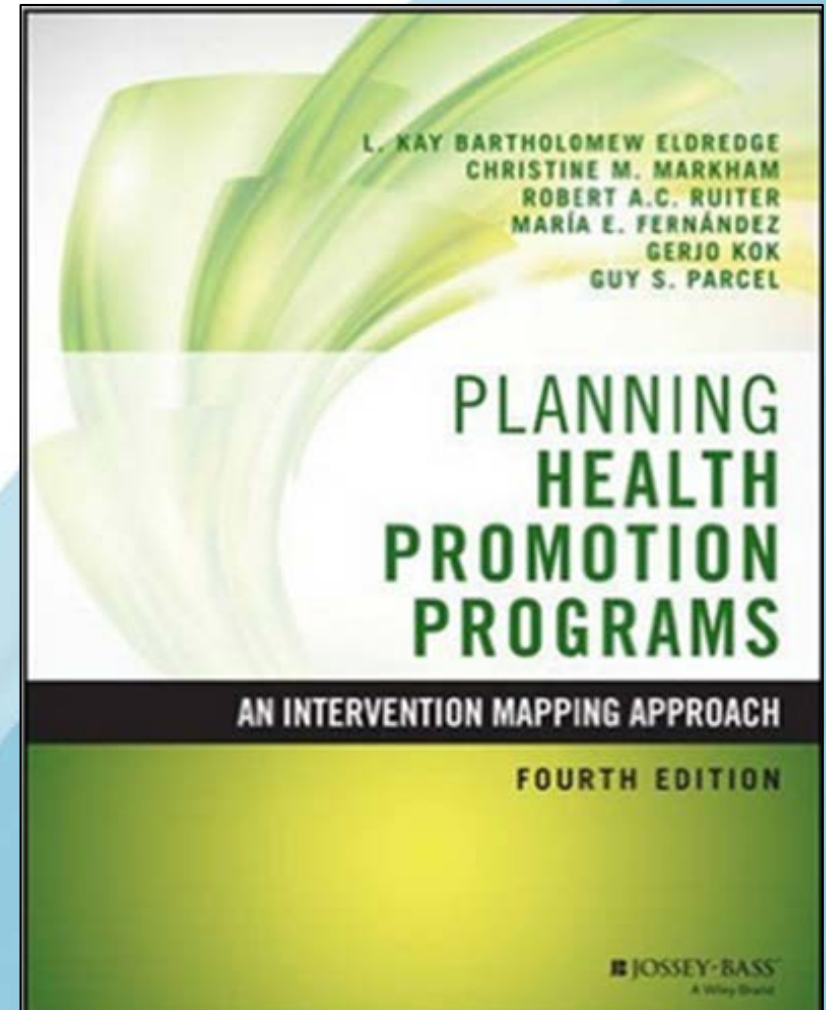
Intervention Mapping:

A Systematic Approach for Program, Development, Implementation and Adaptation

Three ways to use IM for D&I

1. Designing programs in ways that enhance its potential for being adopted, implemented, and sustained
2. Using IM processes to adapt existing evidence-based interventions
3. **Designing implementation and dissemination strategies to influence adoption, implementation and continuation:**
Implementation Mapping

Bartholomew Eldredge, LK, Markham, CM, Ruiter, RAC, Fernández, M.E., Kok, G, Parcel, GS (Eds.). Jan 201). *Planning health promotion programs: An Intervention Mapping approach* (4th ed.). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.



What is Implementation Mapping?

The Use of the Intervention Mapping Protocol for planning Implementation Strategies (Implementation Interventions).

