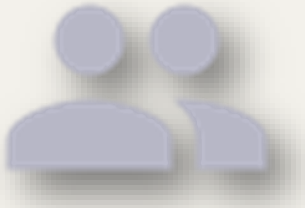
Overview of the Environmental Health Matters Initiative

Jonathan M. Samet, MD, MS
Dean and Professor
Colorado School of Public Health

EHMI VISION

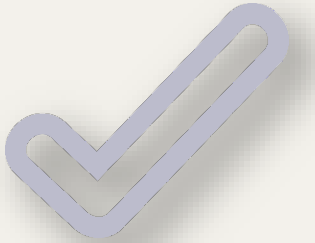
The Environmental Health Matters Initiative seeks to improve the **health of all people equitably** by promoting **evidence-based** assessment, prevention, adaptation, and strategic mitigation of **complex and interconnected environmental stressors** that affect human health and disease over lifetimes.

The EHMI Provides…



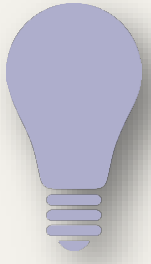
CONNECTION

The unique ability to convene stakeholders from different backgrounds, sectors, institutions, and scientific disciplines.



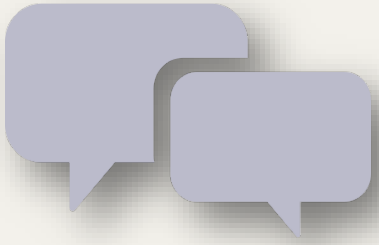
CREDIBILITY

A long organizational history of working in the environmental health field.



STEWARDSHIP

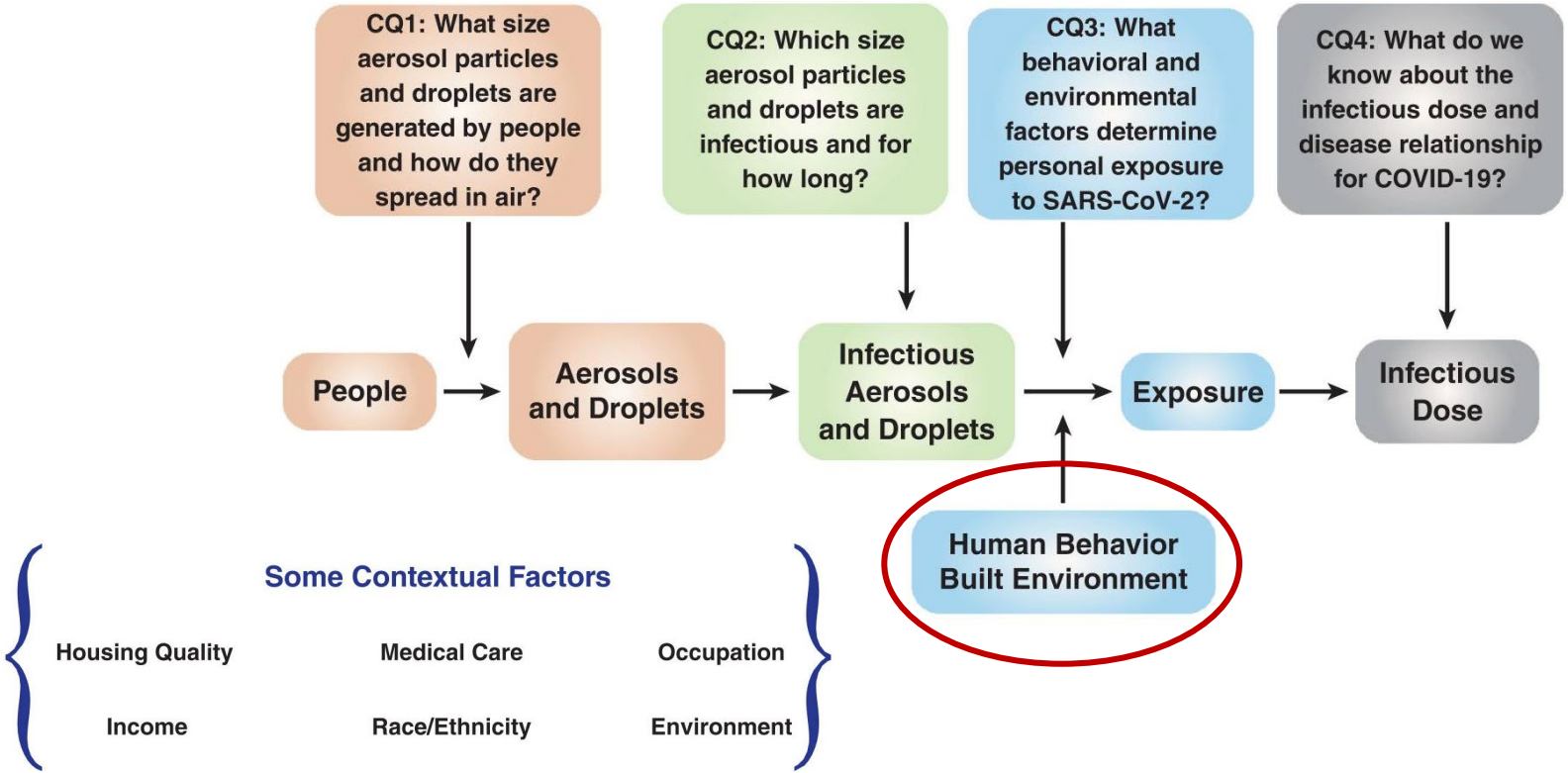
Leadership from an experienced program and advisory committees with experts from government, business, and academia.



NEUTRALITY

A neutral, nonpartisan space where stakeholders can share insights.

