



# THE ECOSYSTEM OF EVIDENCE

Global challenges for the future

9<sup>th</sup> International Conference for EBHC Teachers and Developers  
8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Society for EBHC  
Taormina, 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November 2019

#EBHC2019

## Evidence-Informed Health Policymaking *for* Impact

***Prof Lubna A Al-Ansary, MBBS, MSc, MRCGP, FRCGP***

جامعة  
الملك سعود  
King Saud University



# Disclosure of no conflict of interest

- I have no personal or financial interests to declare.
- I have no financial support for the current presentation.







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#EBHC2019



2009



2005



2001

- PROGRAM
- LECTURES
- WORKSHOPS
- WHY
- WHERE
- FEEES
- REGISTER
- BOARD
- SPONSOR
- GIMBE
- ISEHC
- ARCHIVE
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## Archive



2017



2015

Special thanks to this great audience ...

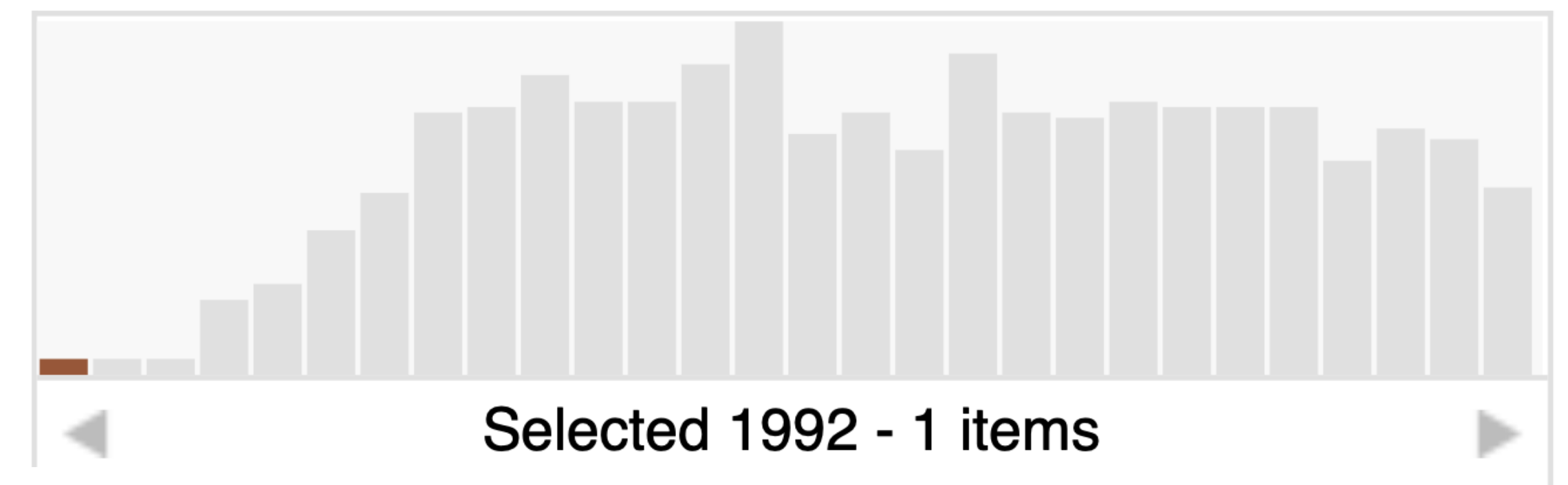
**25  
Years**



# Evidence-Based Medicine in PubMed

- **178,252 items**
- **14,793 items [Title/Abstract]**
- **4,192 [Title]**

## Results by year



[Evidence-based medicine. A new approach to teaching the practice of medicine.](#)

**Evidence-Based Medicine Working Group.**

JAMA. 1992 Nov 4;268(17):2420-5. No abstract available.

PMID: 1404801

[Similar articles](#)

**Evidence-based medicine. A new approach to teaching the practice of medicine.**

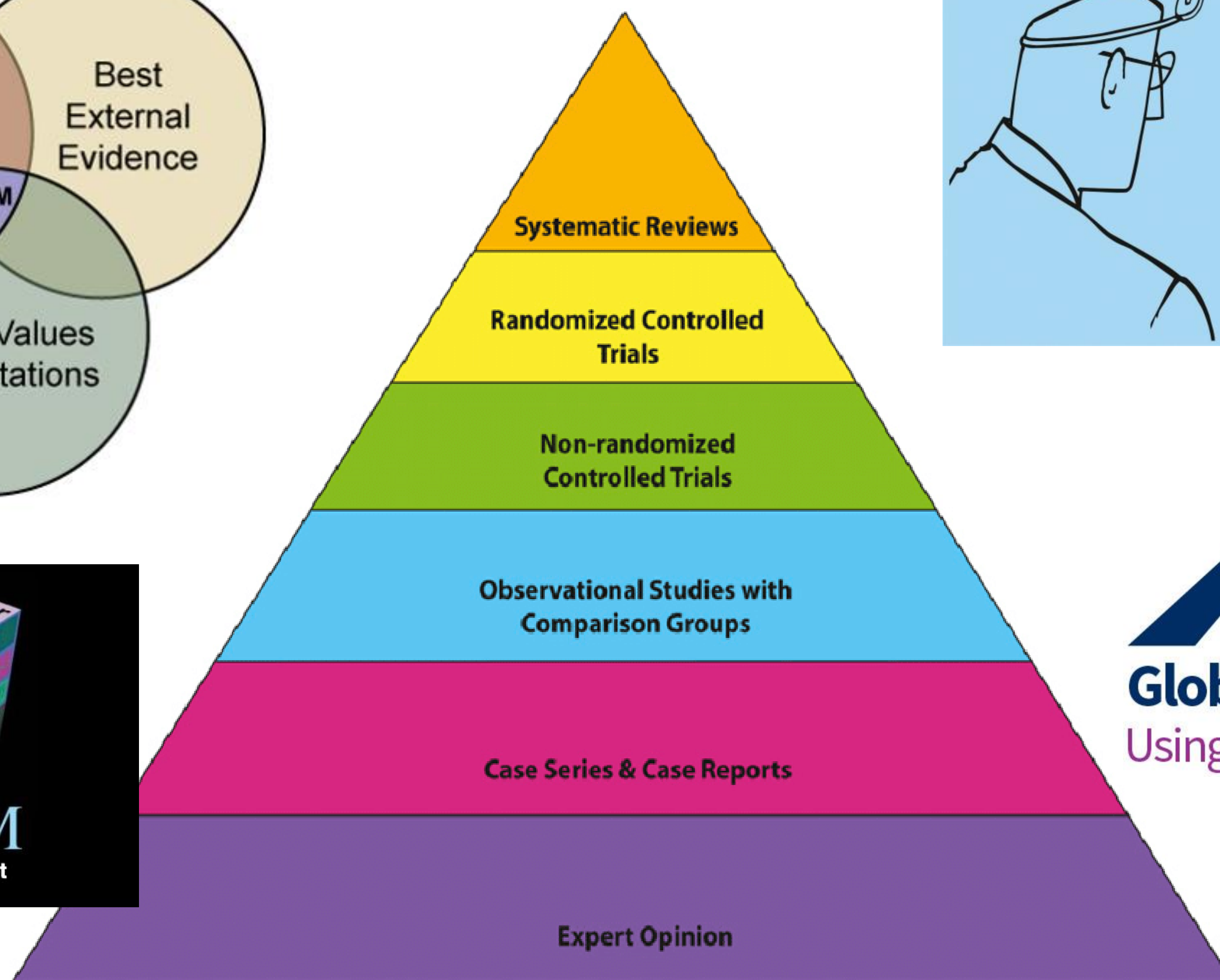
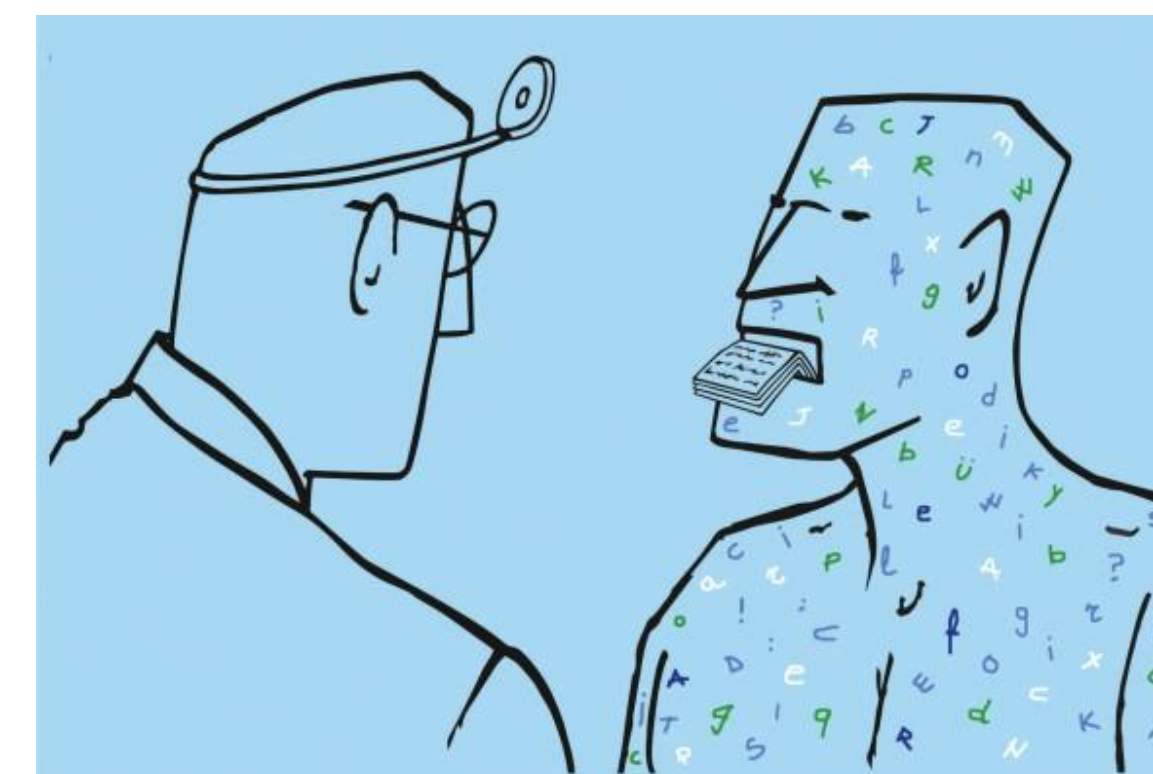
**Evidence-Based Medicine Working Group.**

JAMA. 1992 Nov 4;268(17):2420-5. No abstract available.

Gordon Guyatt, MD, MSc; John Cairns, MD; David Churchill, MD, MSc; Deborah Cook, MD, MSc; Brian Haynes, MD, MSc, PhD; Jack Hirsh, MD; Jan Irvine, MD, MSc; Mark Levine, MD, MSc; Mitchell Levine, MD, MSc; Jim Nishikawa, MD; David Sackett, MD, MSc; Patrick Brill-Edwards, MD; Hertzell Gerstein, MD, MSc; Jim Gibson, MD; Roman Jaeschke, MD, MSc; Anthony Kerigan, MD, MSc; Alan Neville, MD; Akbar Panju, MD; Allan Detsky, MD, PhD; Murray Enkin, MD; Pamela Frid, MD; Martha Gerrity, MD; Andreas Laupacis, MD, MSc; Valerie Lawrence, MD; Joel Menard, MD; Virginia Moyer, MD; Cynthia Mulrow, MD; Paul Links, MD, MSc; Andrew Oxman, MD, MSc; Jack Sinclair, MD; Peter Tugwell, MD, MSc



# The EBM Approach ...



**Global Evidence Summit**  
Using evidence. Improving lives.







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# Outline

- Introduction to evidence use in healthcare
- Health policymaking?
- EBM is different from evidence-informed policymaking
  - ▣ The nature of evidence needed
  - ▣ Facilitators and barriers to evidence use
- Does producing evidence-informed policies lead to impact?
- Encouraging and enabling evidence use in policymaking
  - ▣ WHO's role
- Final words