Implementation science + Intervention Mapping = **Implementation Mapping**



Implementation Mapping: Using Intervention Mapping to Develop Implementation Strategies

Maria E. Fernandez^{1*}, Gill A. ten Hoor², Sanne van Lieshout³, Serena A. Rodriguez^{1,4}, Rinad S. Beidas^{5,6}, Guy Parcel¹, Robert A. C. Ruiter², Christine M. Markham¹ and Gerjo Kok²

¹ Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health, Houston, TX, United States, ² Department of Work and Social Psychology, Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherlands, ³ Department of Public Health, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands, ⁴ Department of Population and Data Sciences, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, United States, ⁵ Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, United States, ⁶ Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, United States

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

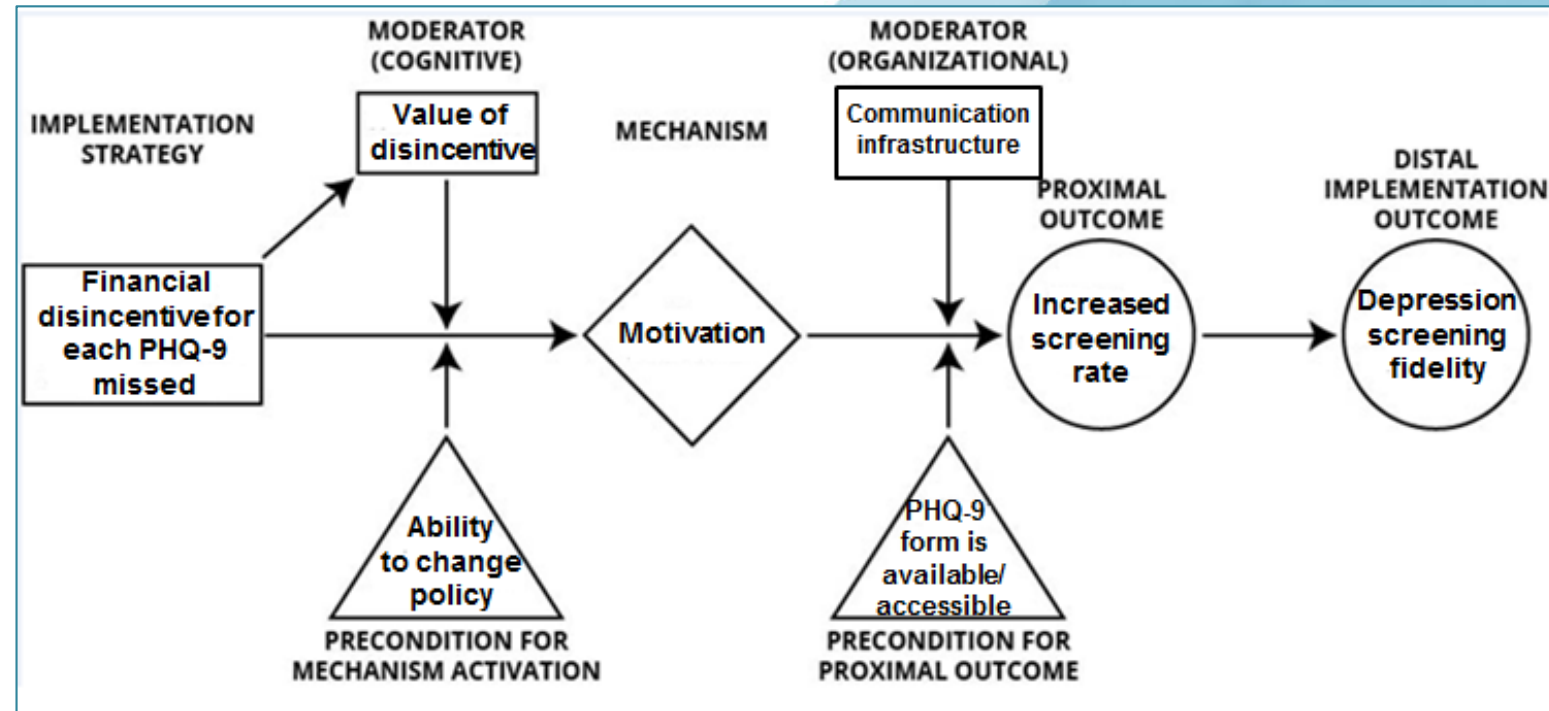
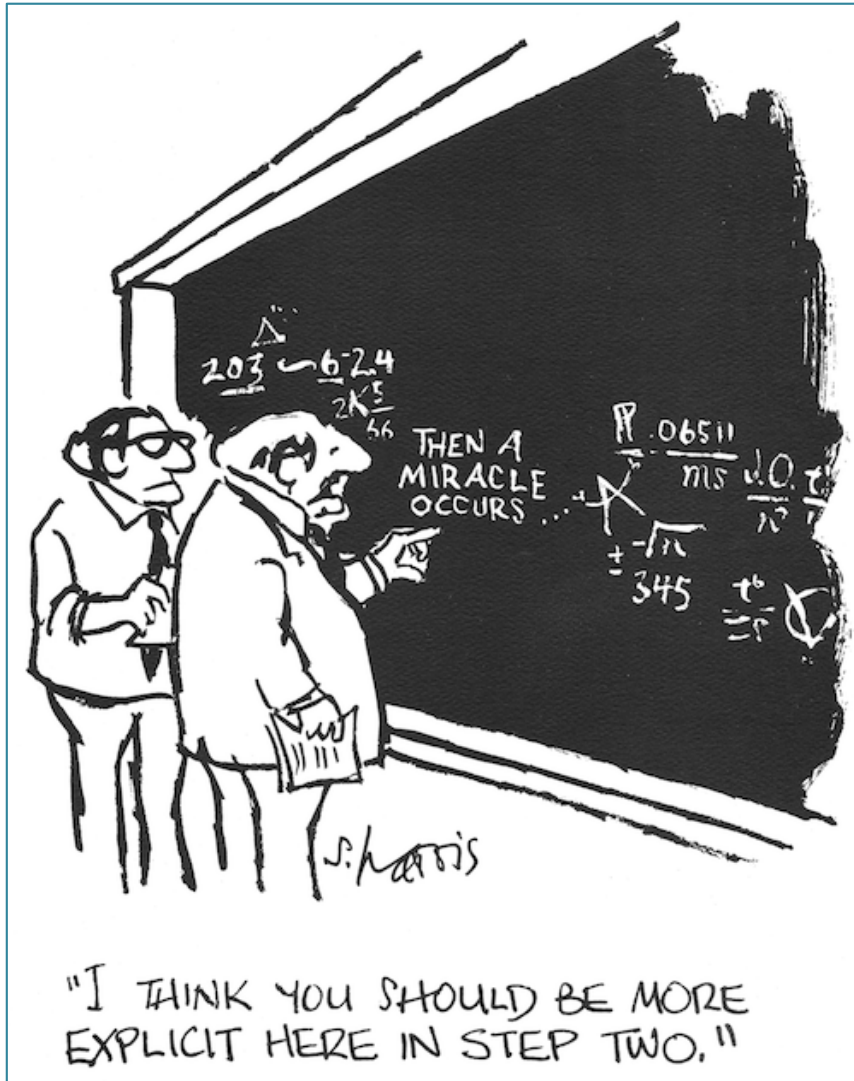
Knowledge generation comes from the hands of practitioners/implementers as much as it comes from those usually playing the role of intervention researcher.