EHMI Workshop on Airborne Transmission, 2020: Framework and Key Questions



Overview of the Indoor Air Management of Airborne Pathogens Workshop Series

Linsey Marr, Ph.D
Professor
Virginia Tech

Workshop Series Planning Committee

Linsey Marr (Co-Chair)
Virginia Tech

Jonathan M. Samet (Co-Chair)
Colorado School of Public Health

Theresa Chapple-McGruder
Oak Park Department of Public Health

James W. Fox
Transportation Safety and Security consultant and Former AGM System Safety at SEPTA

John McCarthy
Environmental Health and Engineering, Inc

Catherine Noakes
University of Leeds

Lucas Rocha-Melogno
ICF

Monica Schoch-Spana
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

Jeffrey M. Vincent
University of California, Berkeley

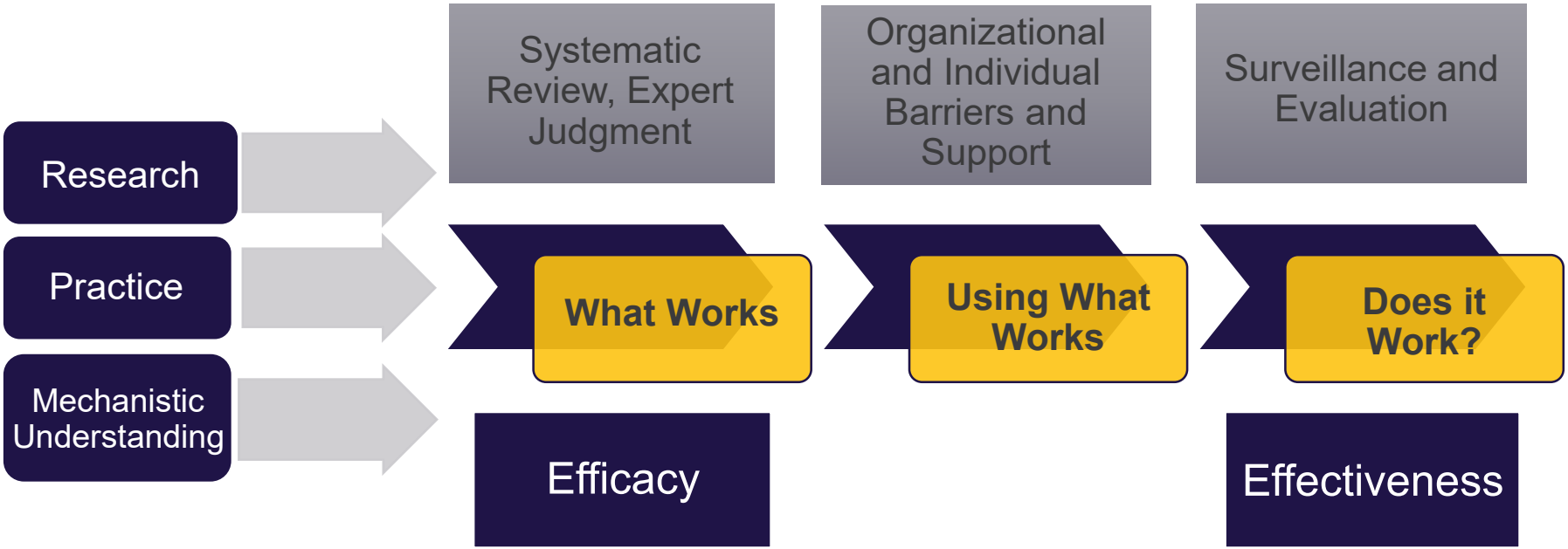
Goals of the Workshop Series

Drawing on lessons learned and new research on indoor air management since 2020, this workshop series will convene an interdisciplinary and multisectoral group of natural, physical, and social scientists together with facilities managers, ventilation engineers, and representatives of populations using public and private facilities.

Through panel discussions and participatory exercises, the participants will:

1. Review the state of knowledge concerning building management, ventilation, and air cleaning for airborne pathogens;
2. Discuss experiences with management of enclosed spaces during the pandemic; and
3. Identify promising practices to be adopted to make these places safer.

Discussion Framework



Workshop #1


NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine
Environmental Health Matters Initiative
Indoor Air Management of Airborne Pathogens: A Virtual Workshop Series
Virtual Workshop
Indoor Air Management of Airborne Pathogens: Lessons, Practices, and Innovations
August 18, 2022 | 11:30AM - 3:30PM EDT

Key Takeaways from Workshop #1

1. Masking, ventilation, filtration, and UV reduce the amount of virus in the air and thus reduce the risk of transmission.
2. We need to start with the basics, ensuring that our existing engineering systems are appropriately designed, sized, and operating. Then optimization and innovation.
3. Implementation requires attention to human factors.

Goal Workshop #2

- Identify promising practices to be adopted at different levels to make access to education equitable and safe.

Agenda at a Glance

Session 1

Review the state of knowledge concerning research regarding school building performance and management to reduce transmission of airborne pathogens equitably

Session 2

Case studies - On-the-ground experience

Session 3

Implementation - Local, State, and Federal roles

Session 1: State of the Knowledge

Speakers

- **Cath Noakes**, University of Leeds

  Funding: UKRI EPSRC, Department for Health and Social Care
- **Paula Olsiewski,** Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

  Funding: Open Philanthropy Project
- **Julia Raifman**, Boston University

  Funding: NIH and RWJF

Panelists

- **Joe Allen**, Harvard University

  No financial support related to topic
- **Elliott Gall**, Portland State University

  Funding: EPA Science to Achieve Results: R840238
- **Timothy D. Unruh**, National Association of Energy Service Companies

  No financial support related to topic