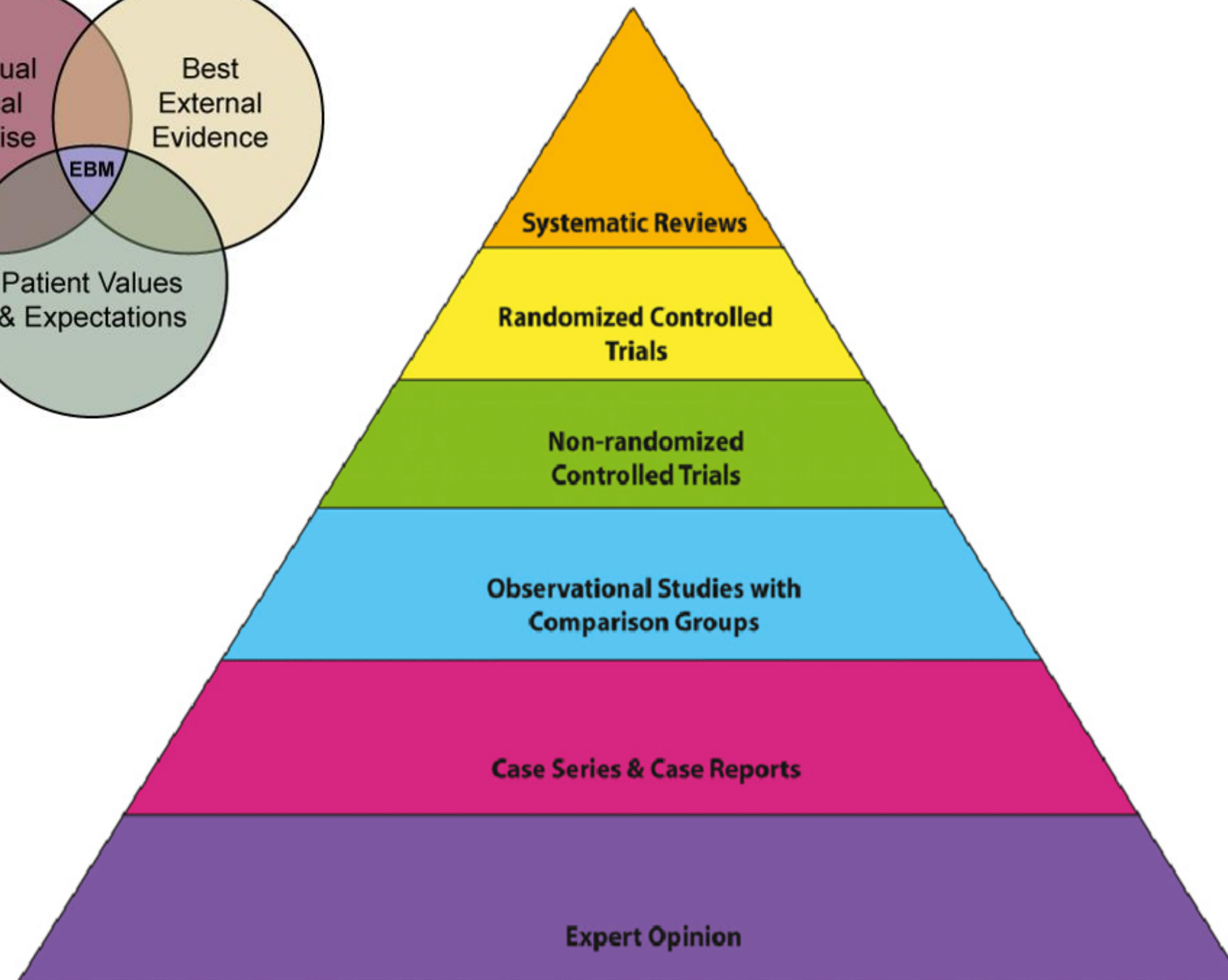
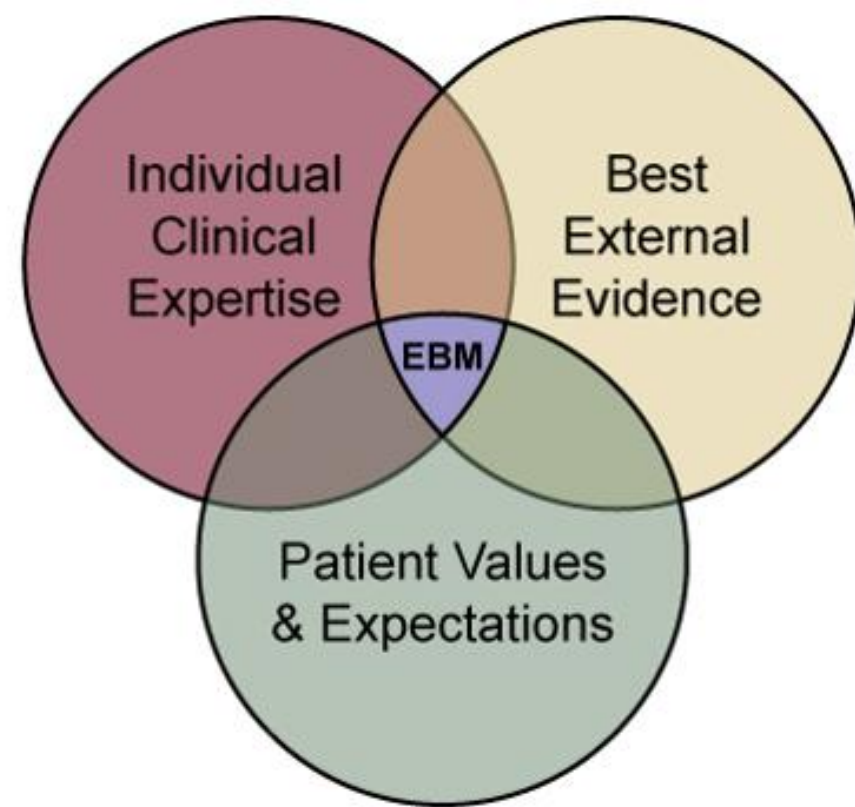
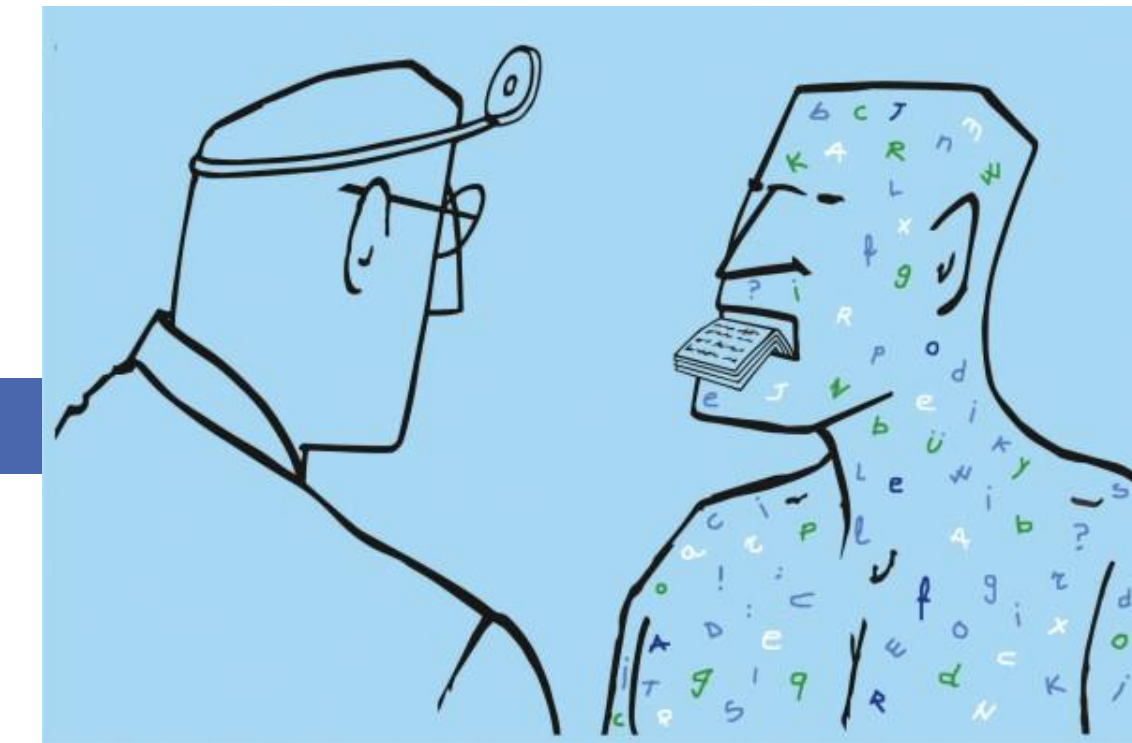


## The Use of Evidence in Healthcare ...

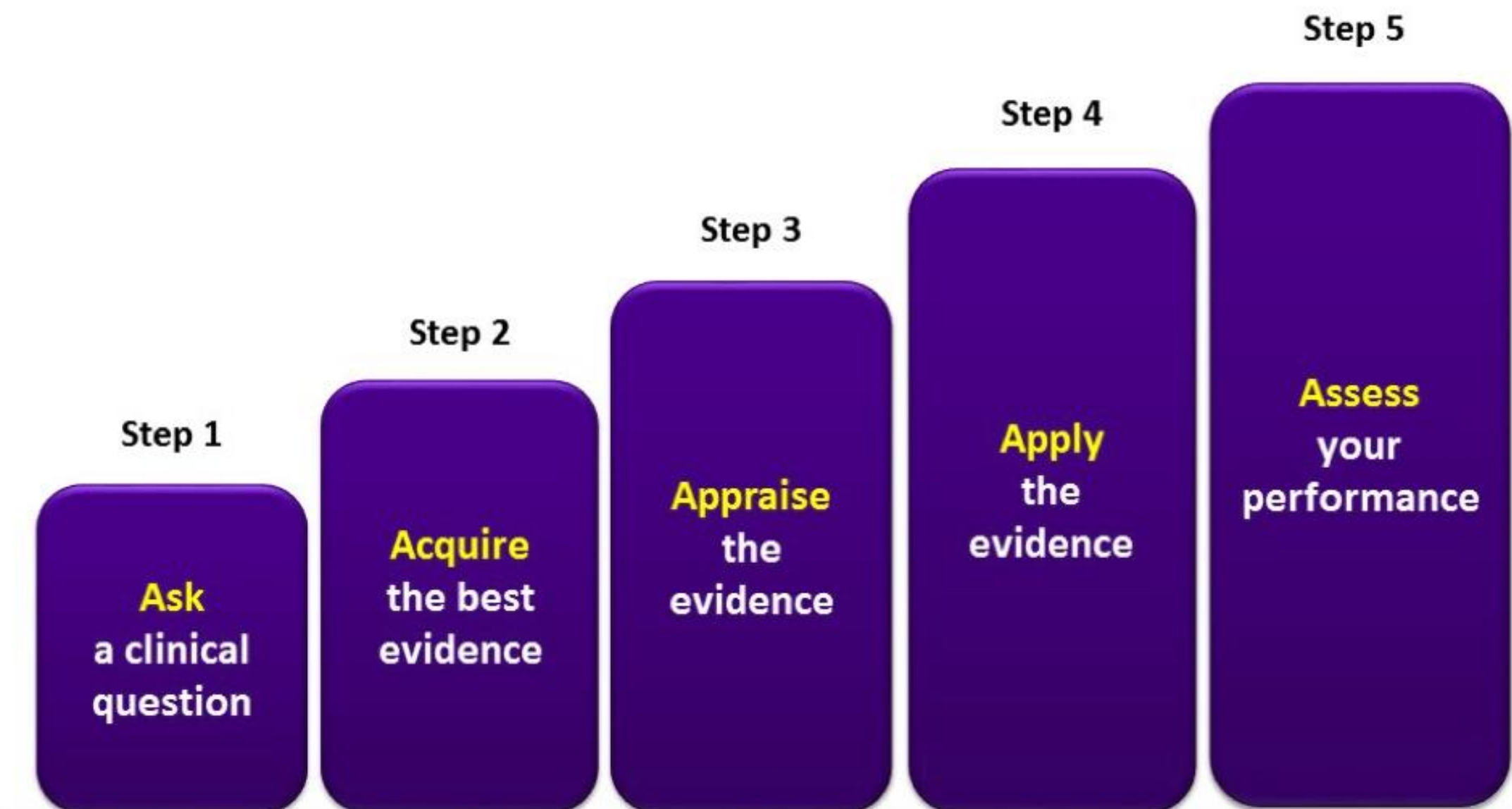
- Large and unjustified variation in clinical practice *(Wennberg et al, 2016)*
- Significant levels of inappropriate care *(Brook, 1994)*
- Evidence of overmedicalization and treatment-induced ill health *(Illich, 1974)*

**25  
Years**

# The EBM Approach ...



## The 5 Steps of Evidence-Based Medicine



# The EBM Approach / Movement ...

- Can be regarded as a **disruptive technology** – a new way of doing things that sought to overturn previous practices.
- Was **radical**, in that it challenged standard practice or policy and, more fundamentally, the assumed authority of the clinical professional and the centralised policy-making apparatus.
- Had the potential to **democratise** decision-making by making research evidence available for everyone.



# Common Criticisms of EBM

- Too many guidelines, unsuited for local application.
- Objectifies medicine: used as a control tool and erodes the professional role.
- Evidence base is overly influenced by commercial interests.
- Much research is of poor quality.
- Too many published findings turn out to be false or non-replicable.
- Remaining gains from forced implementation are now only marginal.
- Cannot deal adequately with complexity of comorbidities.
- Does not sufficiently incorporate patient preferences.