Reference:

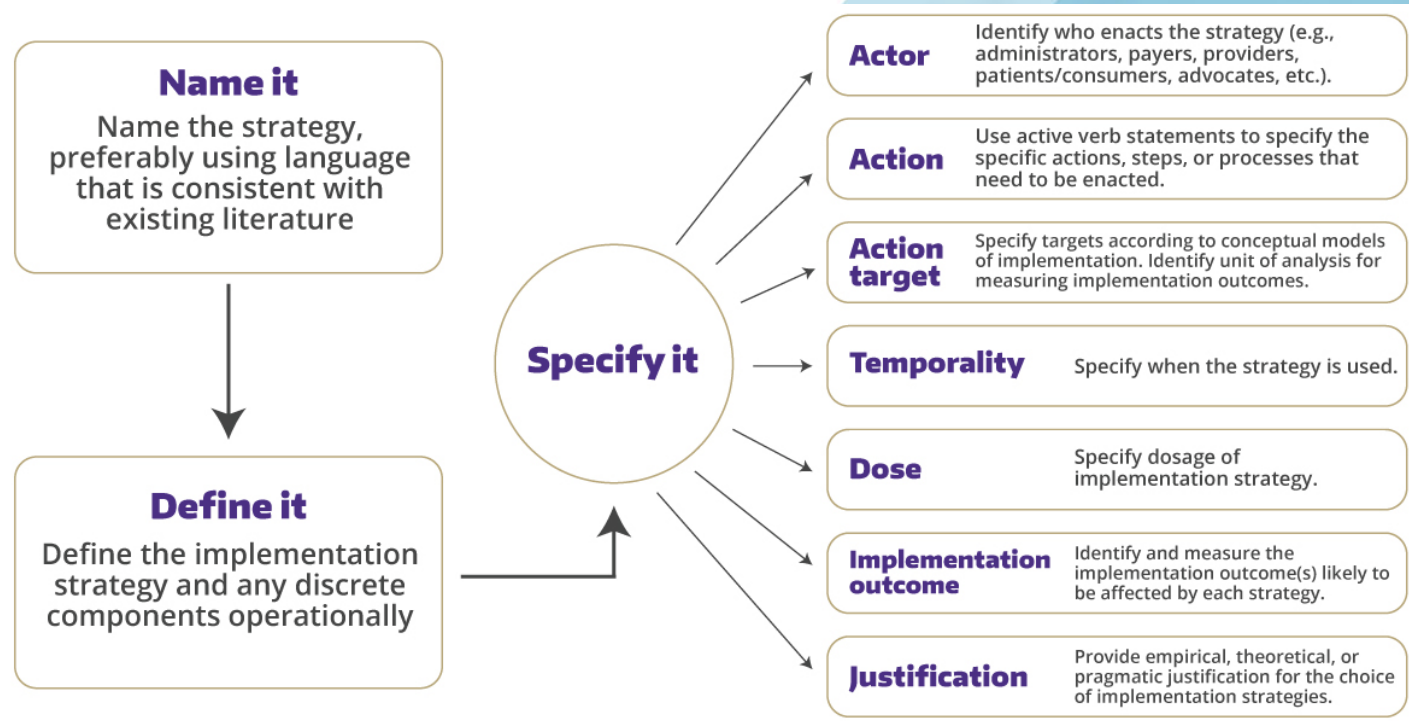
Hawe, P. (2015). Lessons from Complex Interventions to Improve Health. *Annual Review of Public Health*, 36(1), 307–323.
doi: 10.1146/annurev-publhealth-031912-114421

2. Specify & Test Mechanisms



3. Improve Description, Tracking, and Reporting

- ❧ Poor description, tracking, and reporting:
 - ❧ Limits replication in science and practice
 - ❧ Precludes answers to how and why strategies work
- ❧ Numerous reporting guidelines exist

