

The Boyd Orr Centre
for Population and Ecosystem Health



Introduction to interdisciplinarity in disease control

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- Why do disease control programmes fail?
- And what makes them work?
- Disease control programme?
- Design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of intervention(s) designed to prevent disease and/or promote health
 - Infectious and non-communicable diseases
- Intervention = **action** taken to **improve** a situation

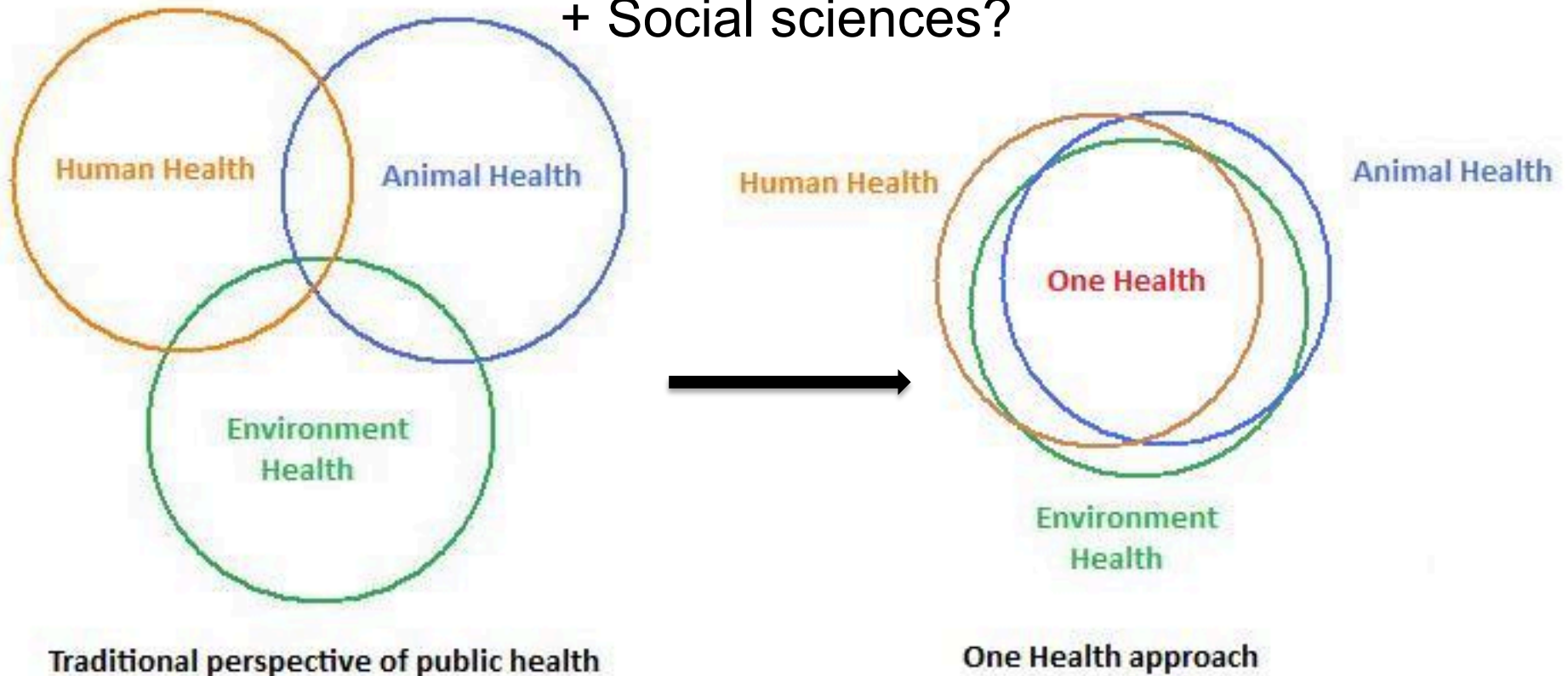


- Functional/disciplinary interdependence
- Organisational interdependence
- Complexity, uncertainty & ambiguity...

