

Diversity IN Research – Are we there yet?

Shobha Srinivasan, PhD
Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences

Overview

- What we know
- What we do
- Where do we want to go

Take away Point

- Approach Individualistic
- Silo
 - Researcher
 - Research/Science
 - Communities

What we know - Current NIH grants

- Very few research grants funded to minority researchers** (and underserved communities)
- For example -
 - Very few grants focusing solely on interventions for health promotion or disease prevention that are sensitive and responsive to Native American cultures
 - Very very few grants accorded to Native American researchers

Ph.D. GRANT APPLICANTS AND FIRST R01 AWARDS 2000–06

Race	Number of applicants	Percent of applications	Number of awards	Award probability
Native American	41	0.0%	12	29.3%
Asian	13,481	16.2%	3430	25.4%
Black	1149	1.4%	185	16.1%
Hispanic	2657	3.2%	746	28.1%
White	58,124	69.9%	17,017	29.3%
Other	99	0.1%	27	27.3%
Unknown	7637	9.2%	1964	25.7%
Total	83,188	100.0%	23,381	28.1%

SOURCE: GINTHER ET AL., *SCIENCE* **333**, 6045 (19 AUGUST 2011)

Against all odds

The Health Gradient



Source: *Making Partners: Intersectoral Action for Health* 1988 Proceedings and outcome of a WHO Joint Working Group on Intersectoral Action for Health, The Netherlands.

Scope, Design, Methods

- Community involvement
- Limited scope – partitioning research agenda
 - Deficit model
- Current challenges of scales, instruments
 - Calibration
- RCT – Quasi designs
 - Are “controls” a challenge?
- Quantitative methods – Mixed Methods
- Analysis – the “normal curve”

What we have

- Data
- Tools
- Evidence

- Commitment
- Resources
- Education & Training

Our continued emphasis ...

The Individual

- Disparities in stage of diagnosis and outcomes
- Low rates of moderate-vigorous physical activity, & low screening rates for colorectal, breast, & cervical cancers
- High rates of smoking, high fat diet, alcohol consumption, H-pylori, & HPV

- Poor access to care
- High poverty rates
- Geographic isolation

Social Determinants of Health

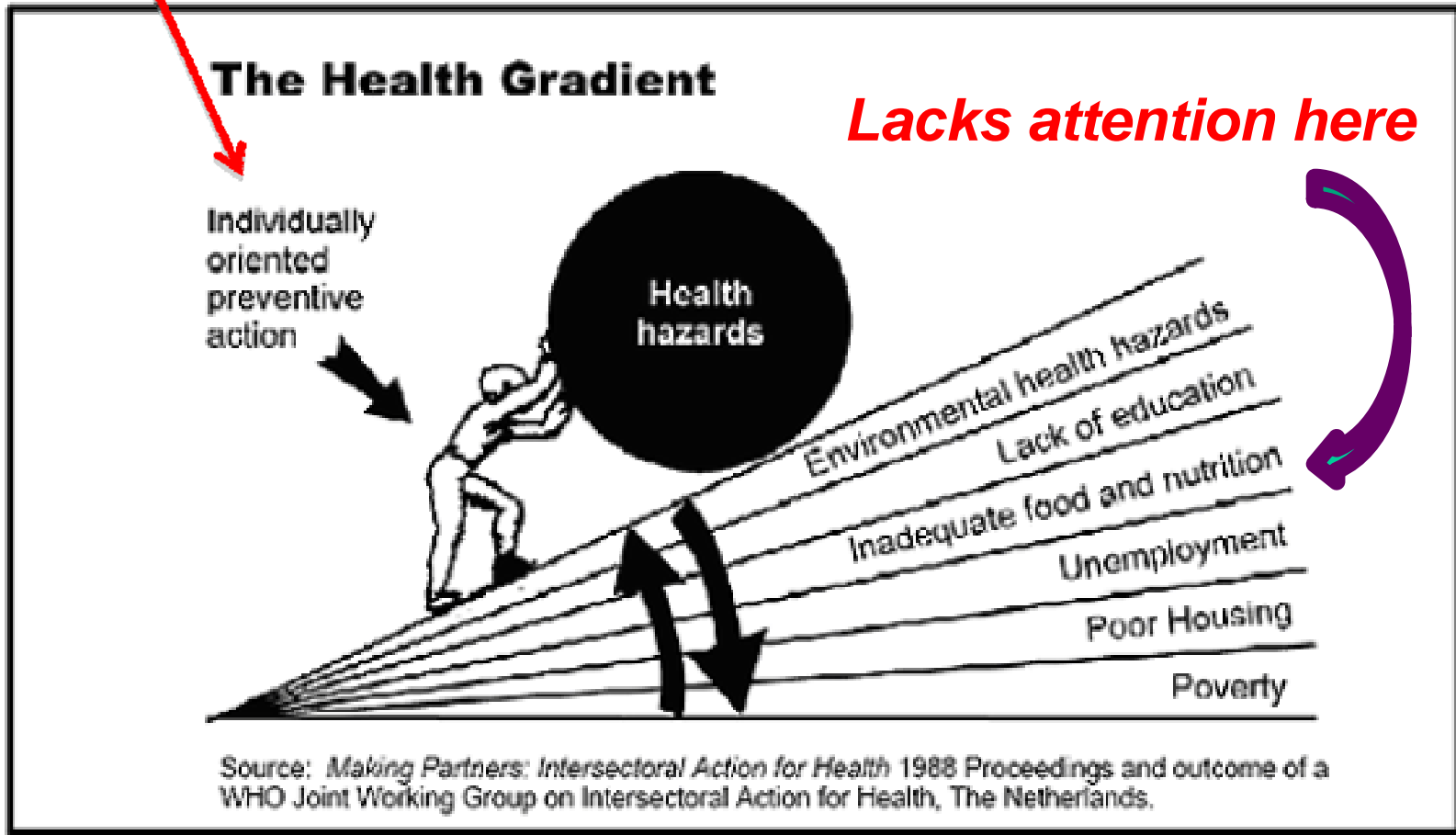
They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, including the health system.

These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels, **which are themselves influenced by policy choices.**

The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities - **the unfair and avoidable factors** in health status seen within and between countries.

Against all odds

Focus is generally here



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Against all odds

Focus is generally here

The Health Gradient

Medical
sociologist
Type II diabetes
Quantitative
skills
Health literacy
Social justice



Lacks attention here

Relevance
Holistic
Poverty
Housing
Prevention
Environment
Community
Neighborhood

Source: *Making Partners: Intersectoral Action for Health* 1988 Proceedings and outcome of a WHO Joint Working Group on Intersectoral Action for Health, The Netherlands.

Moving Forward

- **A**pply design/methods that are relevant to the research question and the community
- **B**uilding partnerships with other disciplines
- **C**onduct comprehensive studies that deal with cross-cutting factors

The **I** in illness is **isolation**,
and the crucial letters in
wellness are **we**.

Author unknown

Nothing great was ever achieved
without **enthusiasm**.

Ralph Waldo Emerson