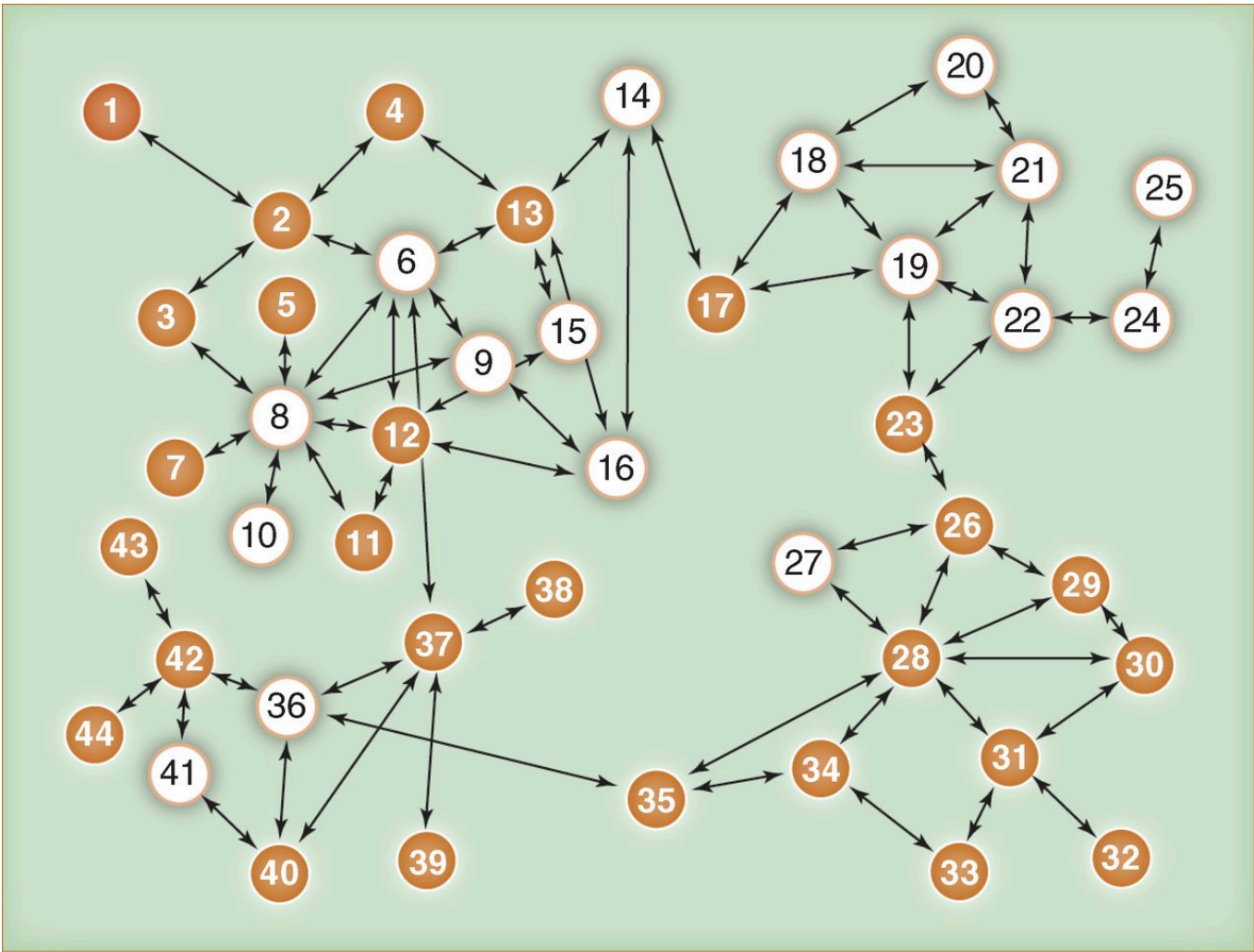


4. Increase Economic Evaluations

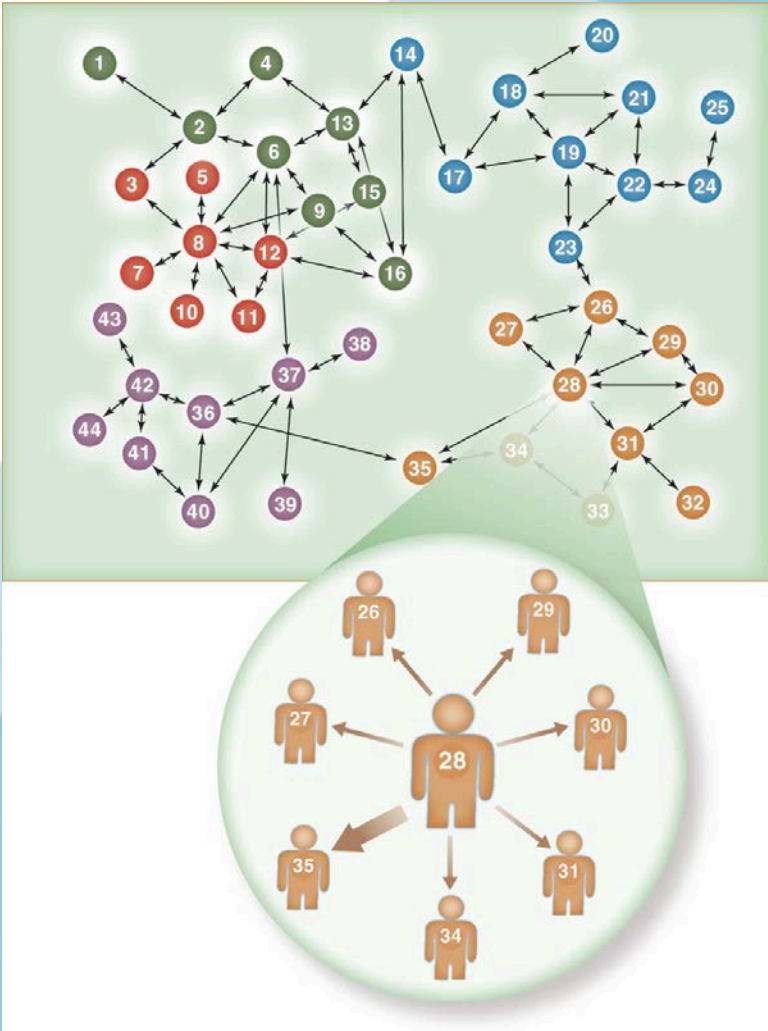
- ❑ In a review of 235 implementation studies, only 10% provided information about implementation costs
- ❑ Severely inhibits decision making regarding strategies
- ❑ Practical tools have been developed (e.g., COINS)
- ❑ Common framework facilitating comparability is needed

