

# IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

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# Agenda

**Part 1:  
Lecture**

**Part 2:  
Discussion  
Questions**

**Part 3: Small  
group work**

Have you have  
heard the term  
“implementation  
science before?”

Do you feel you  
have a good  
handle on what  
implementation  
science is?

Goal: For you to  
have a good  
handle by the end  
of this talk.

# Tell me about you!

- Your background/interests
- One thing that is helping you get through COVID-19
- What is one question you have about imp sci that you hope to have answered today?



# BACKGROUND

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Part 1

# WHY I THINK THIS IS IMPORTANT

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**My path to implementation  
science emerged from a clinical  
observation that I couldn't  
ignore**





child&adolescent  
anxiety disorders clinic

COPING  
CAT 





“Emma” came to see me after seeing other therapists who didn’t use EBP. She felt hopeless and uncertain she would ever enjoy the activities she used to enjoy.



I came to the startling conclusion that kids were **not** receiving cognitive behavioral therapy in community settings and it changed the trajectory of my career



Implementation science seemed like a **potential solution** to my observation



**My observation was not  
idiosyncratic to my experience –  
it reflects a broader field wide  
issue**

1/15/2020

Young people's mental health is a 'worsening crisis'. Action is needed | Mary O'Hara | Society | The Guardian

# The Guardian

Young people's mental health is a 'worsening crisis'.  
Action is needed

*Mary O'Hara*

In both the UK and US, services for young people are being cut, leaving those from marginalised groups at greatest risk of suicide

Tue 31 Jul 2018 13.04 EDT

In child psychiatry, treatment developers have been prolific. As of 2016, 689 randomized controlled trials for common youth psychiatric disorders have been conducted, and we have 100s of evidence-based practices.

Yet we know that usual care generally doesn't reflect these EBPs, and that effect sizes are attenuated in the "real world."



**There are research-to-practice gaps all around us**



**Citrus can prevent scurvy (1601)  
Introduced on ships (1785)**

# Research-to-practice gaps in medicine



**What are some research-to-practice gaps that are particularly relevant to your specialties?**

# WHAT IS IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE?

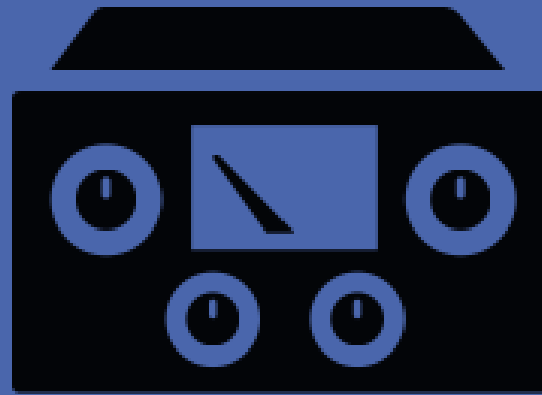
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Implementation  
Science



Implementation science is about making sure that people are getting the things that work in the community and ultimately **moving the needle** in health



Implementation science is the **scientific study of methods** to promote systematic uptake of **proven** clinical treatments, practices, organizational, and management interventions into **routine practice**, and hence to **improve health** (Eccles et al., 2012)

# Implementation science has its own set of assumptions and foci

Implementation science is about “clinician” behavior change within organizational constraints

Context is not seen as a nuisance

There is an evidence-based “thing” to be implemented

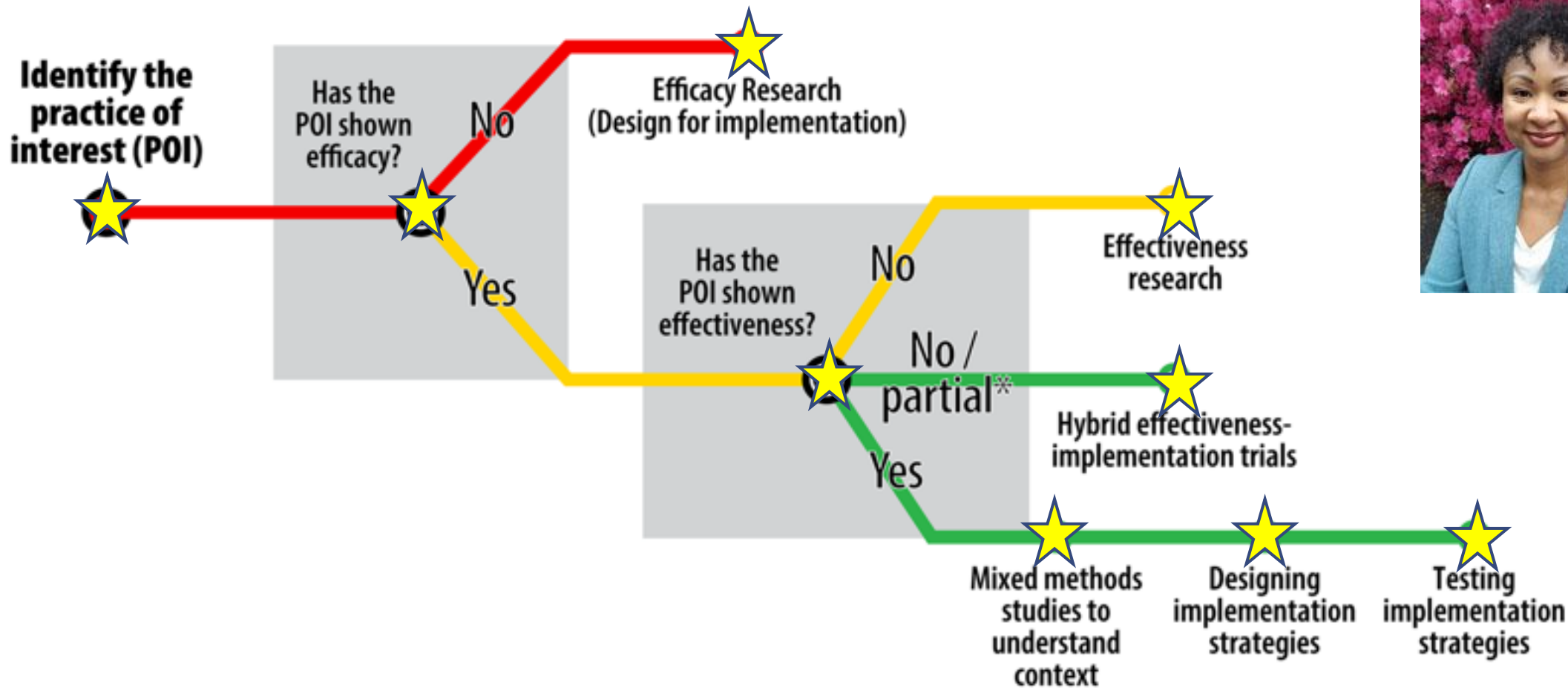
We have a set of specific frameworks, methods, and outcomes in our toolkit

# Implementation science has its own set of questions of interest

Can clinicians implement EBPs in their settings?

What supports are needed for clinicians to implement EBPs effectively?

What contextual factors are associated with clinician practice?



Graphic has been tested with colorblindness filters to ensure readability.

\* In some cases it may be appropriate to move forward with a hybrid Type 1 trial in the absence of effectiveness evidence (e.g., very strong efficacy, indirect evidence supportive of potential effectiveness in context of interest, and/or strong momentum supporting implementation in a health care context).