# ANALYSIS

## ESSAY

### Evidence based medicine: a movement in crisis?

**Trisha Greenhalgh and colleagues** argue that, although evidence based medicine has had many benefits, it has also had some negative unintended consequences. They offer a preliminary agenda for the movement's renaissance, refocusing on providing useable evidence that can be combined with context and professional expertise so that individual patients get optimal treatment

Trisha Greenhalgh *dean for research impact*<sup>1</sup>, Jeremy Howick *senior research fellow*<sup>2</sup>, Neal Maskrey *professor of evidence informed decision making*<sup>3</sup>, for the Evidence Based Medicine Renaissance Group

<sup>1</sup>Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, London E1 2AB, UK; <sup>2</sup>Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford OX2 6NW, UK; <sup>3</sup>Keele University, Staffs ST5 5BG, UK



# Evidence-based medicine has been hijacked: a report to David Sackett

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<sup>b</sup>*Department of Health Research and Policy, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA 94305, USA*

<sup>c</sup>*Department of Statistics, Stanford University School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford, CA 94305, USA*

<sup>d</sup>*Meta-Research Innovation Center at Stanford (METRICS), Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA*

Accepted 18 February 2016; Published online 2 March 2016

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## Abstract

This is a confession building on a conversation with David Sackett in 2004 when I shared with him some personal adventures in evidence-based medicine (EBM), the movement that he had spearheaded. The narrative is expanded with what ensued in the subsequent 12 years. EBM has become far more recognized and adopted in many places, but not everywhere, for example, it never acquired much influence in the USA. As EBM became more influential, it was also hijacked to serve agendas different from what it originally aimed for. Influential randomized trials are largely done by and for the benefit of the industry. Meta-analyses and guidelines have become a factory, mostly also serving vested interests. National and federal research funds are funneled almost exclusively to research with little relevance to health out-





# Hijacked evidence-based medicine: stay the course and throw the pirates overboard

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<sup>a</sup>*Department of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, 1265 Welch Rd, MSOB X306, Stanford, CA 94305, USA*

<sup>b</sup>*Department of Health Research and Policy, Stanford University School of Medicine, 1265 Welch Rd, MSOB X306, Stanford, CA 94305, USA*

<sup>c</sup>*Department of Statistics, Stanford University School of Humanities and Sciences, 1265 Welch Rd, MSOB X306, Stanford, CA 94305, USA*

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## Abstract

The article discusses a number of criticisms that have been raised against evidence-based medicine, such as focusing on benefits and ignoring adverse events; being interested in averages and ignoring the wide variability in individual risks and responsiveness; ignoring clinician-patient interaction and clinical judgement; leading to some sort of reductionism; and falling prey to corruption from conflicts of interest. I argue that none of these deficiencies are necessarily inherent to evidence-based medicine. In fact, work in evidence-based medicine has contributed a lot towards minimizing these deficiencies in medical research and medical care. However, evidence-based medicine is paying the price of its success: having become more widely recognized, it is manipulated and misused to support subverted or perverted

# “Renaissance” in EBM – Back to the Basics





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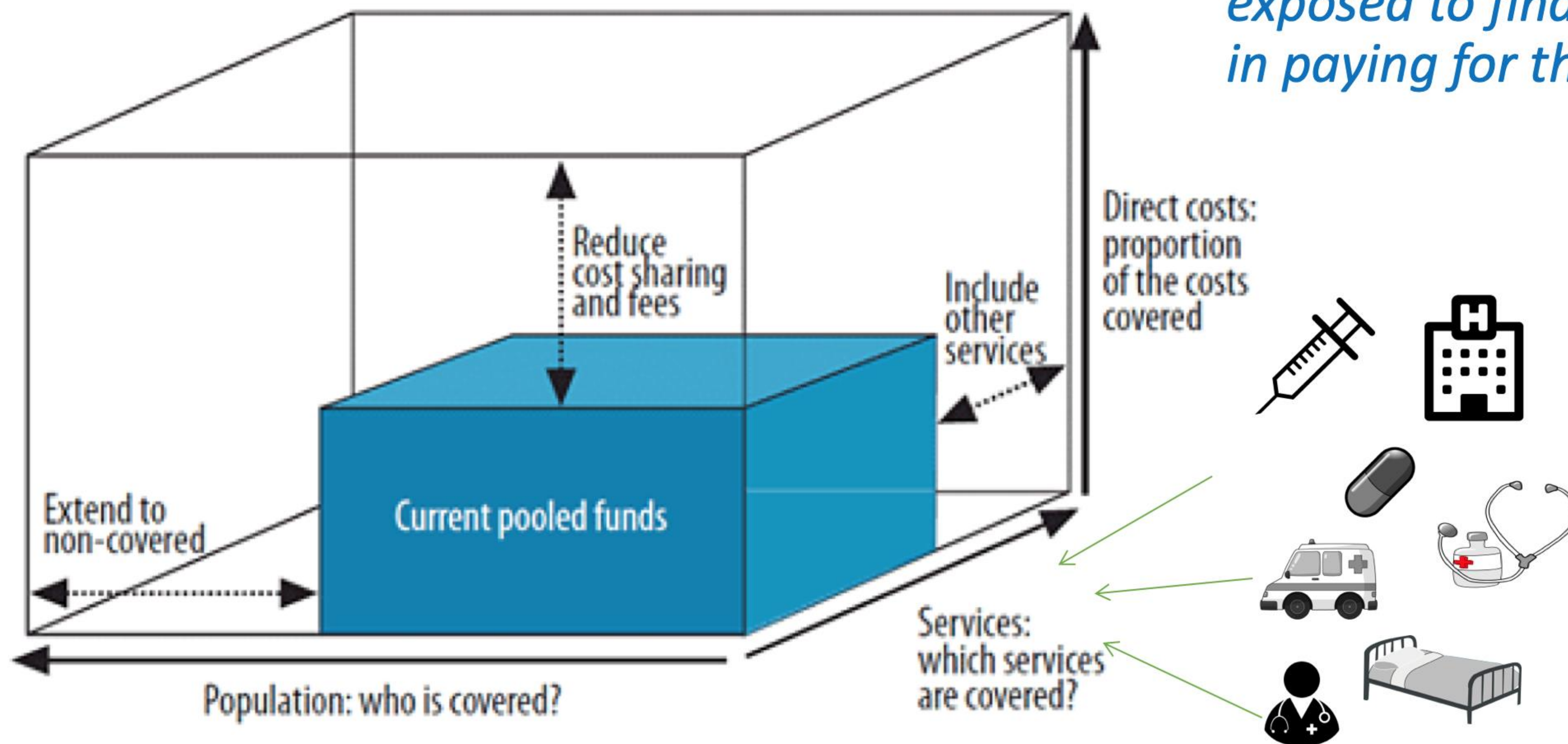
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# Moving toward UHC

*“...all people receiving quality health services that meet their needs, without being exposed to financial hardship in paying for the services.”*



Three dimensions to consider when moving towards universal coverage



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

**1** NO POVERTY

**2** ZERO HUNGER

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION

**5** GENDER EQUALITY

**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**13** CLIMATE ACTION

**14** LIFE BELOW WATER

**15** LIFE ON LAND

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# Estimates of Annual US HC Waste, by Category

## \$ in Billions

Annual Cost to US Health Care System in 2011			
	Low	Midpoint	High
Failures of care delivery	102	128	154
Failures of care coordination	25	35	45
Overtreatment	158	192	225
Administrative complexity	107	248	389
Pricing failures	34	131	178
Fraud and abuse	82	177	272
<b>Total</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>1263</b>
<b>% of total Spending</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>47</b>

(Berwick & Hackbarth 2012)



# The Challenge of Sustainable Healthcare

- **Sustainable healthcare (HC) is an emerging global challenge.**
- **The changing demographics, the surge of lifestyle-related chronic disease, technology advances, and increased expectations are all contributing to greater demand.**
- **To be sustainable, HC has to be:**
  - ✓ value-driven,
  - ✓ effective,
  - ✓ affordable,
  - ✓ fit-for-the-future
  - ✓ leaving no one behind.









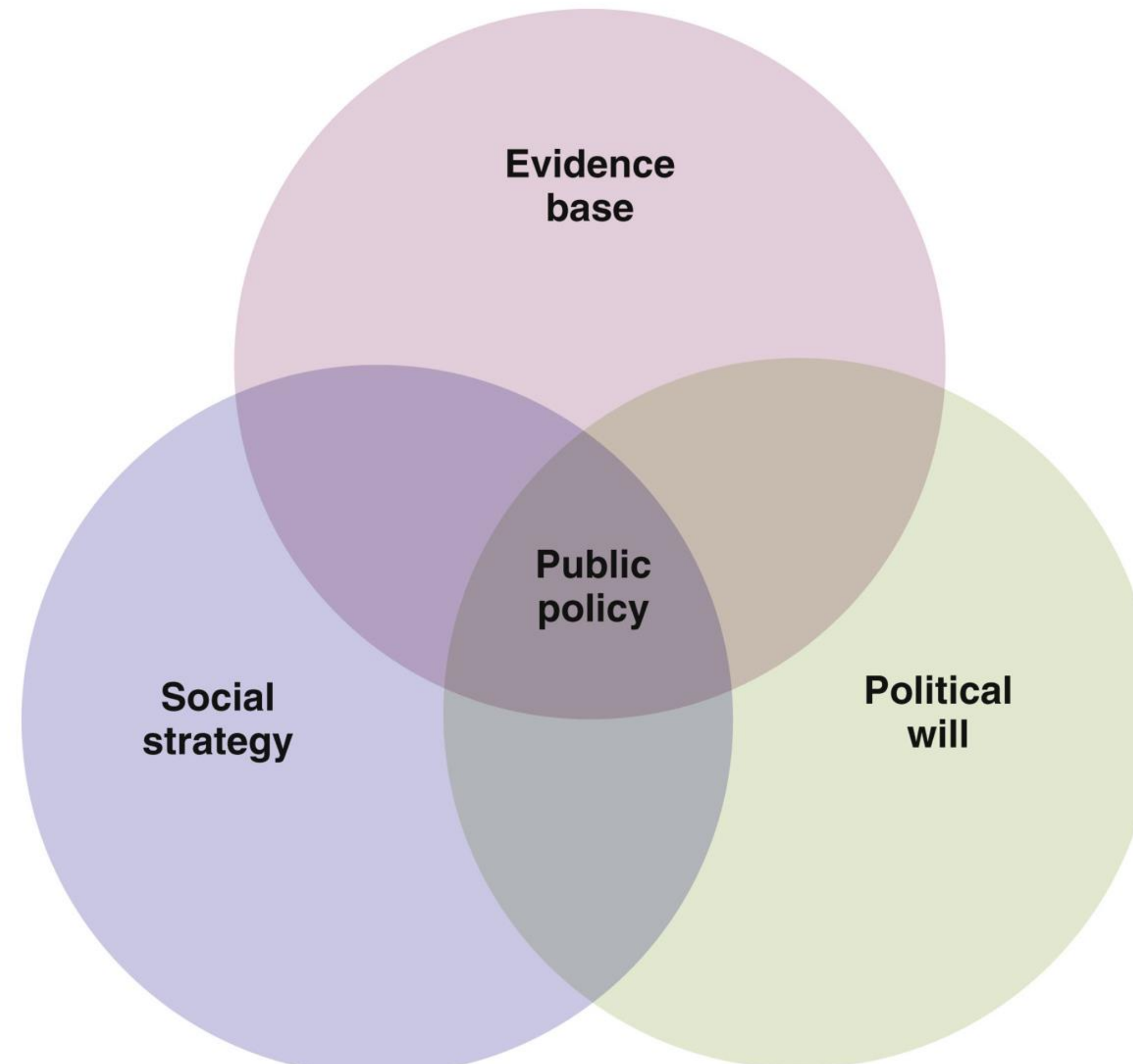


Health Policy is ..

Chess while playing rugby on a speedy train.

*Schwartz M.D. Rules of the game. In: Sessums S, Moran B, Rich E, Dennis L, Liebow M, eds. Clinicians and Health Care Advocacy . New York: Springer; 2011.*

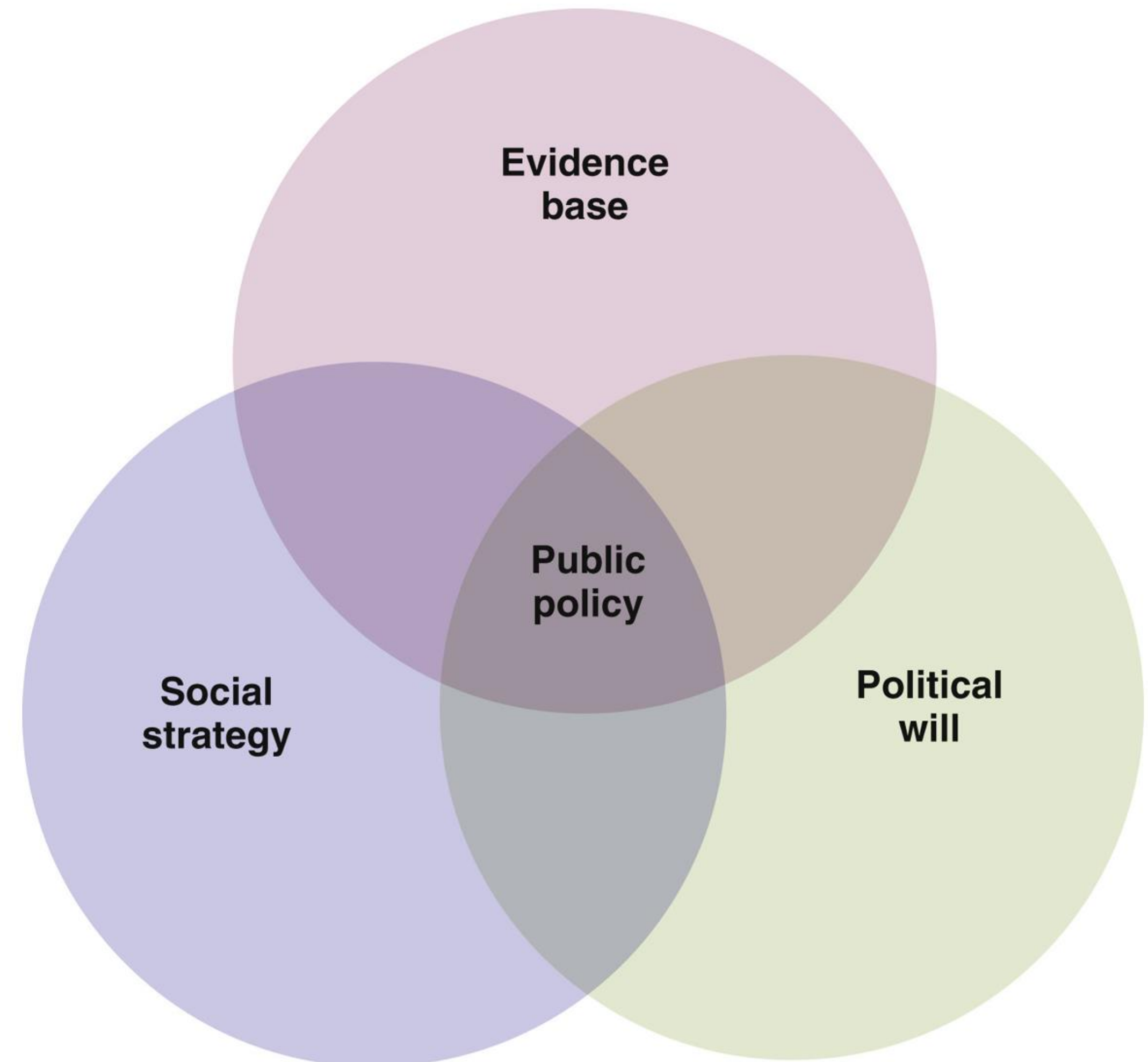
# Health Policy is ...