New Strategies: Network Interventions

Hypothetical network used to illustrate intervention techniques.



Network segmentation, with each group represented by a distinct color (top).



New Strategies: Adaptive Interventions

Goal: Implement and evaluate practical, scalable, evidence based tobacco cessation strategies among populations most impacted by tobacco use

Partnerships

Utah FQHCs (11 systems; 33 clinics)

Utah Tobacco Quit Line

Utah Department of Health

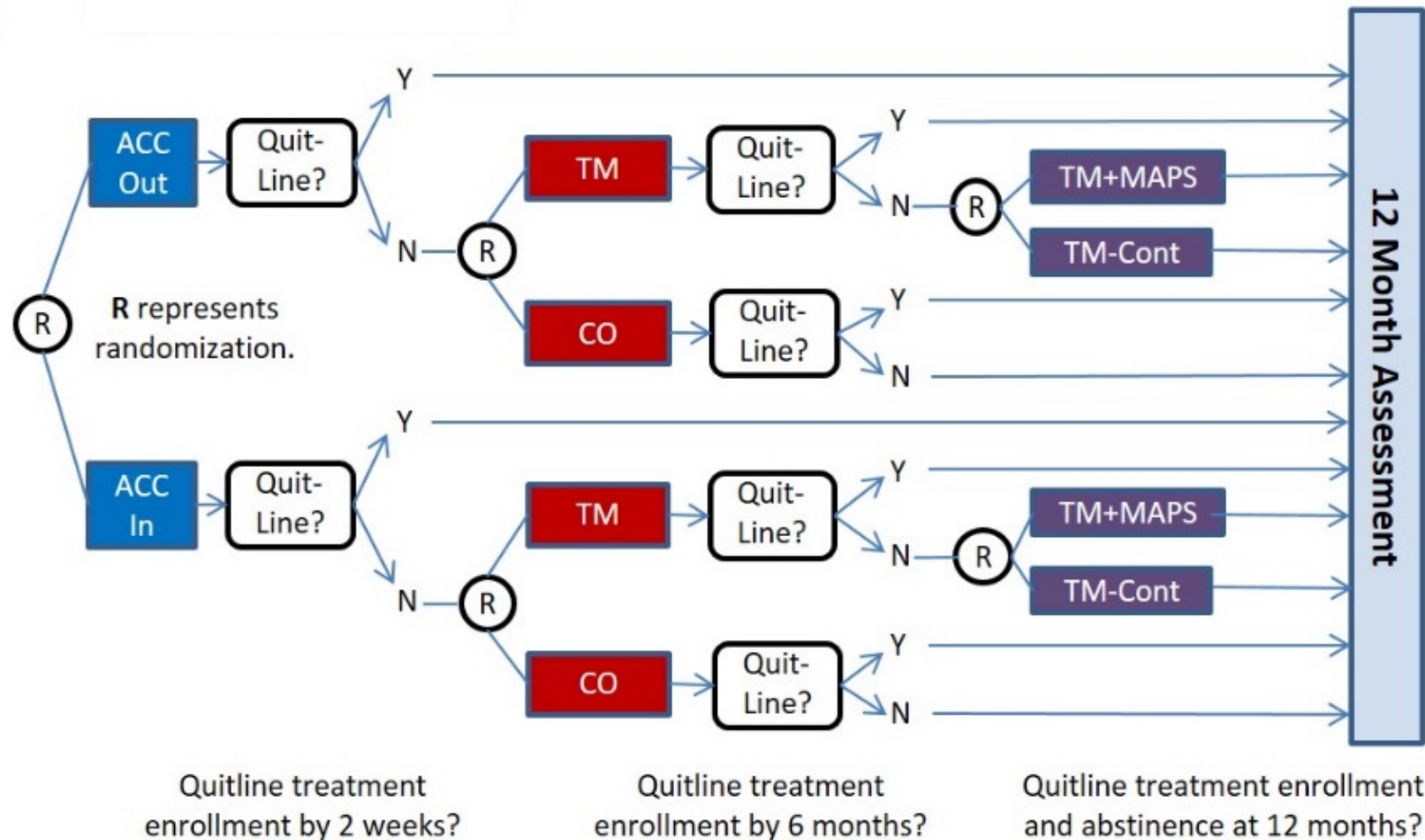
- Reallocated their tobacco control resources to provide prescription meds

Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH)

- AUCH tobacco control staff member works 80% time on QuitSMART Utah at Center for HOPE



SMART: Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trial



Clinic-Level Randomization: Phase 1

- AAC Out = Ask, Advise, Connect – Opt Out
- AAC In = Ask, Advise, Connect – Opt In

Patient-Level Randomization: Phase 2

TM = Text Messaging; CO = Connect Only

Patient-Level Randomization: Phase 3

- TM+MAPS = Text Messaging Continued + Navigation
- TM-Cont = Text Messaging Continued

New Strategies: Advancing Precision Medicine with mHealth: Increasing Effectiveness and Reach

Precision Medicine: Takes into account *individual variability in genes, environment, and lifestyle* for each person

Just-In-Time Adaptive Interventions (JITIs)

- Real time, real world, precision tailored interventions
- Integrated into healthcare systems focused on underserved populations

Assessment Approaches

- Streaming physiology via on-body sensors
- Streaming GPS/GIS
- Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA)



What is De-Implementation?

De-Implementation Research: Study of how to remove, replace, reduce (frequency and/or intensity) or restrict use of ineffective, untested, harmful, overused, inappropriate, and/or low-value health services and practices delivered to patients by health care providers and health systems.

1. **Ineffective**: Empirical evidence demonstrates that intervention does not work.
2. **Contradicted**: More recent, higher-quality empirical evidence indicates that intervention does not work.
3. **Mixed**: Quality and quantity of evidence is equal in support of and against use of intervention.
4. **Untested**: Little to no empirical evidence about intervention.



Improvements in dissemination requires:

- ❑ Shift the academic culture and incentives to include a greater focus on linking scientists with research users
- ❑ Enhance expectations from funders of research for more consistent and intentional dissemination.
- ❑ Identify and emphasize related incentives for dissemination in other organizations with a stake in dissemination (eg, creative approaches among publishers).
- ❑ Design studies in a way that emphasizes dissemination early in the research process through involvement of stakeholders.
- ❑ Track impact with metrics that focus on use of research outside of academe.

Brownson RC, Eyler AA, Harris JK, Moore JB, Tabak RG. Getting the Word Out: New Approaches for Disseminating Public Health Science. *J Public Health Manag Pract*. 2018;24(2):102–111.

Summary

- There is much to learn about how we can bridge the gap between cancer control research and practice.
- It is critical to consider the dynamic and complex cancer control system as we move from discovery to delivery and use the advances in systems thinking and other tools to do so.
- Implementation science can help bridge the gap by:
 - ▣ building an actionable and pragmatic knowledge base to help understand determinants of implementation and dissemination;
 - ▣ and developing strategies to accelerate and improve scale up and spread of effective cancer control research innovations.

Acknowledgements

David Chambers, PhD, National Cancer Institute

Wynne Norton, PhD, National Cancer Institute

Brian Mittman, PhD, Kaiser Permanente

Byron Powell, PhD, Washington University