# APPLICATIONS

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Part 2

# HOW TO DO IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE?

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Implementation  
Science

*Greatest  
Hits*

# Case Study: Increasing firearm safety promotion in pediatric primary care

Downloaded from <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/> on June 25, 2017 - Published by group.bmj.com

Open Access

Protocol

## BMJ Open Developing implementation strategies for firearm safety promotion in paediatric primary care for suicide prevention in two large US health systems: a study protocol for a mixed-methods implementation study

Courtney Benjamin Wolk,<sup>1</sup> Shari Jager-Hyman,<sup>1</sup> Steven C Marcus,<sup>2</sup> Brian K Ahmedani,<sup>3</sup> John E Zeber,<sup>4</sup> Joel A Fein,<sup>5,6</sup> Gregory K Brown,<sup>1</sup> Adina Lieberman,<sup>1</sup> Rinad S Beidas<sup>1</sup>





# Plain language

SAFE Firearm is **the thing**

Implementation strategies are the stuff we do to try to help people/places **do SAFE Firearm**

Main implementation outcomes are **how well clinicians do SAFE Firearm**

# Critical tools



Frameworks

Understanding  
context

Implementation  
strategies

Implementation  
outcomes

Implementation  
designs

Partnership

# Using frameworks to guide your work

## Bridging Research and Practice Models for Dissemination and Implementation Research

Rachel G. Tabak, PhD, Elaine C. Khoong, BS, David A. Chambers, DPhil,  
Ross C. Brownson, PhD



ELSEVIER



Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 100 (2018) 92–102

**Journal of  
Clinical  
Epidemiology**

### REVIEW

Scoping review identifies significant number of knowledge translation theories, models, and frameworks with limited use

Lisa Strifler<sup>a,b</sup>, Roberta Cardoso<sup>a</sup>, Jessie McGowan<sup>c</sup>, Elise Cogo<sup>a</sup>, Vera Nincic<sup>a</sup>, Paul A. Khan<sup>a</sup>,  
Alistair Scott<sup>a</sup>, Marco Ghassemi<sup>a</sup>, Heather MacDonald<sup>a</sup>, Yonda Lai<sup>a</sup>, Victoria Treister<sup>a</sup>,  
Andrea C. Tricco<sup>a,d</sup>, Sharon E. Straus<sup>a,e,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, 209 Victoria Street, East Building, Toronto, Ontario, M5B 1W8, Canada

<sup>b</sup>Institute of Health Policy Management & Evaluation, University of Toronto, 4th Floor, 155 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5T 3M6, Canada

<sup>c</sup>School of Epidemiology, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Ottawa, 600 Peter Morand Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 5Z3, Canada

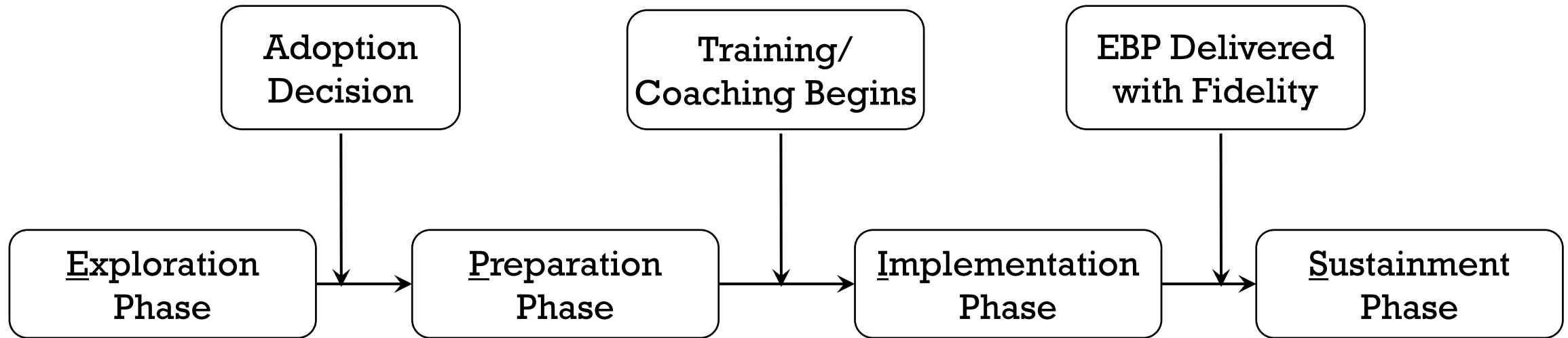
<sup>d</sup>Epidemiology Division, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, 6th Floor, 155 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5T 3M7, Canada

<sup>e</sup>Department of Geriatric Medicine, University of Toronto, 27 King's College Circle, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A1, Canada