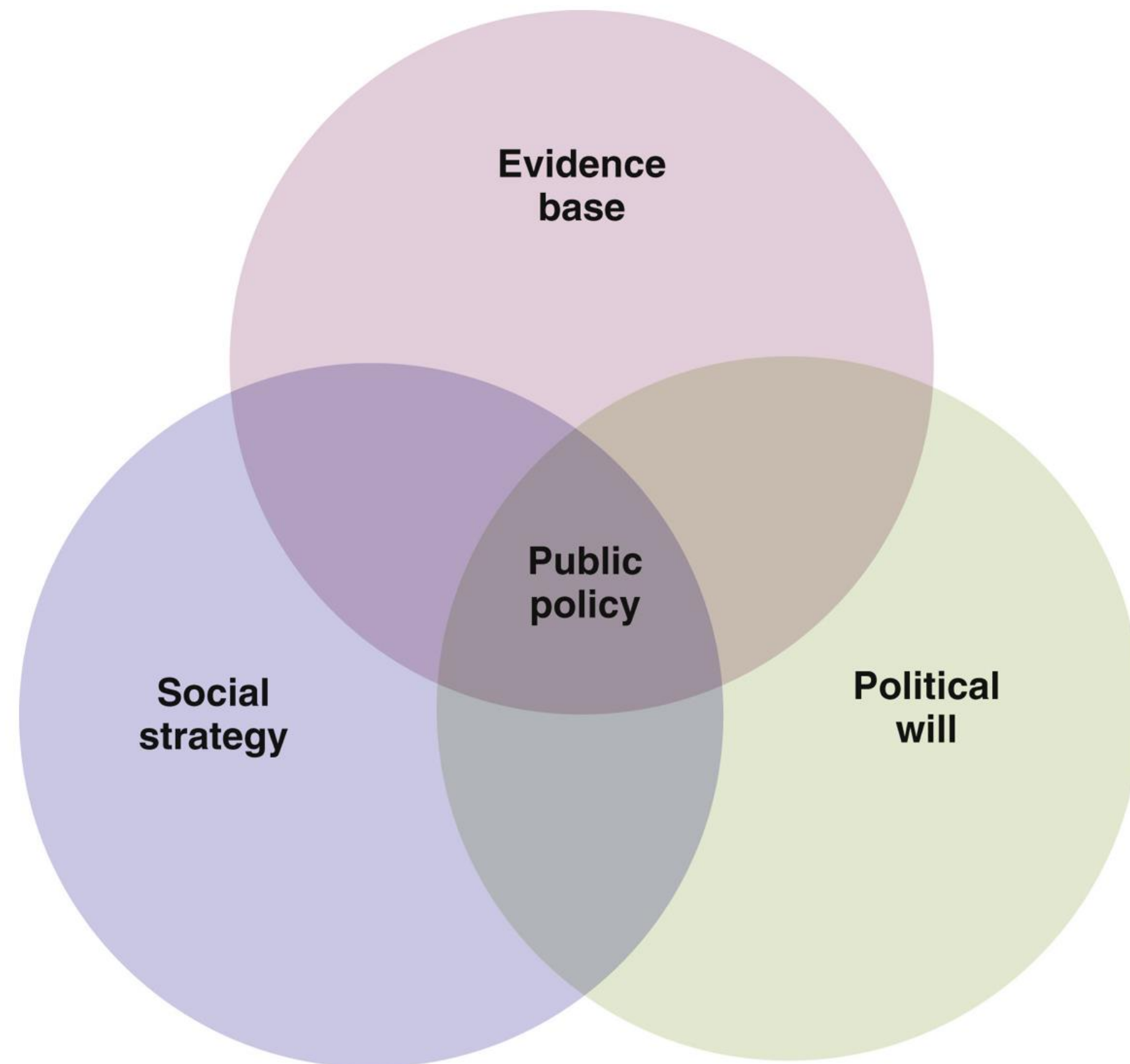
# Health Policy

## Social Strategy

Actual detailed *policy plan or approach* to address a problem along with the *social infrastructure (or systems)* in place to support the strategy



# Health Policy



## Political Will

Public understanding and support for the resources needed to implement the strategy and achieve the solution.

1. Patients
2. Providers
3. Payers
4. Public entities

# Evidence-Informed Policy Making (EIPM)

- Using the **best available** data and research evidence – systematically and transparently – **in the time available** in each of:
  - Prioritizing **problems** and understanding their causes (*agenda setting*)
  - Deciding which **option** to pursue (*policy or program/service/product selection*)
  - Ensuring that the chosen option makes an optimal impact at an acceptable cost (**implementation**)
  - Monitoring implementation and **evaluating** impact.
- Alongside the institutional constraints, interest group pressure, citizen values (and other sources of ideas) that influence the decision-making process (i.e. **alongside political forces**).

# Evidence Needed



Resources



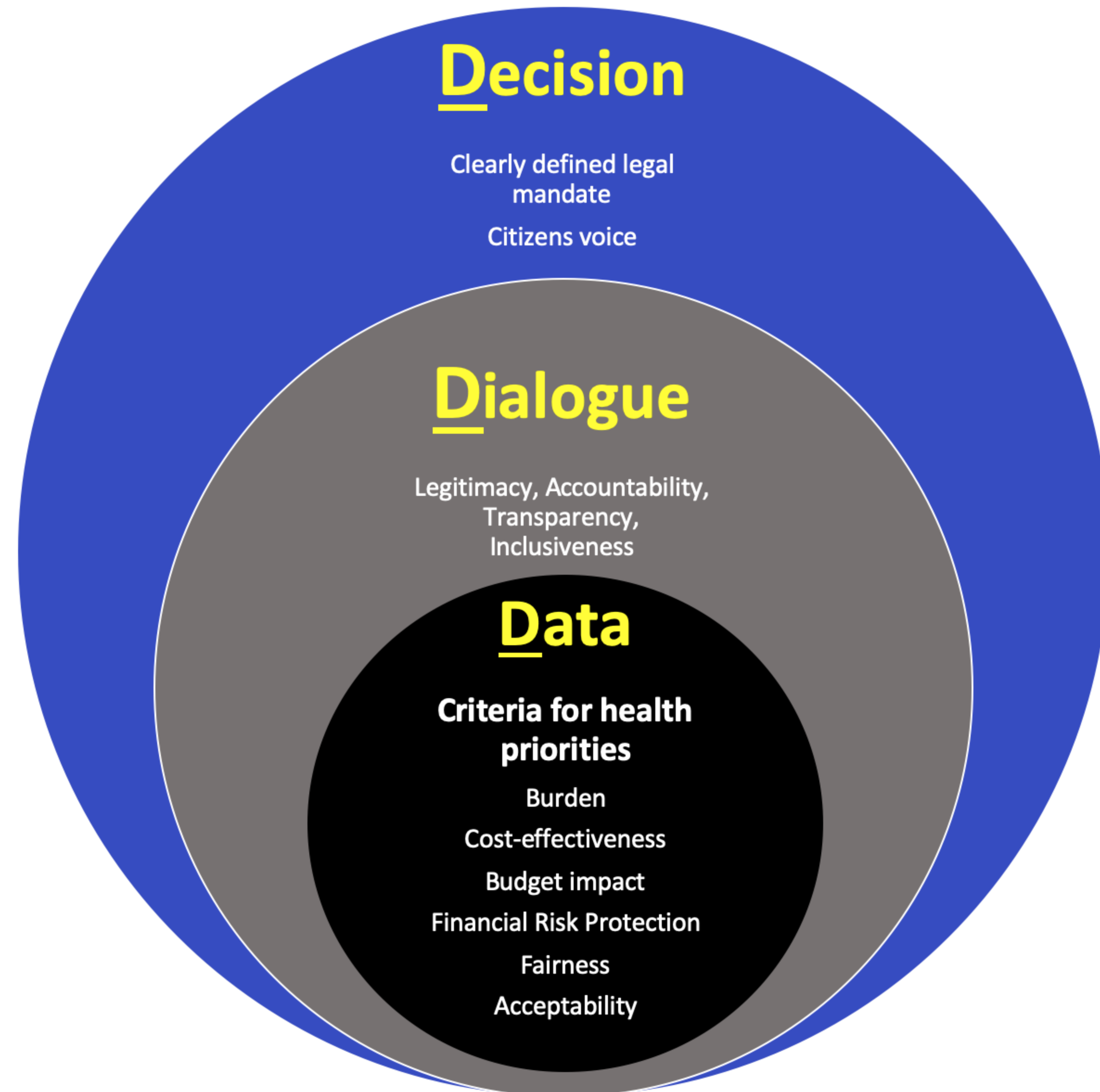
Cl. Knowledge  
(Outcomes)



HC Knowledge



# 3D's of Decision-Making



# EBM is Different from Evidence-Informed Policy Making (1)

HPM is never likely to be as open to the use of evidence as that seen in clinical practice.

- ❑ Research is only **one** of several knowledge sources
- ❑ Policy makers have **goals** other than effectiveness and efficiency
- ❑ Driven by **ideology, political motives and other** (short term factors)
- ❑ **Medical care** is thus no more the only policy goal; it extends beyond that to include interventions that could mitigate the underlying causes of the low levels of **population health** such as poor sanitation, environmental pollution, certain lifestyles and behaviours.



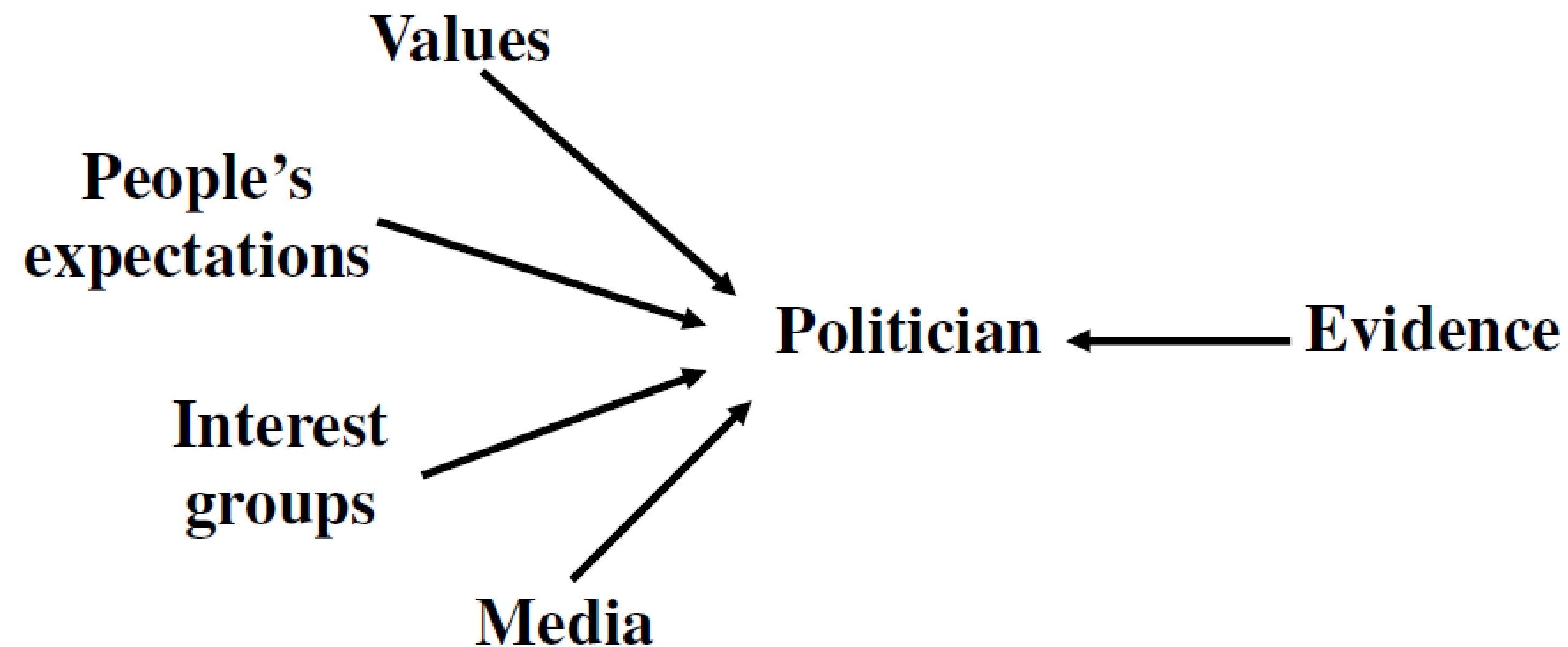
# EBM is Different from Evidence-Informed Policy Making (2)

The healthcare ecosystem includes multiple stakeholders.



# EBM is Different from Evidence-Informed Policy Making (3)

## Lebanon Experience in Evidence-Informed Policy Making



Source: Dr Walid Ammar, MD, PhD 2019

# EBM is Different from Evidence-Informed Policy Making (4)

## New insights from policy studies raise new advice and dilemmas

	New insight from policy studies	New advice based on such insights	New dilemmas arising from such advice
How to maximise the use of evidence in policy	Too many studies focus on supplying scientific evidence to reduce uncertainty; <b>focus instead on increasing demand for evidence by reducing ambiguity</b>	<b>Successful actors reduce ambiguity by, for example, framing issues in manipulative ways, using emotional language</b>	<i>How far should scientists go to persuade policymakers to act on their evidence? Should they be manipulative? This strategy may be effective, but it presents moral dilemmas and challenges a politically effective image of science as objective. We identify several current responses to this dilemma.</i>
How best to understand and act effectively within the policy process	Too many studies assume that there is a policymaking 'centre', making policy via linear stages in a cycle; <b>focus instead on a complex multi-level system or environment</b>	<b>Successful actors take the time to identify which responsibilities are delegated, 'where the action is' and the 'rules of the game' in each policymaking venue</b>	<i>How far should you go to defend a hierarchy of evidence to deliver policy solutions? Should scientists object to 'localism' if it undermines policies based on RCTs? Or, should they embrace the 'co-production' of policy with actors who reject their 'hierarchy' of evidential methods? We identify three main responses to this dilemma.</i>

# What Determines Evidence Use by Policy Makers?

Oliver *et al.* *BMC Health Services Research* 2014, **14**:2  
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6963/14/2>



**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Open Access**

## A systematic review of barriers to and facilitators of the use of evidence by policymakers

Kathryn Oliver<sup>1\*</sup>, Simon Innvar<sup>2</sup>, Theo Lorenc<sup>3</sup>, Jenny Woodman<sup>4</sup> and James Thomas<sup>5</sup>



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[\*BMC Health Services Research\*](#) **volume 14**, Article number: 2 (2014)

- Draws insights from 145 studies
- Published from 2000–12
  - ▣ (including 13 other systematic reviews going back further).
- About three-quarters are studies of the UK, Canada, the USA, and Australia.



# Most frequently reported barriers and facilitators of the use of evidence (n = # studies in which factor reported)

Top 5 barriers to use of evidence	Top 5 facilitators of evidence use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Availability and access to research / improved dissemination (n = 63)</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarity/relevance/reliability of research findings (n = 54)</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Timing/opportunity (n = 42)</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policymaker research skills (n = 26)</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Costs (n = 25)</li></ul>	

# What Determines Evidence Use by Policy Makers?

Health Policy 121 (2017) 273–281



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Health Policy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/healthpol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/healthpol)



## Determinants of evidence use in public health policy making: Results from a study across six EU countries



Ien van de Goor<sup>a,\*</sup>, Riitta-Maija Hämäläinen<sup>b</sup>, Ahmed Syed<sup>c</sup>,  
Cathrine Juel Lau<sup>d</sup>, Petru Sandu<sup>e</sup>, Hilde Spitters<sup>a</sup>, Leena Eklund Karlsson<sup>f</sup>,  
Diana Dulf<sup>e</sup>, Adriana Valente<sup>g</sup>, Tommaso Castellani<sup>g</sup>, Arja R. Aro<sup>f</sup>, on behalf of  
the REPOPA consortium<sup>1</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Tranzo, Tilburg School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Tilburg University, Tilburg, The Netherlands*

<sup>b</sup> *Welfare: Equality and Inclusion, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Helsinki, Finland*

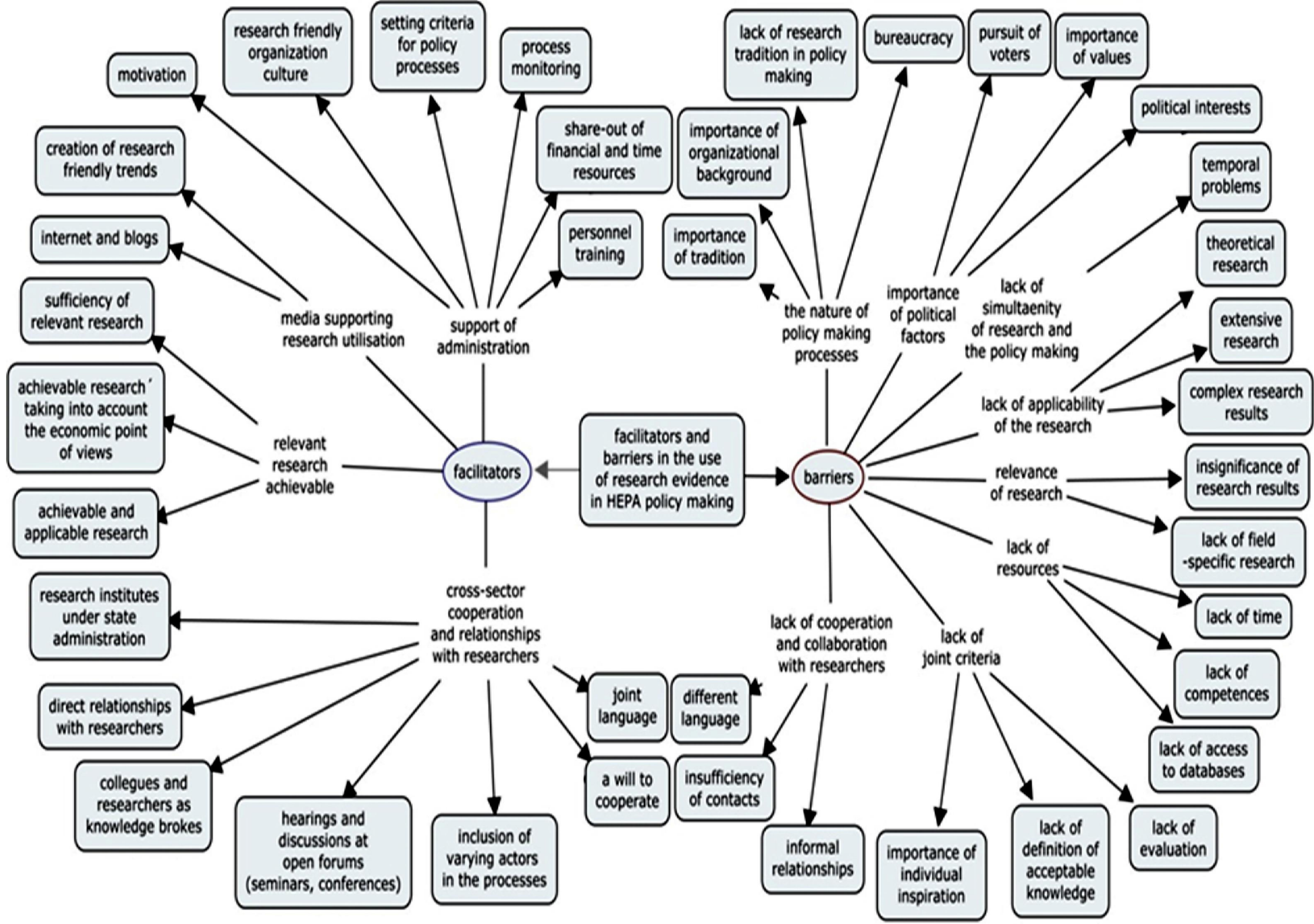
<sup>c</sup> *Specialised Services, NHS England, London, UK*

<sup>d</sup> *Prevention and Health Promotion, Research Centre for Prevention and Health, Capital Region of Denmark, Glostrup, Denmark*

<sup>e</sup> *Center for Health Policy and Public Health, Department of Public Health, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

<sup>f</sup> *Unit for Health Promotion, Institute of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark, Esbjerg, Denmark*

<sup>g</sup> *Institute of Researches on Population and Social Policies, National Research Council, Rome, Italy*





# Determinants of Evidence Use in Public Health Policy in 6 EU Countries

- A lack of **locally useful and concrete evidence, evidence on costs,** and a **lack of joint understanding** were specific hindrances.
- **Users' characteristics** and the role **media** play were identified as factors of influence.
- **Attention for individual and social factors** within the policy context might provide the key to enhance more sustainable evidence use.
- Developing and evaluating **tailored approaches** impacting on *networking, personal relationships, collaboration* and *evidence coproduction* is recommended.

# Effects of a demand-led evidence briefing service on the uptake and use of research evidence by commissioners of health services: a controlled before-and-after study

Paul M Wilson,<sup>1\*</sup> Kate Farley,<sup>2</sup> Liz Bickerdike,<sup>3</sup> Alison Booth,<sup>4</sup> Duncan Chambers,<sup>5</sup> Mark Lambert,<sup>6</sup> Carl Thompson,<sup>2</sup> Rhiannon Turner<sup>7</sup> and Ian S Watt<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Alliance for

**Access to a demand-led evidence briefing service did not improve the uptake and use of research evidence by NHS commissioners compared with less intensive and less targeted alternatives. Commissioners appear to be well intentioned but ad hoc users of research.**

# Scientists Produce Evidence But...

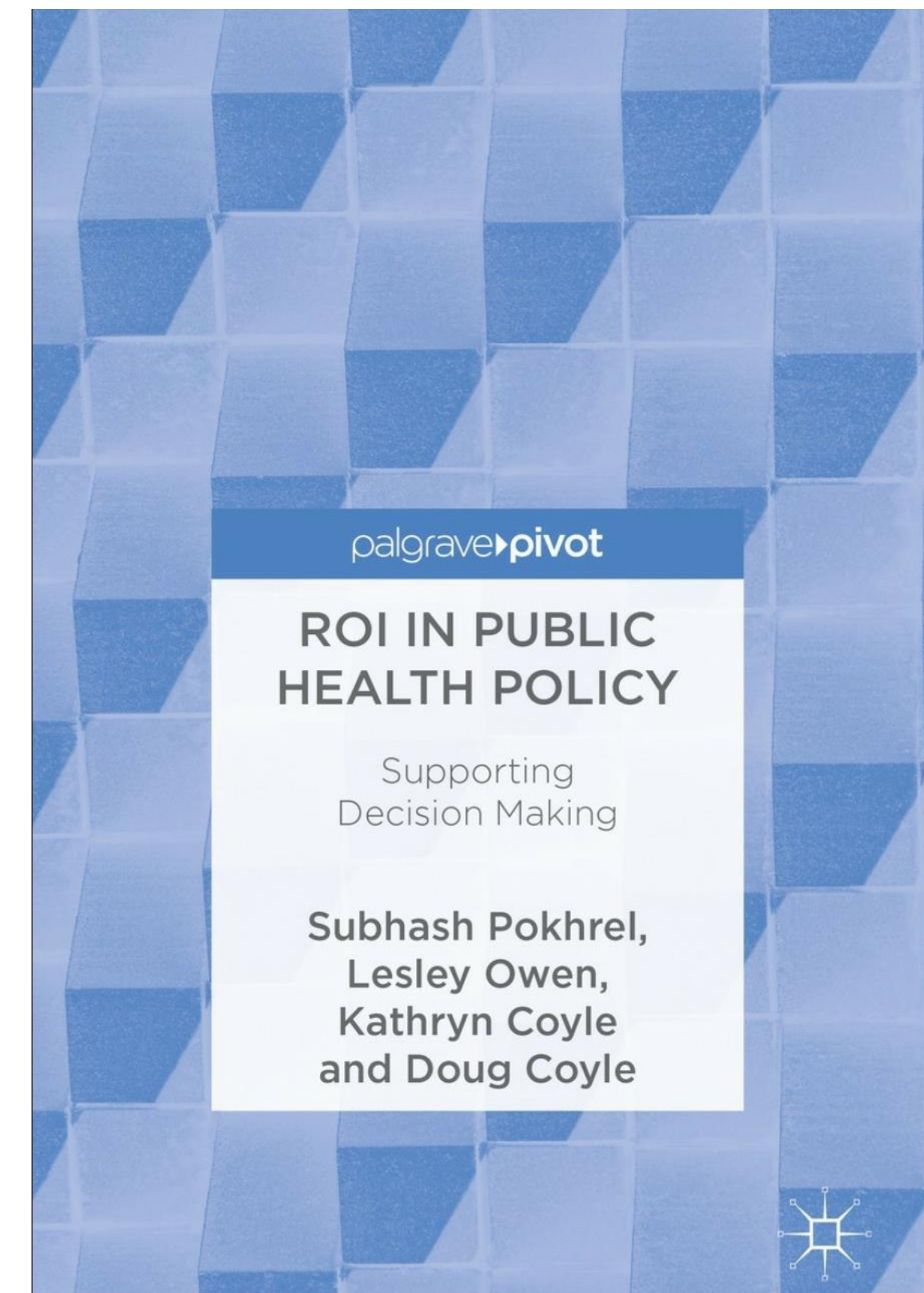
- Not in a **form** or **quality** that is known about, read, or understood by (or persuasive to) policymakers.
- Quality can refer to the format of the information, the extent to which any recommendations are seen as non-partisan/unbiased, their source (trusted experts), and informed by knowledge of political and policy process constraints.
- Effective ‘dissemination’ is about more than plain or ‘punchy’ language or shorter reports across many formats.

# What Information/Evidence Policy Makers Need?

- Relevant
- Timely
- Robust (and the methodology is relatively uncontested)
- Applicable to the issue of concern
- Accessible to wider audiences
- Brings together relevant expertise from a number of disciplines
- Has champions and advocates
- Involves the users of research in the research project from the outset - the 'co-production model'
- Supports existing ideologies and are uncontentionous.