Accepted 6 April 2018; Published online 13 April 2018

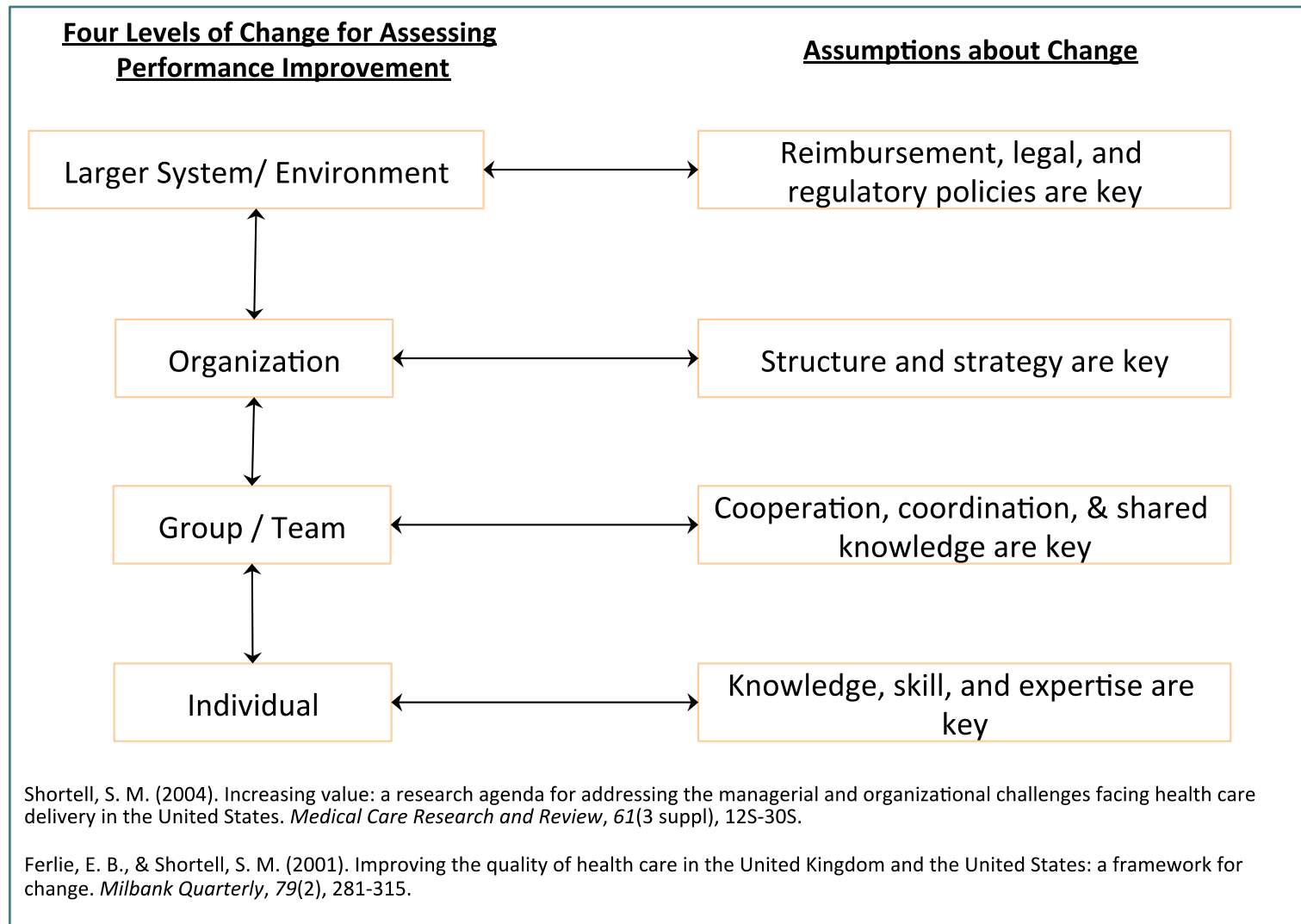


# Common Element: **Multiphase**

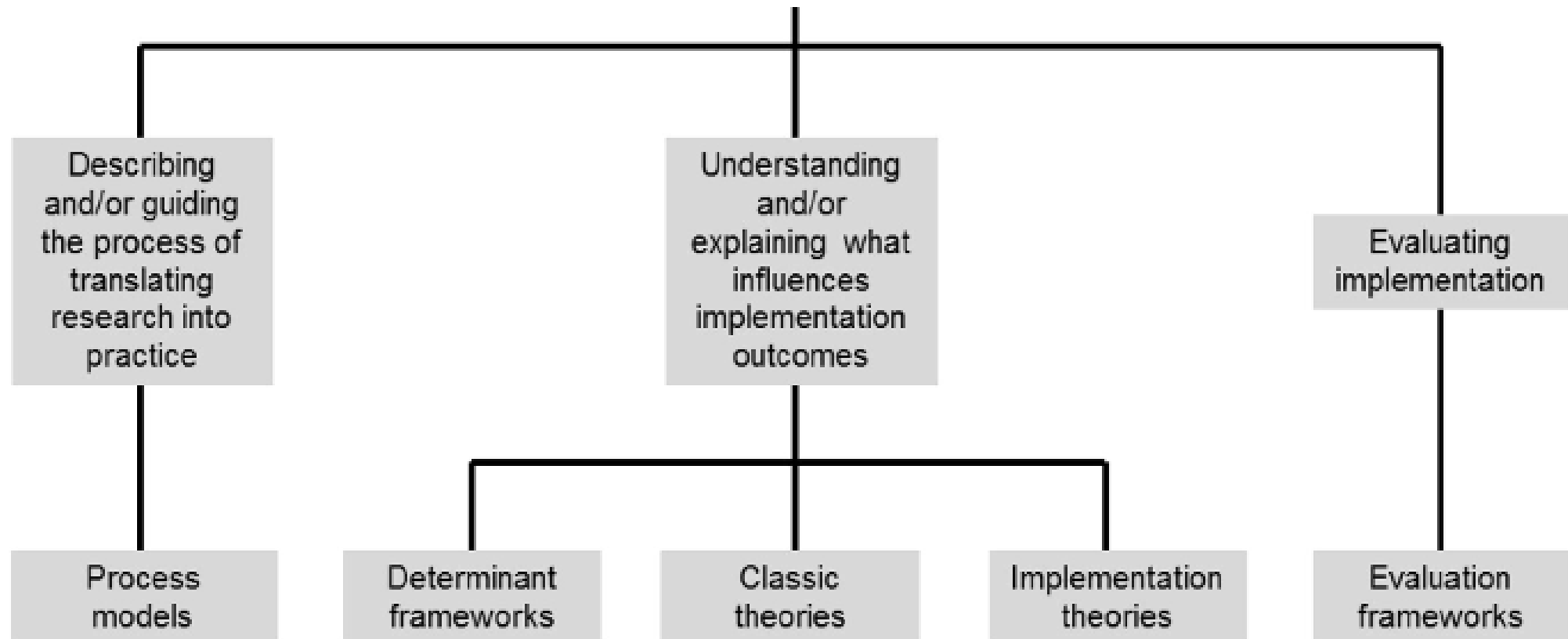


Source. Aarons et al. (2011), Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research

# Common Element: **Multilevel**

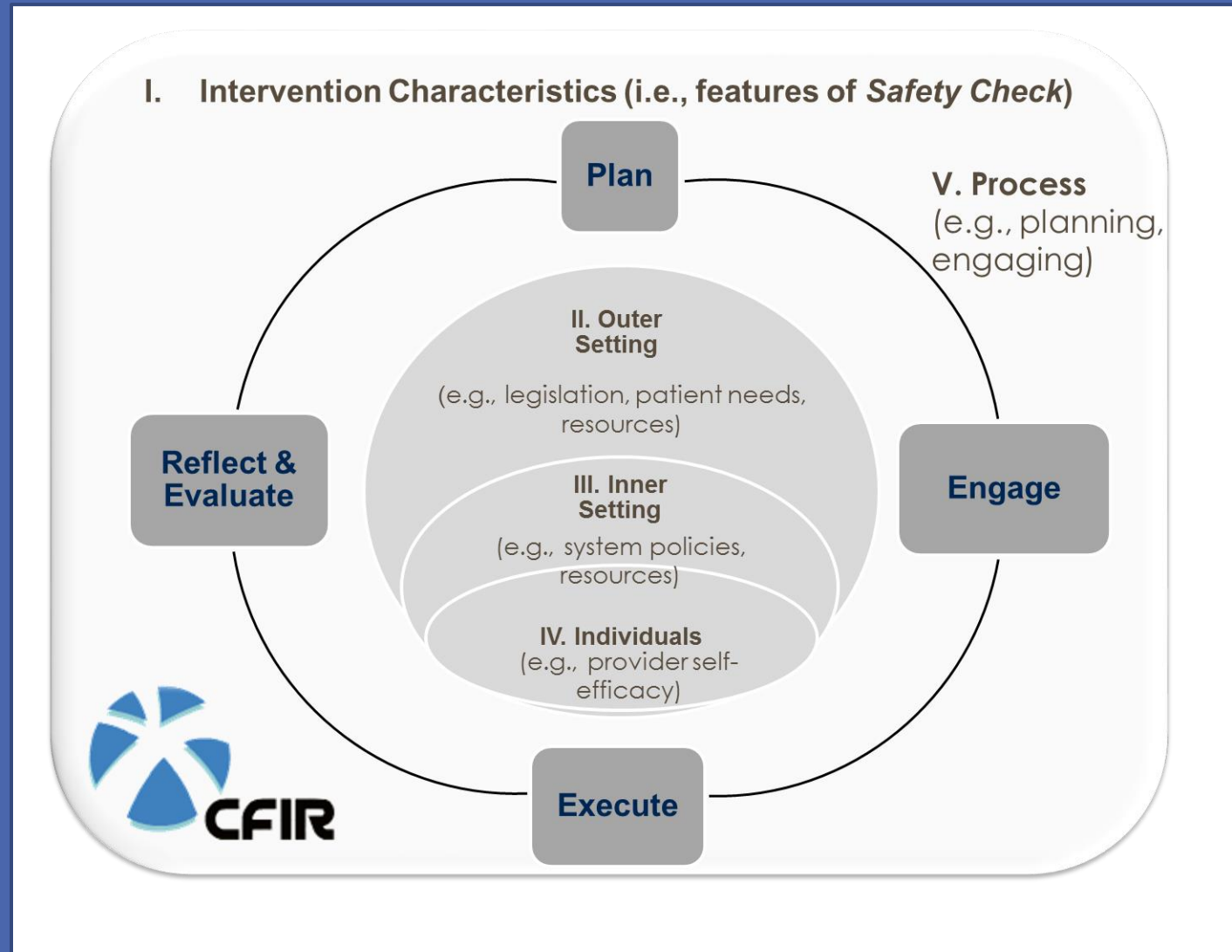


# Making **sense** of it all



Nilsen (2015)