# What Economic Evidence Policy Makers Need?

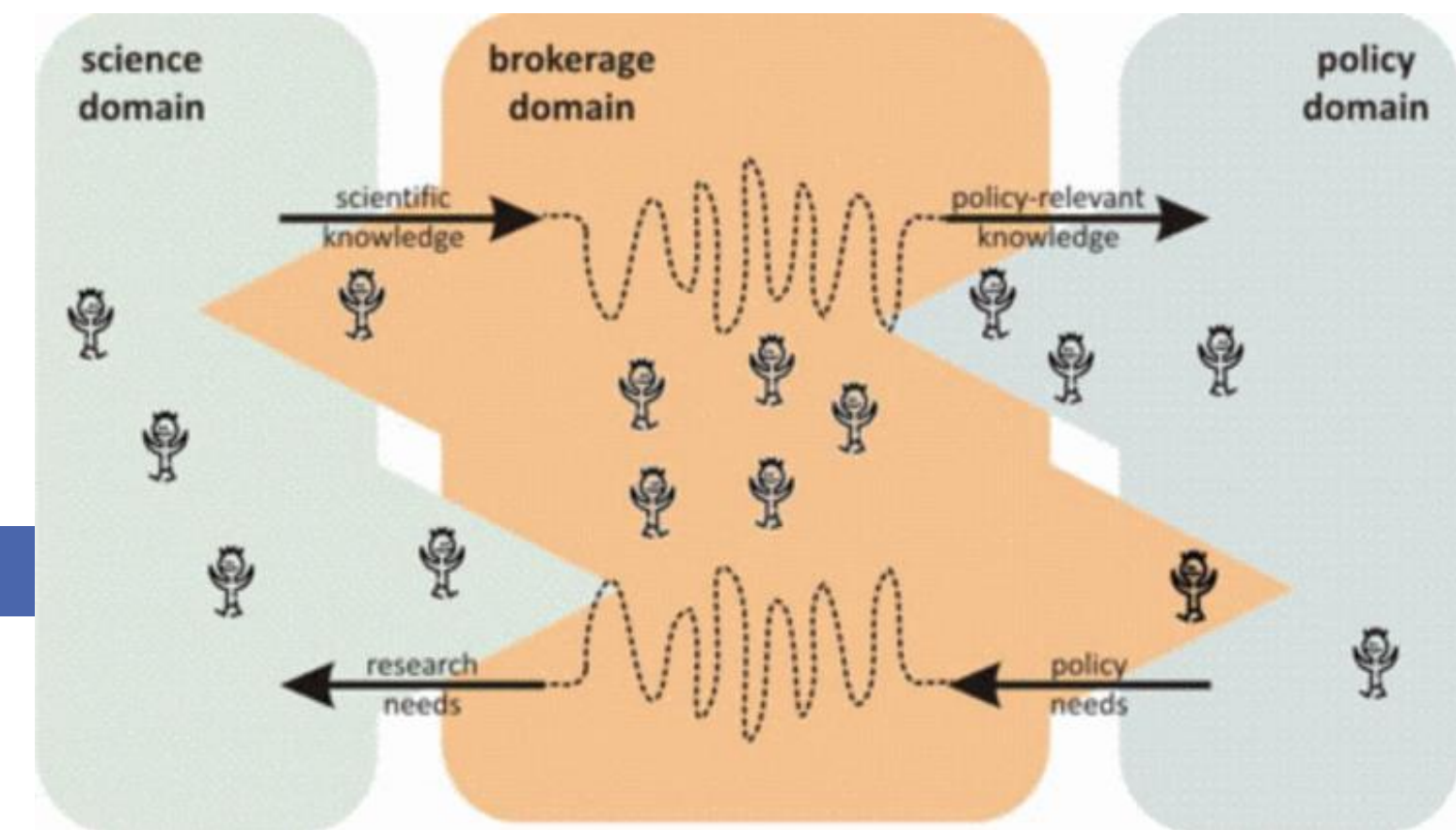
- The traditional metric (cost/QALY) is seen as “abstract” and does not resonate to their local needs.
- Return on Investment (ROI) could help real-world decision making by offering information on the costs and benefits of alternative policy actions.
- Should usually be presented as a single, simplified metric making it easy to relate to their local context.



# Popular Recommendations Focusing on Increasing Research Use by Policymakers

- Develop ongoing, collaborative relationships between researchers and potential users:
  - ▣ increase levels of **trust** and the likelihood of **shared opinions** about the definition of policy problems, the importance of particular policy issues and the criteria against which potential solutions should be assessed.
- Improve structural communication channels, for example, by investing in ‘knowledge brokers’ and/or knowledge-transfer training

# Knowledge Brokerage



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien  
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

Societal systems ...

*Codes*

Institutions ...

*Missions*

Professional roles ...

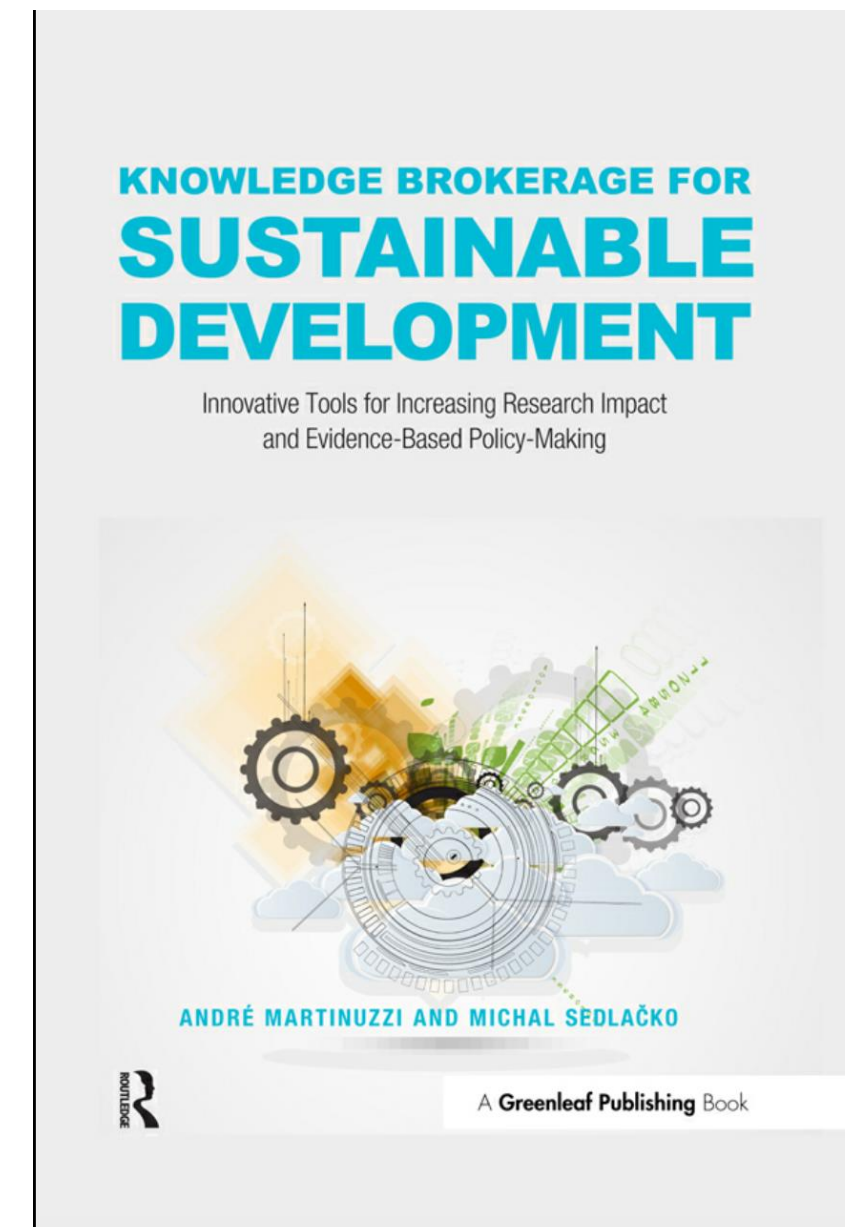
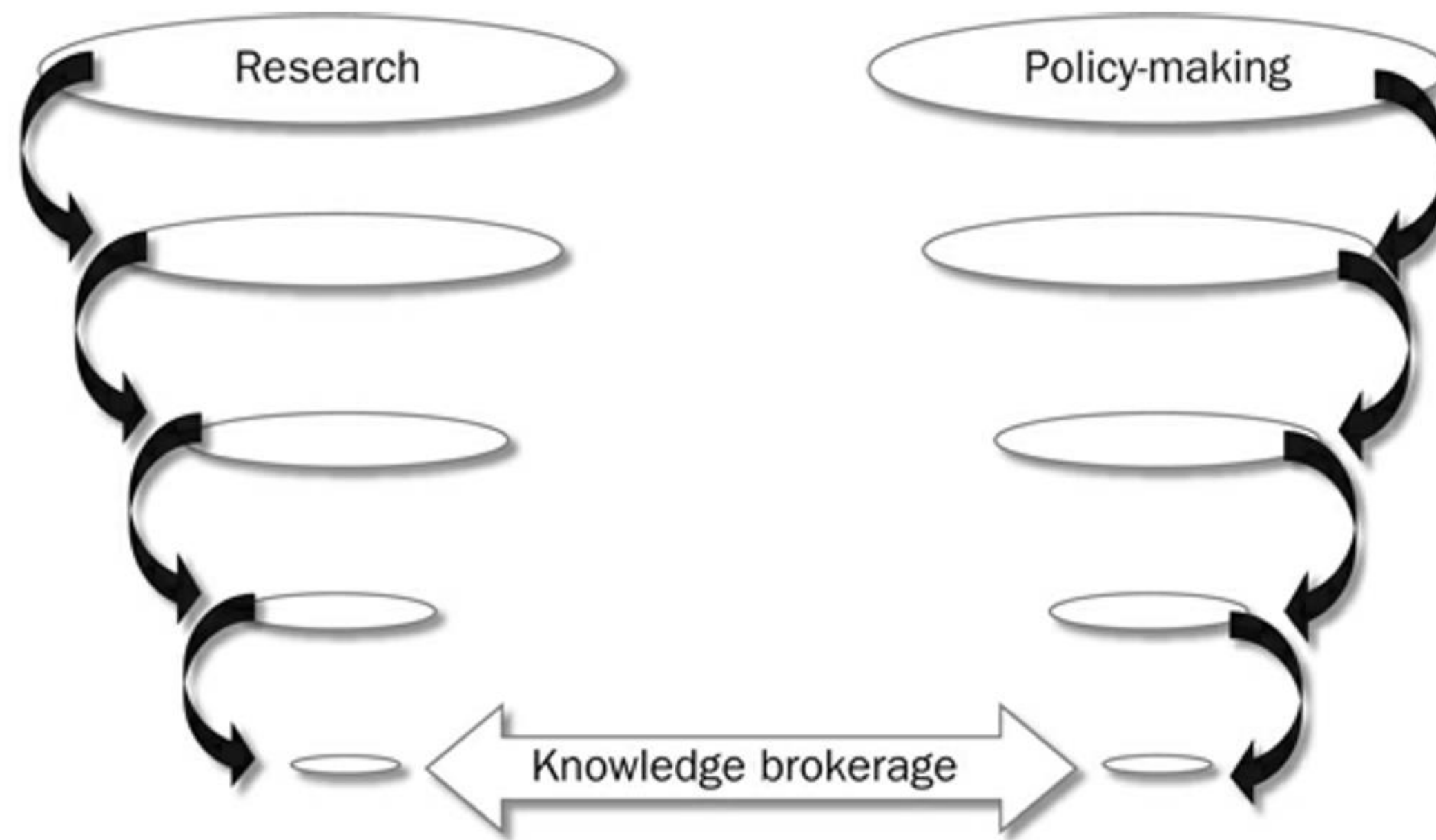
*Expectations*

Individuals ...

*Socialization*

Settings ...

*Design*



# Popular Recommendations Focusing on Increasing Research Use by Policymakers

- Develop ongoing, collaborative relationships between researchers and potential users:
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- Improve structural communication channels, for example, by investing in ‘knowledge brokers’ and/or knowledge-transfer training
- Ensure there are sufficiently high incentives among researchers and research users to engage in knowledge exchange.





Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## Health Policy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/healthpol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/healthpol)



### Review

# The effectiveness of payment for performance in health care: A meta-analysis and exploration of variation in outcomes



Yewande Kofoworola Ogundeji<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, John Martin Bland<sup>a</sup>, Trevor Andrew Sheldon<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Health Sciences, University of York, York, YO10 5DD, UK

<sup>b</sup> Health Strategy and Delivery Foundation (HSDF), 1980 Wikki Spring Street, Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria

<sup>c</sup> Hull York Medical School, University of York, York, YO10 5DD, UK

## The effectiveness of payment for performance in health care: A meta-analysis and exploration of variation in outcomes

- Estimates of the effectiveness of incentive schemes on health outcomes are probably **inflated** due to poorly designed evaluations and a focus on *process measures* rather than *health outcomes*.
- Larger incentives and reducing the **perceived risk of non-payment** *may* increase the effect of these schemes on provider behavior.



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#EBHC2019



# Do Health Impact Assessments Promote Healthier Decision-Making?

- Health Impact Project 2016
- A collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Contracted with Harder+Company Community Research to study a sample of HIAs.



# Do Health Impact Assessments Promote Healthier Decision-Making?

- Findings from a national study of the perspectives of HIA stakeholders
- ***Health Impact Assessments:***
  - ▣ Build trust and strengthen relationships between decision-makers and community residents.
  - ▣ Contribute to more equitable access to health-promoting resources such as healthy foods, safe places for physical activity, transit, and health care.
  - ▣ Protect vulnerable communities from disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards

# Measuring Impact of Evidence-Informed Policies

- Effective measurement of impact requires **DATA** from a variety of sources
  - ▣ traditional public health surveillance, observational studies, surveys, health information and other administrative systems, and more.
- To ensure maximal utility, desired uses for information should be considered when **designing systems** so that the proper data are collected and analyzed.
- Data collection and analysis must also be thought of as a **continual process**, ideally with feedback loops to enable refining of program efforts to improve results, as one-off efforts are generally ineffective for long-term assessment of impact.