# Example: Determinant Framework



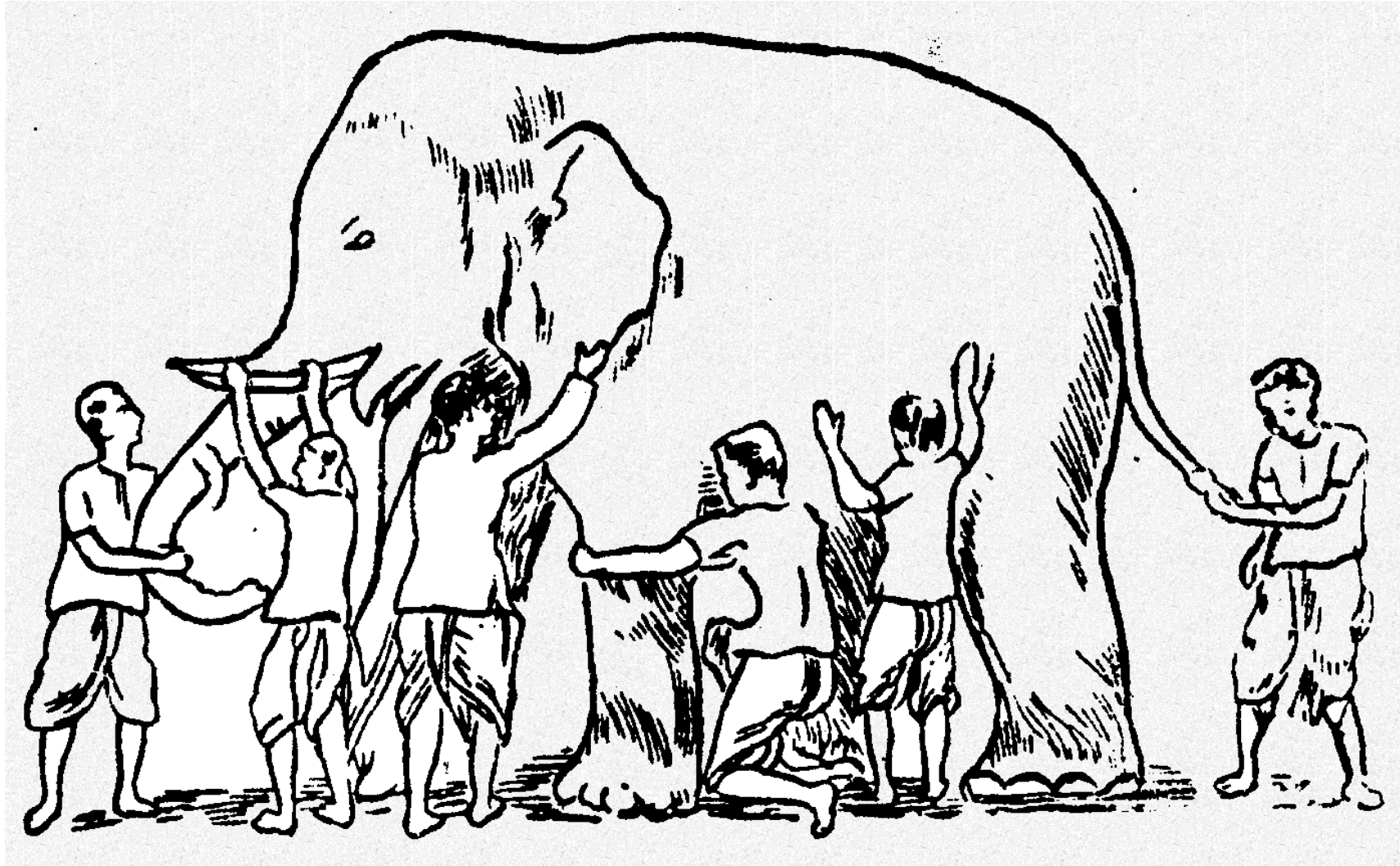
How do I know which framework to use?



There are **many** frameworks to choose from; you can use **more than one** to fit your purposes; consult with **colleagues** or **literature** to figure out which one makes the most sense



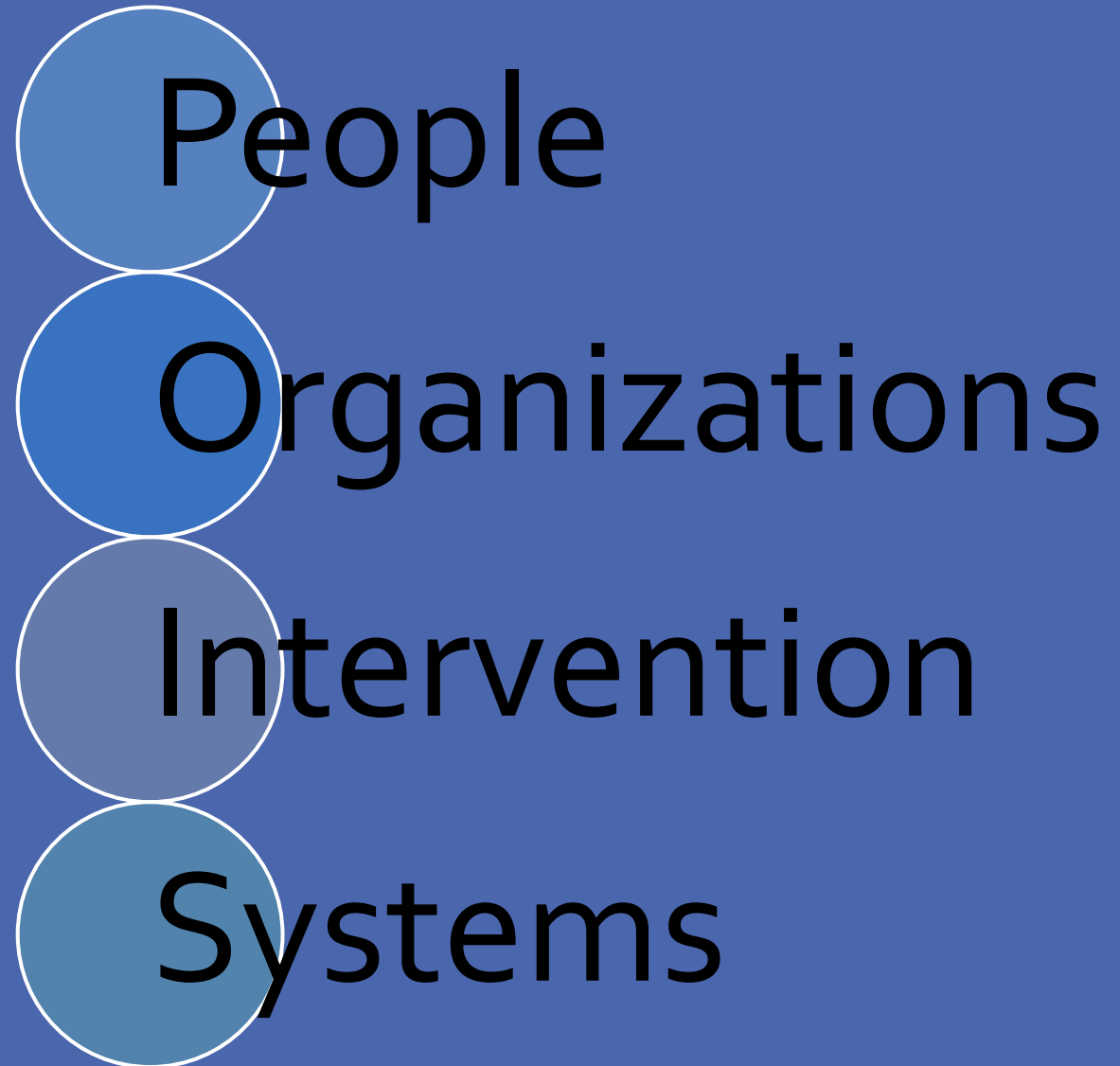
# Context Matters



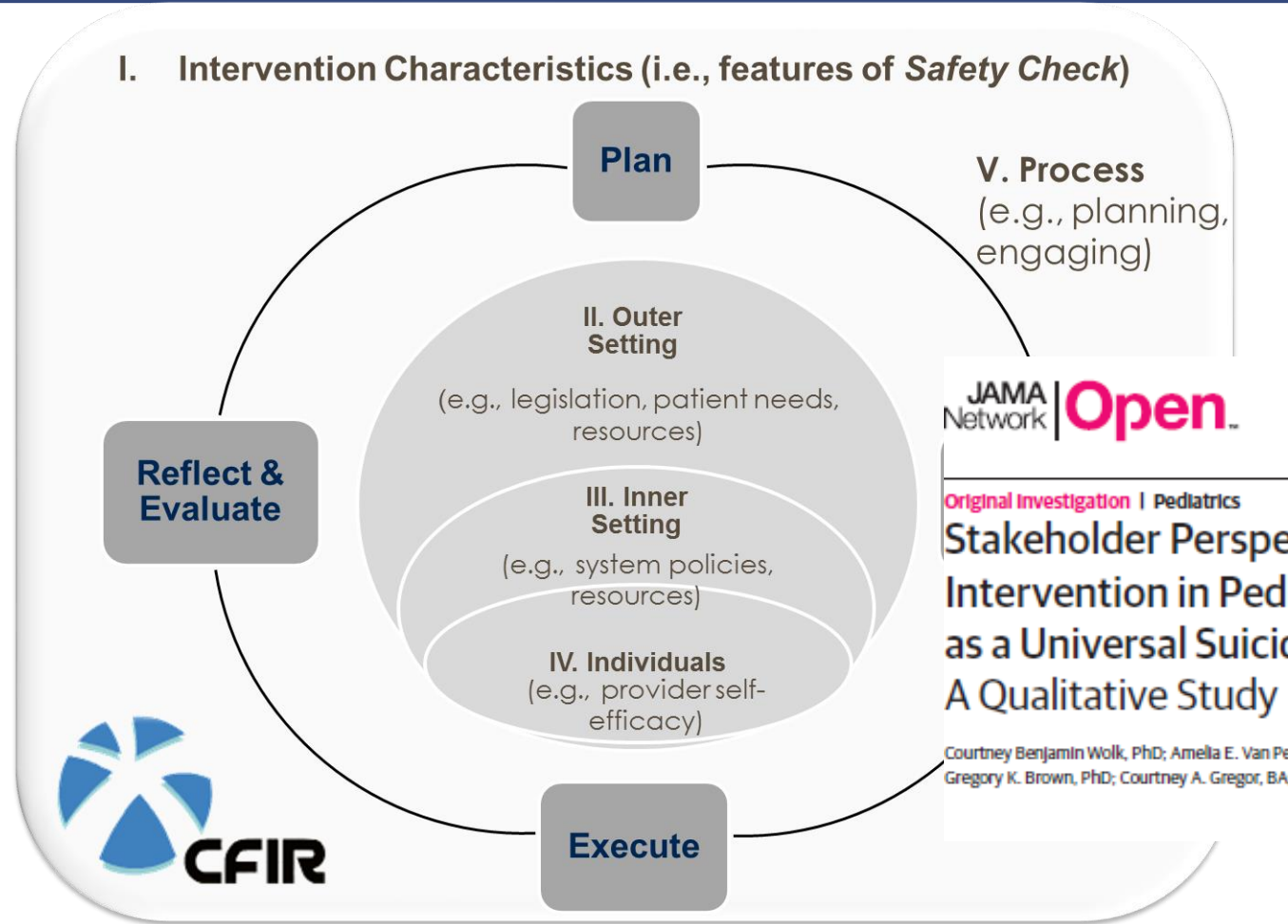
# Assessing Barriers and Facilitators

Determinants:  
“Factors that might  
**prevent or enable**  
improvements in  
practice” (Flottorp et  
al, 2013)

What are things that  
make it hard or easy  
to implement EBPs in  
your setting?



# Example: Determinant Framework



JAMA Network | **Open.**



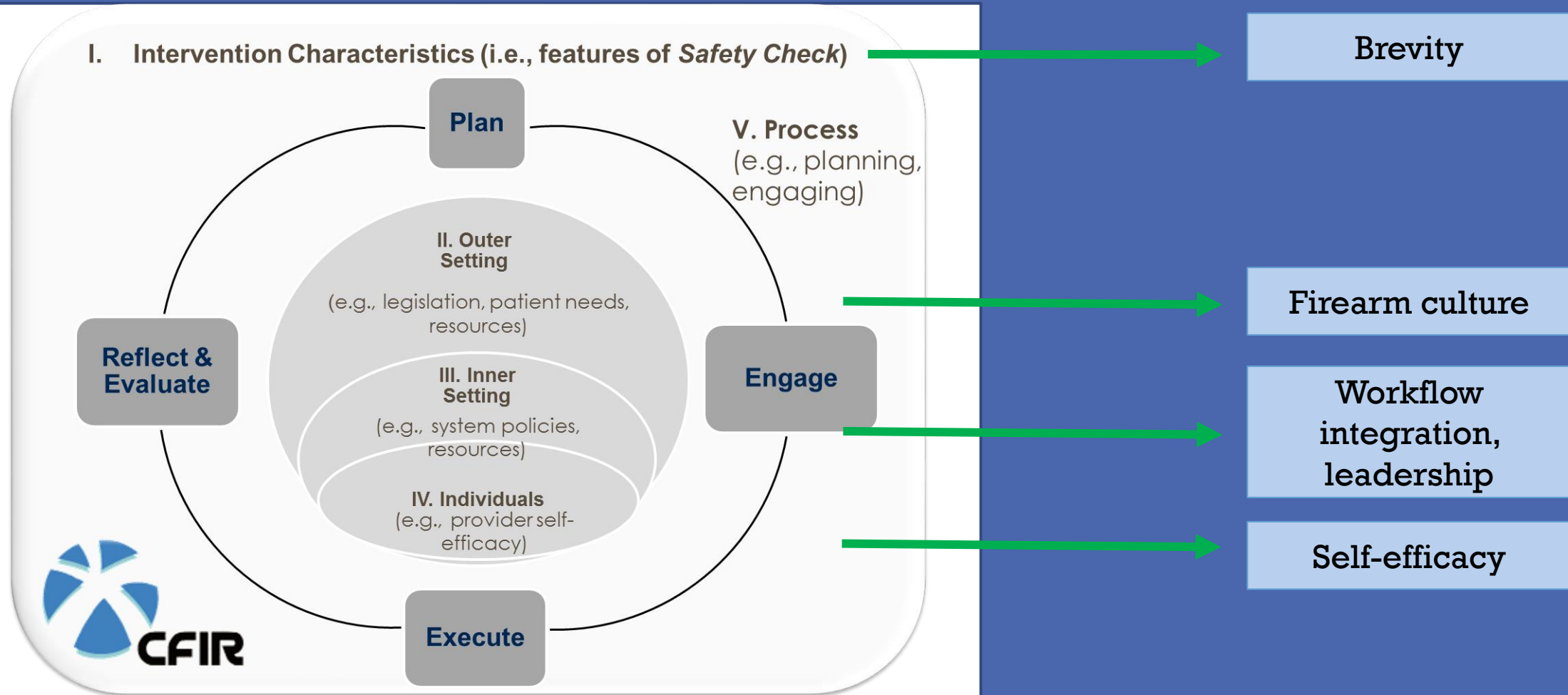
Original Investigation | Pediatrics

## Stakeholder Perspectives on Implementing a Firearm Safety Intervention in Pediatric Primary Care as a Universal Suicide Prevention Strategy A Qualitative Study

Courtney Benjamin Wolk, PhD; Amella E. Van Pelt, MPH; Shari Jager-Hyman, PhD; Brian K. Ahmedani, PhD; John E. Zeber, PhD; Joel A. Fein, MD, MPH; Gregory K. Brown, PhD; Courtney A. Gregor, BA; Adina Lieberman, MPH; Rinad S. Beldas, PhD