# THE LANCET (2017): Right Care Series

## Addressing overuse and underuse around the world

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References

Article Info

Linked Articles

Related Series

The benefits of modern medical care have advanced the health of populations around the world, but with better health has come rising health-care spending. Not surprisingly, there is global interest in optimising the delivery of health services, exemplified by the universal health coverage (UHC) and waste in research campaigns. <sup>1</sup> , <sup>2</sup> Comparatively neglected is a central paradox that afflicts high-income countries (HICs) and low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) alike: the failure to deliver needed services alongside the continuing delivery of unnecessary services. The *Lancet* Series on right care <sup>3</sup> , <sup>4</sup> , <sup>5</sup> , <sup>6</sup> aims to bring these two issues—overuse and underuse—to the centre of global health strategies ( [panel](#) ).

- Panel

**Key messages in Right Care Series**



EDIT

DEBATE

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# Sustainability in Health care by Allocating Resources Effectively (SHARE) 11: reporting outcomes of an evidence-driven approach to disinvestment in a local healthcare setting

Claire Harris

Claire Harris<sup>1,2\*</sup> , Kelly Allen<sup>1,2</sup>, Wayne Ramsey<sup>3</sup>, Richard King<sup>4</sup> and Sally Green<sup>1</sup>

## Abstract

This is the final paper in a thematic series reporting a program of Sustainability in Health care by Allocating Resources Effectively (SHARE) in a local healthcare setting. The SHARE Program was established to explore a systematic, integrated, evidence-based organisation-wide approach to disinvestment in a large Australian health service network. This paper summarises the findings, discusses the contribution of the SHARE Program to the body of knowledge and understanding of disinvestment in the local healthcare setting, and considers implications for policy, practice and research.

## Abstract

**Background:** This is the final paper in a thematic series reporting a program of Sustainability in Health care by Allocating Resources Effectively (SHARE) in a local healthcare setting. The SHARE Program was established to explore a systematic, integrated, evidence-based organisation-wide approach to disinvestment in a large Australian health service network. This paper summarises the findings, discusses the contribution of the SHARE Program to the body of knowledge and understanding of disinvestment in the local healthcare setting, and considers implications for policy, practice and research.

**Discussion:** The SHARE program was conducted in three phases. Phase One was undertaken to understand




RESEARCH ARTICLE

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# Sustainability in Health care by Allocating Resources Effectively (SHARE) 5: developing a model for evidence-driven resource allocation in a local healthcare setting

Claire Harris<sup>1,2\*</sup> , Kelly Allen<sup>1,2</sup>, Cara Waller<sup>2</sup>, Sally Green<sup>1</sup>, Richard King<sup>3</sup>, Wayne Ramsey<sup>4</sup>, Cate Kelly<sup>5</sup> and Malar Thiagarajan<sup>6</sup>

## Abstract

**Background:** This is the fifth in a series of papers reporting Sustainability in Health care by Allocating Resources Effectively (SHARE) in a local healthcare setting. This paper synthesises the findings from Phase One of the SHARE Program and presents a model to be implemented and evaluated in Phase Two. Monash Health, a large healthcare network in Melbourne Australia, sought to establish an organisation-wide systematic evidence-based program for disinvestment. In the absence of guidance from the literature, the Centre for Clinical Effectiveness, an in-house 'Evidence Based Practice Support Unit', was asked to explore concepts and practices related to disinvestment, consider the implications for a local health service and identify potential settings and methods for decision-making.

**Methods:** Mixed methods were used to capture the relevant information. These included literature reviews; online

# Sustainability in Health care by Allocating Resources Effectively

## AIM 1: Systems and Processes

Develop, implement and evaluate organisation-wide systematic, transparent, accountable and evidence-based decision-making systems and processes for resource allocation related to health technologies and clinical practices.

Explore six decision-making mechanisms:

- Purchasing and procurement
- Guideline and protocol development
- Proactive use of published research
- Proactive use of local data
- Economic approaches to priority setting
- System redesign

## AIM 2: Disinvestment Projects

Explore disinvestment in pilot projects

- Identify TCPs suitable for disinvestment
- Establish prioritisation and decision-making processes
- Develop, implement and evaluate evidence-based disinvestment projects

## PRINCIPLES

- Focus on 'effective application of health resources'
- Consider 'resource allocation' rather than 'investment' or 'disinvestment' in isolation
- Introduce 'proactive' use of information to drive decisions and build on existing 'routine and reactive' processes
- Use evidence from research and local data rather than economic factors to drive decisions
- Implement both 'top down' and 'bottom up' strategies
- Take evidence-based approach to development, implementation and evaluation of all program components and include action research to investigate the process of change
- Ensure alignment with Monash Health Strategic Goals and integration into Business Plan

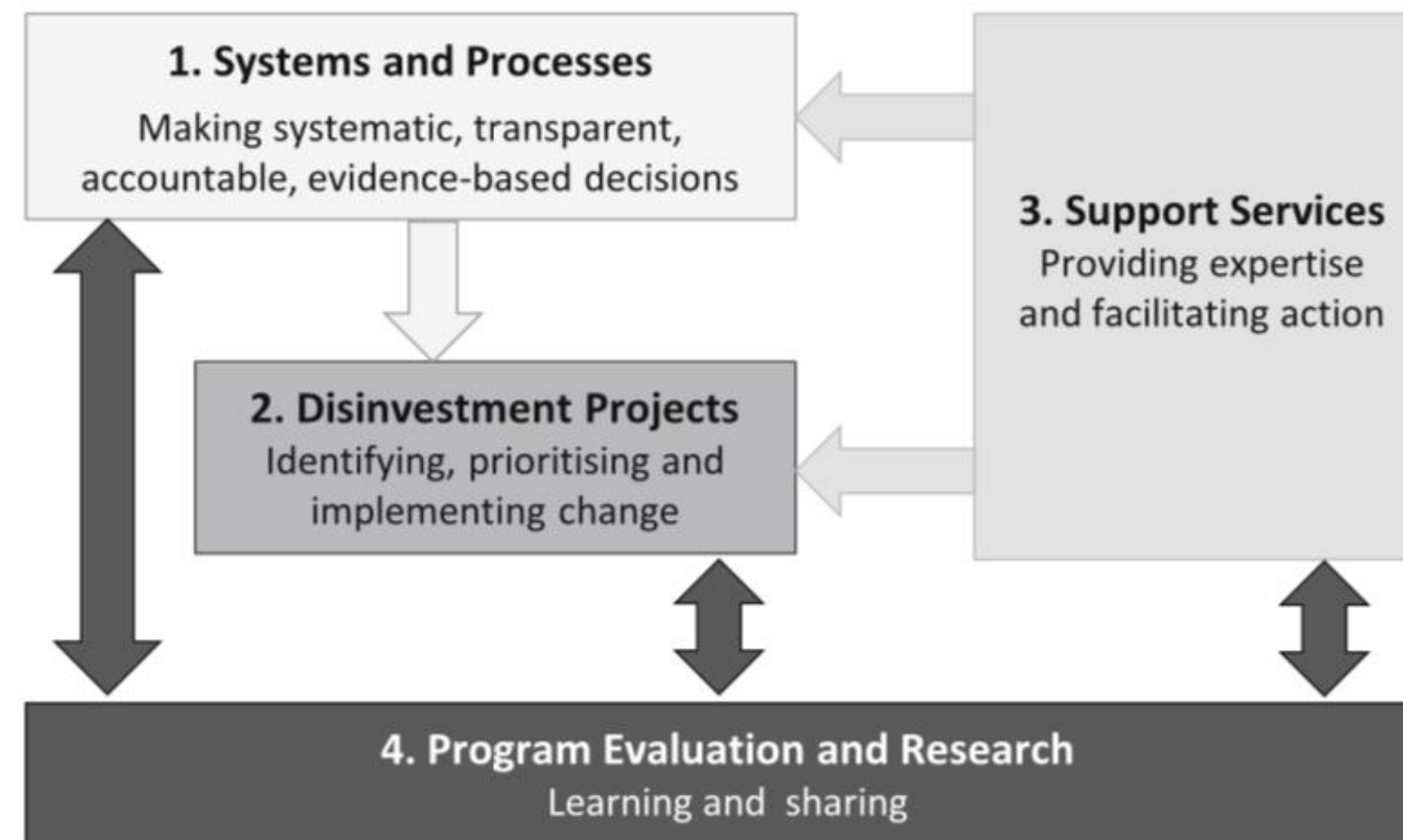
## AIM 3: Support Services

Develop, implement and evaluate services to provide expertise and facilitate action.

Explore support in four settings:

- Providing expertise to deliver research evidence to decision-makers
- Providing expertise to deliver local data to decision-makers
- Building capacity in the health service workforce to use research evidence and local data in decision-making and to implement and evaluate change based on these decisions
- Providing expertise in project methods and tools and providing assistance in data collection, analysis, project administration

## RELATIONSHIPS



## AIM 4: Program Evaluation and Research

- Evaluate to measure outcomes
- Undertake action research to understand the processes
- Deliver the first national workshop on disinvestment
- Disseminate learning through publications and presentations

## PRECONDITIONS

### Strategic Direction, Influence, Support and Endorsement

- |                                |                       |                              |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Executive Directors (3)        | Program Directors     | Legal counsel                |
| Committee representatives      | • Medical             | Information Services         |
| • Technology/Clinical Practice | • Nursing             | Procurement                  |
| • Therapeutics                 | • Allied Health       | Biomedical Engineering       |
| • Research Ethics              | • Pharmacy            | Consumer representatives (2) |
| • Clinical Ethics              | • Diagnostic services |                              |

### Funding

- Project costs
- Establishment costs
- Ongoing costs

### Organisational readiness for change

### Expertise

- Evidence-based practice
- Knowledge brokerage
- Health service data analysis
- Health program evaluation
- Health economics

### Stakeholder Engagement

- Managers
- Clinicians
- Consumers
- Funders

Fig. 4 Revised draft of SHARE framework

# McMaster Health Forum

EVIDENCE >> INSIGHT >> ACTION



Learn  
how

Find  
evidence

Spark  
action

Embed  
supports

Evaluate  
innovations

Let's  
collaborate



## Ten Years of Supporting Evidence-Informed Policymaking

Over the past 10 years, the McMaster Health Forum has harnessed research evidence, citizen values and stakeholder insights to help strengthen health systems and get the right programs, services and products to the people who need them. Through Forum+ we're now broadening our work to include social systems and the Sustainable Development

# Recent Books





## What's next?

Evidence

```
graph LR; Evidence --> HealthPolicymaking; HealthPolicymaking --> Impact;
```

The diagram illustrates a three-stage process. It begins with a box labeled 'Evidence' with a pink border. A blue arrow points to a larger box labeled 'Health Policymaking' with a purple border. A second blue arrow points from 'Health Policymaking' to a final box labeled 'Impact' with a blue border. Each box has a reflection below it.

Health  
Policymaking

Impact

# What was Happening in WHO in 2017/2018?



# World Health Organization



# 53 WHO Member States calling for enhanced action to use evidence for policy: Regional Committee 2016

Adoption of Action Plan and Resolution on evidence-informed policy making





World Health  
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Europe

European Health  
Information Initiative



Regional Committee for Europe

66th session

Copenhagen, Denmark, 12–15 September 2016

Provisional agenda item 5(j)

## Action plan to strengthen the use of evidence, information and research for policy-making in the WHO European Region

1. **Strengthening health information systems**, harmonizing health indicators and establishing an integrated health information system for the European Region;
2. **Establishing and promoting health research systems** to support the setting of public health priorities;
3. **Increasing country capacities** for the development of evidence-informed policies (**knowledge translation**);
4. **Mainstreaming the use of evidence, information and research** in the implementation of Health 2020 and other major regional policy frameworks.