Damschroder et al 2009

# Barriers and Facilitators



Damschroder et al 2009

# How should I incorporate context into my work?



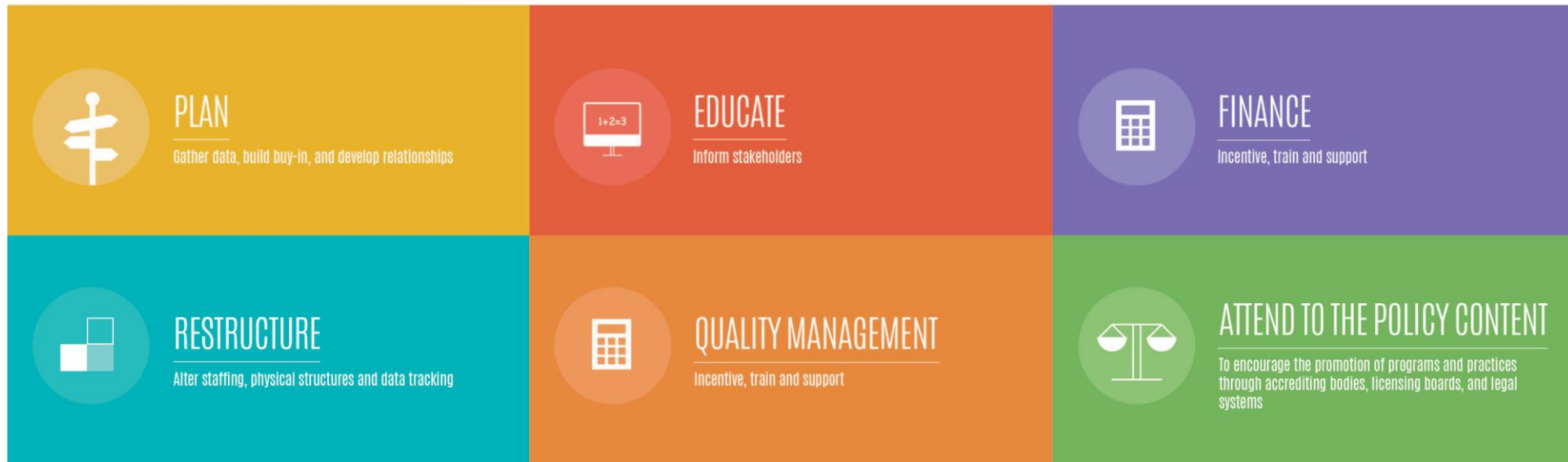
Assess **context** in the studies you conduct!!!! This is low-hanging fruit; many tools exist to measure these constructs at this point.



# Implementation Strategies – our interventions



## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES



Powell et al 2012

# Latest thinking in implementation strategies

Powell et al. *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<sup>1\*</sup>, Thomas J Waltz<sup>2</sup>, Matthew J Chinman<sup>3,4</sup>, Laura J Damschroder<sup>5</sup>, Jeffrey L Smith<sup>6</sup>, Monica M Matthieu<sup>6,7</sup>, Enola K Proctor<sup>8</sup> and JoAnn E Kirchner<sup>6,9</sup>

Waltz et al. *Implementation Science* (2015) 10:109  
DOI 10.1186/s13012-015-0295-0



**SHORT REPORT**

**Open Access**



Use of concept mapping to characterize relationships among implementation strategies and assess their feasibility and importance: results from the Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change (ERIC) study

Thomas J. Waltz<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Byron J. Powell<sup>3</sup>, Monica M. Matthieu<sup>4,5,10</sup>, Laura J. Damschroder<sup>2</sup>, Matthew J. Chinman<sup>6,7</sup>, Jeffrey L. Smith<sup>5,10</sup>, Enola K. Proctor<sup>8</sup> and JoAnn E. Kirchner<sup>5,9,10</sup>



# Which implementation strategies are **most effective?**

Strategy Review	Number of Trials	Effect Sizes
Printed Educational Materials	14 Randomized Trials 31 ITS	Median absolute improvement 2.0% (range 0% to 11%)
Educational Meetings	81 Randomized Trials	Median absolute improvement 6% (IQR 1.8% to 15.3%)
Educational Outreach	69 Randomized Trials	Median absolute improvement in prescribing behaviors 4.8% (IQR 3% to 6.6%), other behaviors 6% (IQR 3.6% to 16%)
Local Opinion Leaders	18 Randomized Trials	Median absolute improvement 12% (6% to 14.5%)
Audit and Feedback	140 Randomized Trials	Median absolute improvement 4.3% (IQR .5 to 16%)
Computerized Reminders	28 Randomized Trials	Median absolute improvement 4.2% (IQR .8 to 18.8%)
Tailored Interventions	26 Randomized Trials	Meta-Regression using 15 trials. Pooled odds ratio of 1.56 (95% CI, 1.27 to 1.93, $p < .001$ )

Thank you to Byron Powell courtesy of Grimshaw et al 2012

# Methods to enhance designing and tailoring strategies

## 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**

**Context**

**Theory**

**Stakeholder  
preference**

Journal of Behavioral Health Services Research (2017)

# How we designed our implementation strategies

JAMA  
Network | **Open**



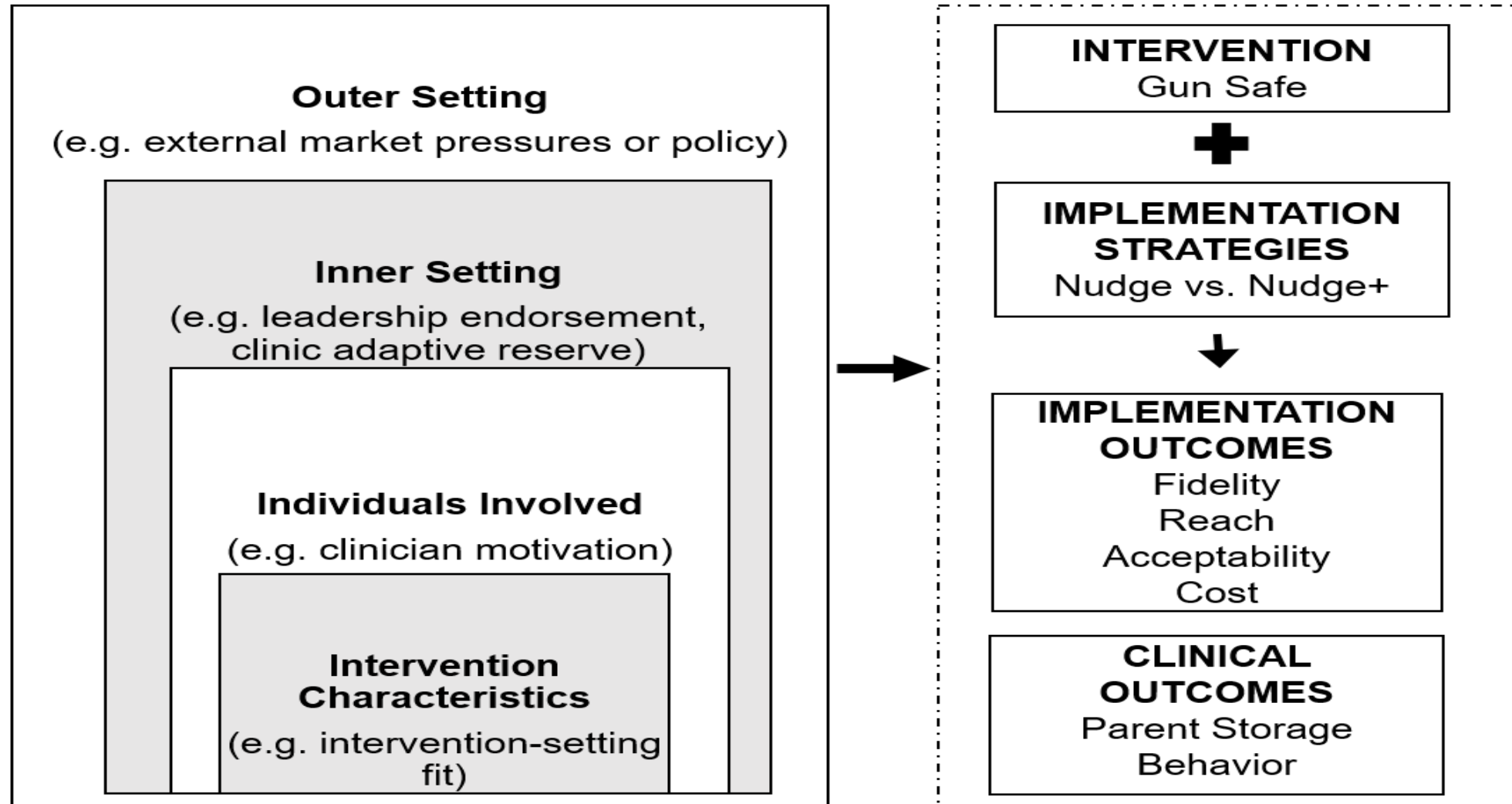
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Original Investigation | Pediatrics

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Courtney Benjamin Wolk, PhD; Amelia E. Van Pelt, MPH; Shari Jager-Hyman, PhD; Brian K. Ahmedani, PhD; John E. Zeber, PhD; Joel A. Felin, MD, MPH; Gregory K. Brown, PhD; Courtney A. Gregor, BA; Adina Lieberman, MPH; Rinad S. Beldas, PhD

**Figure 1.** Implementation Science Framework (Proctor et al., 2010; Damschroder et al., 2009)



# What do we know about implementation strategies?



There is a **taxonomy** of implementation strategies and some **promising** approaches – and some coming down the pike – but **we still don't know what works**. We DO know that training and pray doesn't work.

# How to **evaluate** implementation studies

Adm Policy Ment Health (2011) 38:65–76  
DOI 10.1007/s10488-010-0319-7

ORIGINAL PAPER

## Outcomes for Implementation Research: Conceptual Distinctions, Measurement Challenges, and Research Agenda

Enola Proctor · Hiie Silmere · Ramesh Raghavan ·  
Peter Hovmand · Greg Aarons · Alicia Bunger ·  
Richard Griffey · Melissa Hensley

Lewis et al. *Implementation Science* (2015) 10:155  
DOI 10.1186/s13012-015-0342-x

 IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Open Access

## Outcomes for implementation science: an enhanced systematic review of instruments using evidence-based rating criteria



Cara C. Lewis<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Sarah Fischer<sup>1</sup>, Bryan J. Weiner<sup>3</sup>, Cameo Stanick<sup>4</sup>, Mimi Kim<sup>5,6</sup> and Ruben G. Martinez<sup>7</sup>

Weiner et al. *Implementation Science* (2017) 12:108  
DOI 10.1186/s13012-017-0635-3


Implementation Science

RESEARCH

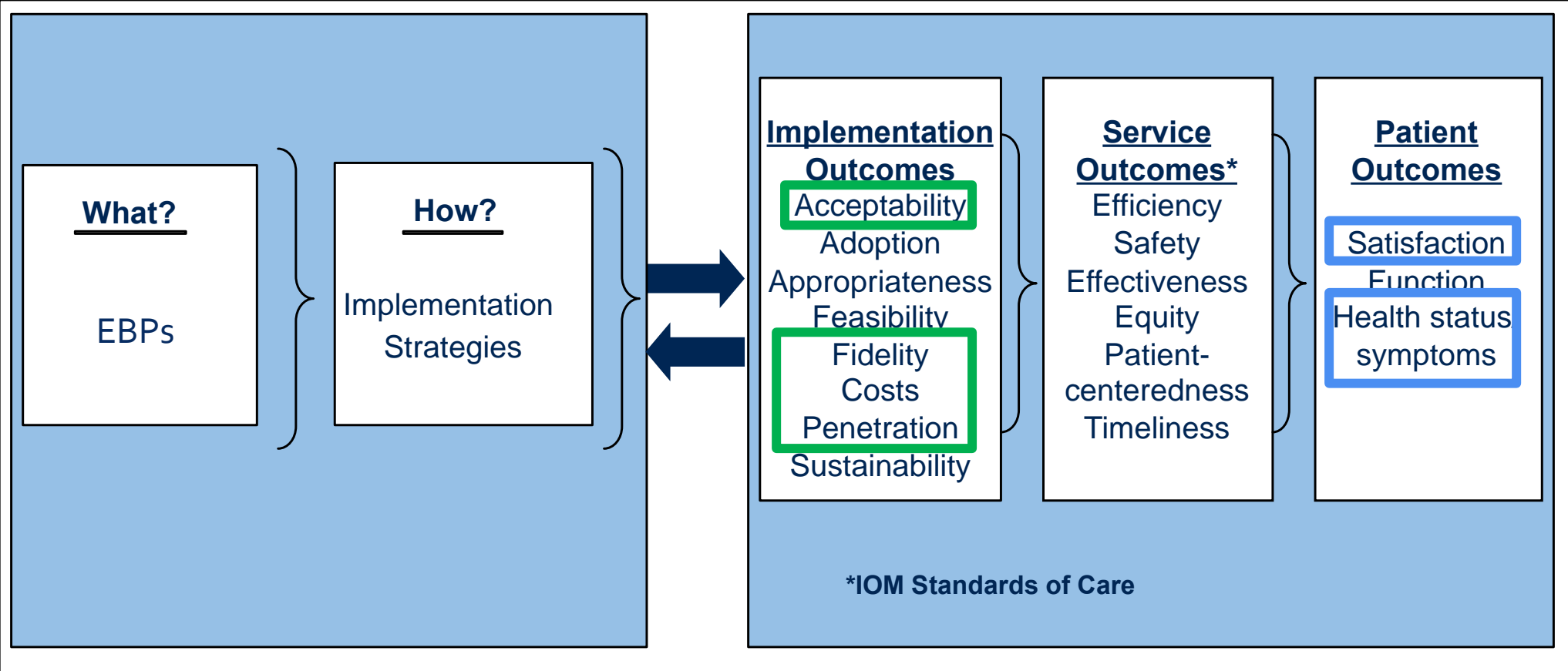
Open Access

## Psychometric assessment of three newly developed implementation outcome measures



Bryan J. Weiner<sup>1\*</sup> , Cara C. Lewis<sup>2,3,4</sup>, Cameo Stanick<sup>5</sup>, Byron J. Powell<sup>6</sup>, Caitlin N. Dorsey<sup>2</sup>, Alecia S. Clary<sup>6</sup>, Marcella H. Boynton<sup>7</sup> and Heather Halko<sup>8</sup>

# Example: Evaluation Framework



Proctor et al 2009

What should I measure in an implementation study?



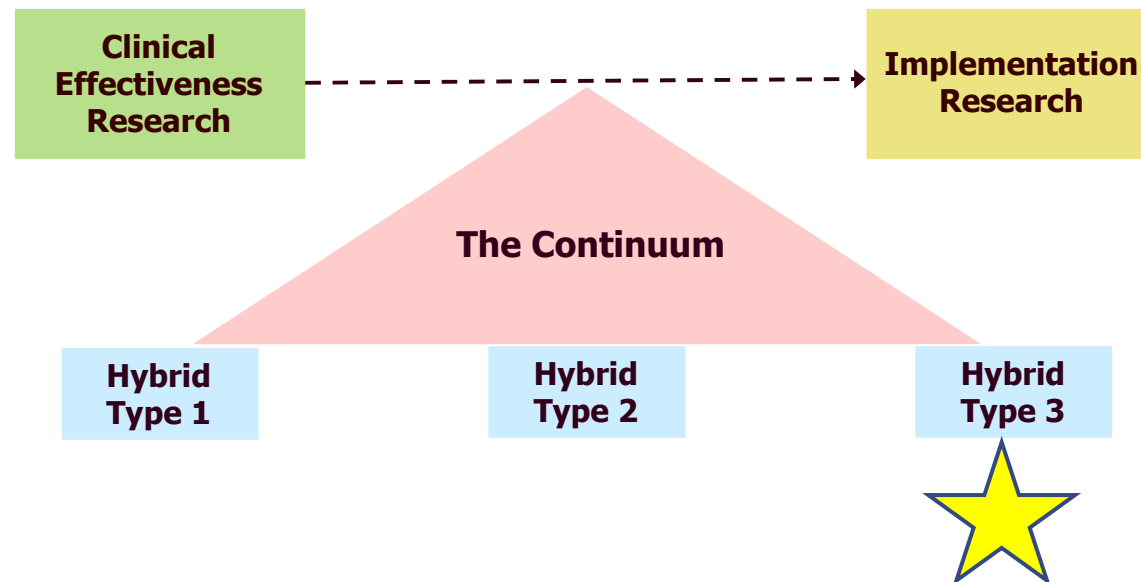
Not JUST patient/clinical outcomes!  
Process, process, process.