Adopted by 53  
Member States  
through **resolution**

Concrete actions for  
Member States and  
WHO

# European Health Information Initiative



Measurement



Access



Capacity Building



Networks



Strategy



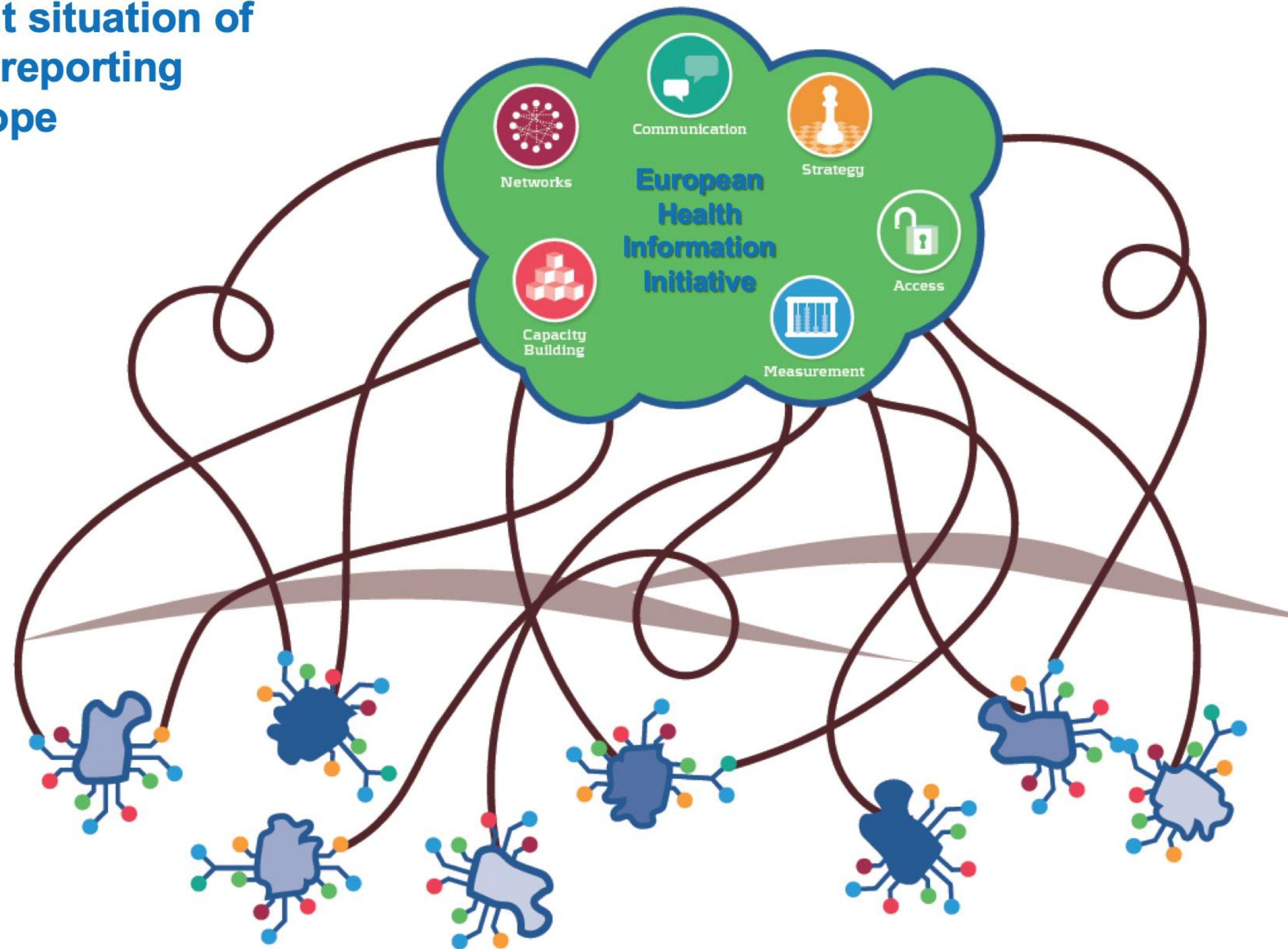
Communication



The European Health Information Initiative is committed to improving the evidence on which policy is based



# Current situation of health reporting in Europe



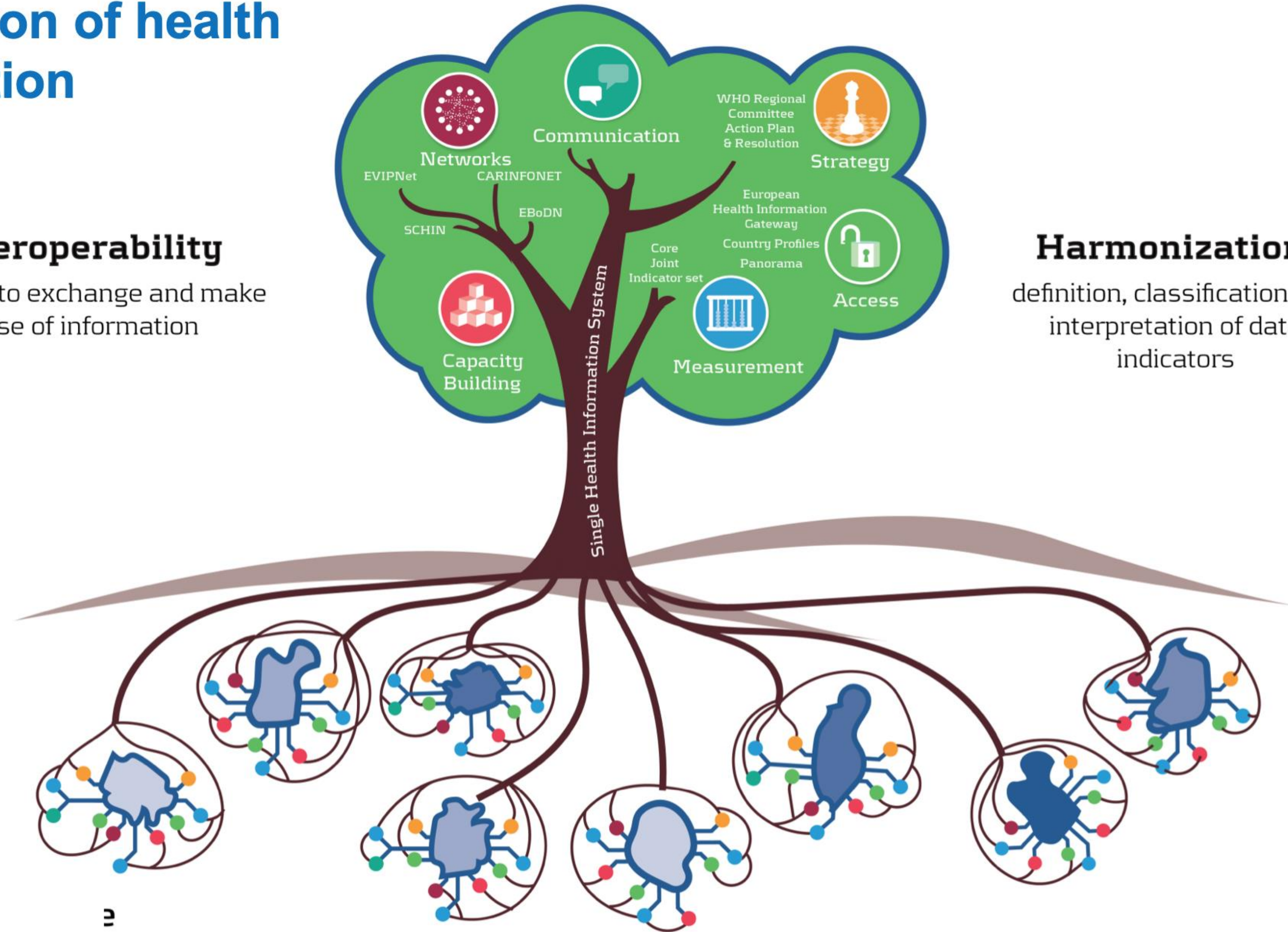
World Health Organization



# The future: Integration of health information

## Interoperability

Ability to exchange and make use of information



## Harmonization

definition, classification and interpretation of data indicators

# Evidence-Informed Policy *for* Impact Meeting Nov 22 – 23, 2018 WHO HQ (Geneva)



**Beirut, Lebanon  
February 2019**





**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE **Eastern Mediterranean**

**Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean  
Sixty-sixth session  
Provisional agenda item 3(d)**

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**EM/RC66/6  
October 2019**

## **Developing national institutional capacity for evidence-informed policy-making for health**

### **Executive summary**

1. To ensure that health policies are appropriate, effective and cost-effective, they need to be based on sound evidence. Evidence-based policy-making is therefore essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and universal health coverage, and its importance is emphasized repeatedly in WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023 (GPW 13). However, it can be challenging for countries to obtain and use high-quality evidence.
2. This paper is the latest step in a long-standing programme of work by WHO to foster evidence-based policy-making in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region. It was developed in response to a request by the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, and proposes a framework to help countries improve their national institutional capacity for evidence-informed policy-making. The framework provides practical actions that Member States can take to build their national institutional capacity and outlines the support WHO can provide to facilitate this process.
3. Countries' needs, priorities and capacities vary, and the proposed framework is designed to be flexible to accommodate such variations. Furthermore, the paper sets out a five-dimensional analytical approach to help countries assess their needs and capacities and formulate a suitable strategy, and includes real-world examples of different possible actions from countries. The proposed framework is presented for consideration and possible endorsement by the Regional Committee.

### **Introduction**

4. This technical paper was developed in response to a 2017 Regional Committee resolution requesting the Regional Director to “establish regional mechanisms to support the bridging of gaps between relevant



# Limited Capacity to Generate and Use Evidence for Decision Making

Capacity

Comparatively limited health research conducted in EMR

Standards

Research designs not conducive to produce robust evidence for decision making

Priorities

Research studies often not focused on national or regional challenges

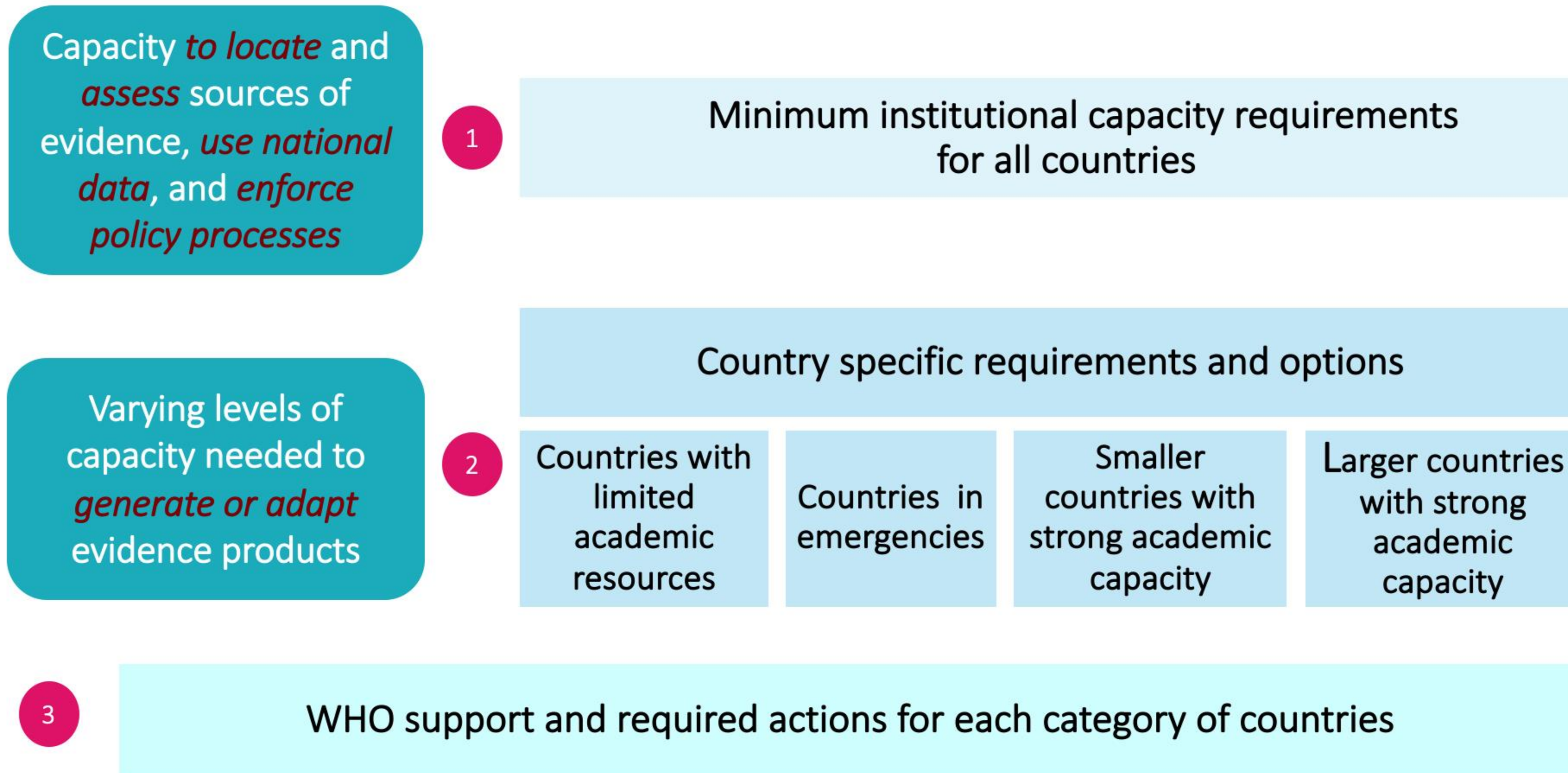
Few national health observatories or survey plans

Health policies often not supported by policy briefs

Health Technology Assessment structures are limited in EMR

Few national programs for clinical and public health guidelines

# Framework for Improving National Institutional Capacity for Use of Evidence in Health Policy-Making in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (2020-2024) (EM/RC66/R.5(D); approved Oct 2019)



# Framework for Improving National Institutional Capacity for Use of Evidence in Health Policy-Making in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (2020-2024) (EM/RC66/R.5(D); approved Oct 2019)

  
All EMR countries

- Institutional capacity building for evidence-informed policy-making
- Develop policy briefs on topics of regional importance
- Adapt WHO guidelines for areas of high priority
- Develop multi-country or regional guidelines for high priority topics
- Establish a regional network of support institutions

  
Countries with limited academic resources

- Support development of policy briefs/ adapt WHO guidelines

  
Countries affected by emergencies

- Support rapid processes for policy synthesis products

WHO Support for the Member States



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Eastern Mediterranean

# What is Happening in WHO now?



# World Health Organization



# A New Sicily Statement?



Debate

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## Sicily statement on evidence-based practice

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# Sicily statement on classification and development of evidence-based practice learning assessment tools

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## Abstract

**Background:** Teaching the steps of evidence-based practice (EBP) has become standard curriculum for health professions at both student and professional levels. Determining the best methods for evaluating EBP learning is hampered by a dearth of valid and practical assessment tools and by the absence of guidelines for classifying the purpose of those that exist. Conceived and developed by delegates of the Fifth International Conference of Evidence-Based Health Care Teachers and Developers, the aim of this statement is to provide guidance for purposeful classification and development of tools to assess EBP learning.

**Discussion:** This paper identifies key principles for designing EBP learning assessment tools, recommends a





Thanks you ...