# What types of designs are available?

## An Overview of Research and Evaluation Designs for Dissemination and Implementation

C. Hendricks Brown,<sup>1</sup> Geoffrey Curran,<sup>2</sup>  
Lawrence A. Palinkas,<sup>3</sup> Gregory A. Aarons,<sup>4</sup>  
Kenneth B. Wells,<sup>5</sup> Loretta Jones,<sup>6</sup> Linda M. Collins,<sup>7</sup>  
Naihua Duan,<sup>8</sup> Brian S. Mittman,<sup>9</sup> Andrea Wallace,<sup>10</sup>  
Rachel G. Tabak,<sup>11</sup> Lori Ducharme,<sup>12</sup>  
David A. Chambers,<sup>13</sup> Gila Neta,<sup>13</sup> Tisha Wiley,<sup>14</sup>  
John Landsverk,<sup>15</sup> Ken Cheung,<sup>16</sup>  
and Gracelyn Cruden<sup>1,17</sup>



## Effectiveness-implementation Hybrid Designs *Combining Elements of Clinical Effectiveness and Implementation Research to Enhance Public Health Impact*

*Geoffrey M. Curran, PhD,\* Mark Bauer, MD,† Brian Mittman, PhD,‡  
Jeffrey M. Pyne, MD,\* and Cheryl Stetler, PhD‡*

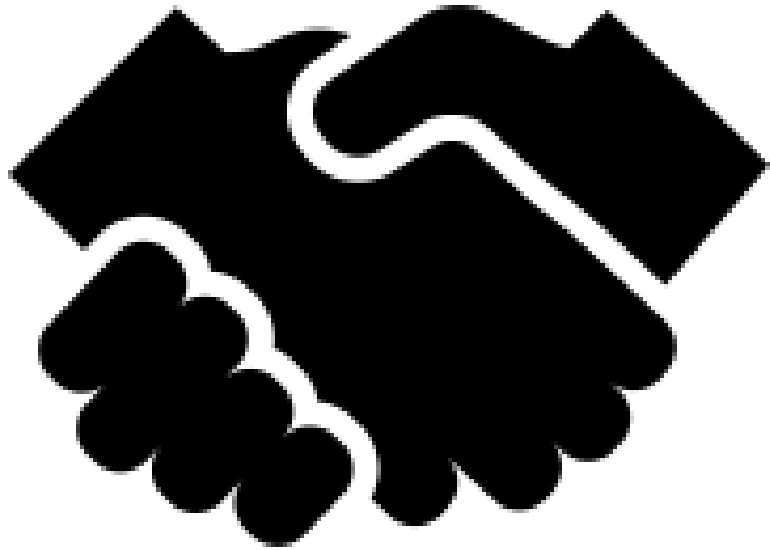
# Which designs should I use?



Many of the traditional designs from health services research apply here – but there are also some **additional approaches** that you can apply.



# Partnership is the foundation



# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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Part 3

# What's coming down the pike?

De-implementation

Tests of implementation strategies focused on a mechanistic understanding

Global implementation science

Marrying implementation science, learning health systems, and precision medicine

# CONCLUSION

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**Implementation  
Science**

# Engaging in a **practical implementation**?

Make sure you understand the context (i.e., due diligence)

Do not assume that it is a knowledge problem (and that training will be the solution)

Engage your stakeholders and front line folks

Draw from implementation science approaches

There will not be a silver bullet; will necessarily be a multilevel, multipronged approach.



## What we want to avoid

“ I spent 13 years at NIMH really pushing on the neuroscience and genetics of mental disorders...while I think I succeeded at getting **lots of really cool papers** published by cool scientists at fairly large costs – I think **\$20 billion** – **I don't think we moved the needle in reducing suicide, reducing hospitalizations, improving recovery** for the tens of millions of people” (Insel, 2017)



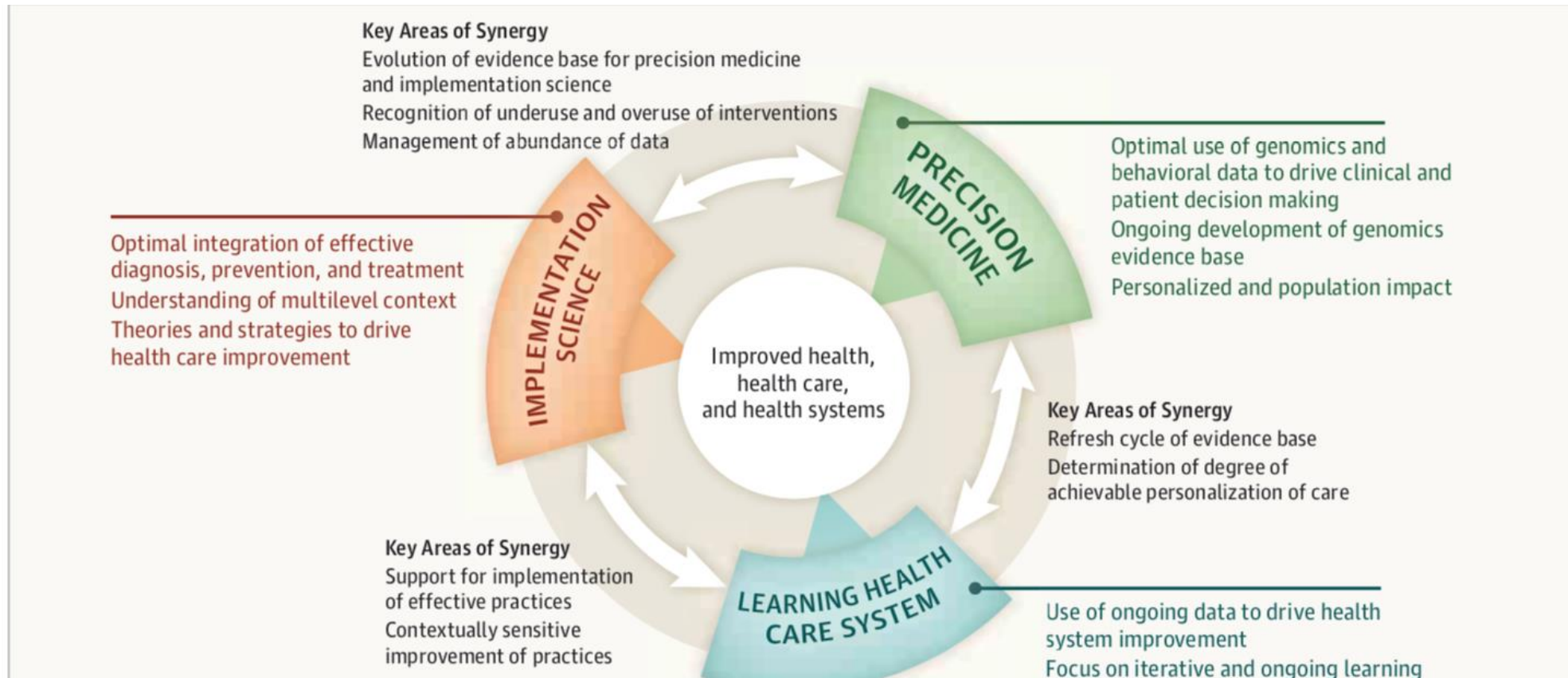
# Relevant to us all



Implementation science allows us to **move the needle**, achieve the promise of scientific **discovery**, and have **impact**.



# How do implementation science and learning health systems concepts converge and diverge (Chambers, 2016)?



# GRATITUDE

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My partners in this journey (too many to list) but special shout outs