- Research on disease control is inherently complex
- Growing recognition that interdisciplinarity is needed to answer complex questions in this field and others
 - Researchers and funders...
- **How can ‘we’ do interdisciplinarity well?**
- **How do we learn from the successes and failures in specific cases so that we can apply these lessons more generally?**

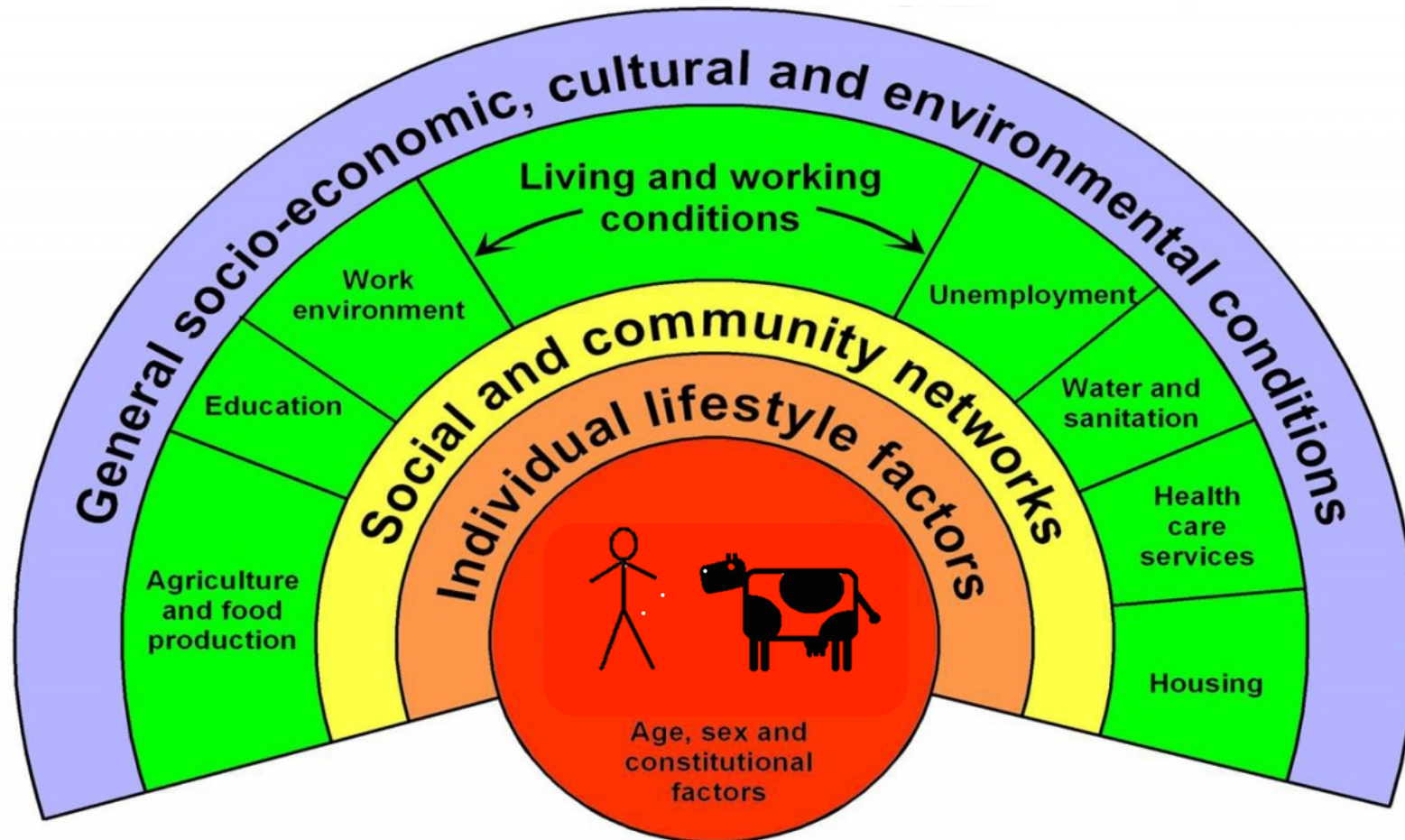


Integration of disciplines & perspectives
+ Social sciences?





Interdisciplinary approaches to disease control Social Determinants of Health



Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

- The Boyd Orr Centre for Population and Ecosystem Health addresses the clinical and ecological health of populations and ecosystems. It is particularly committed to breaking down traditional boundaries across academia and promoting new research partnerships that have a direct and positive practical impact.



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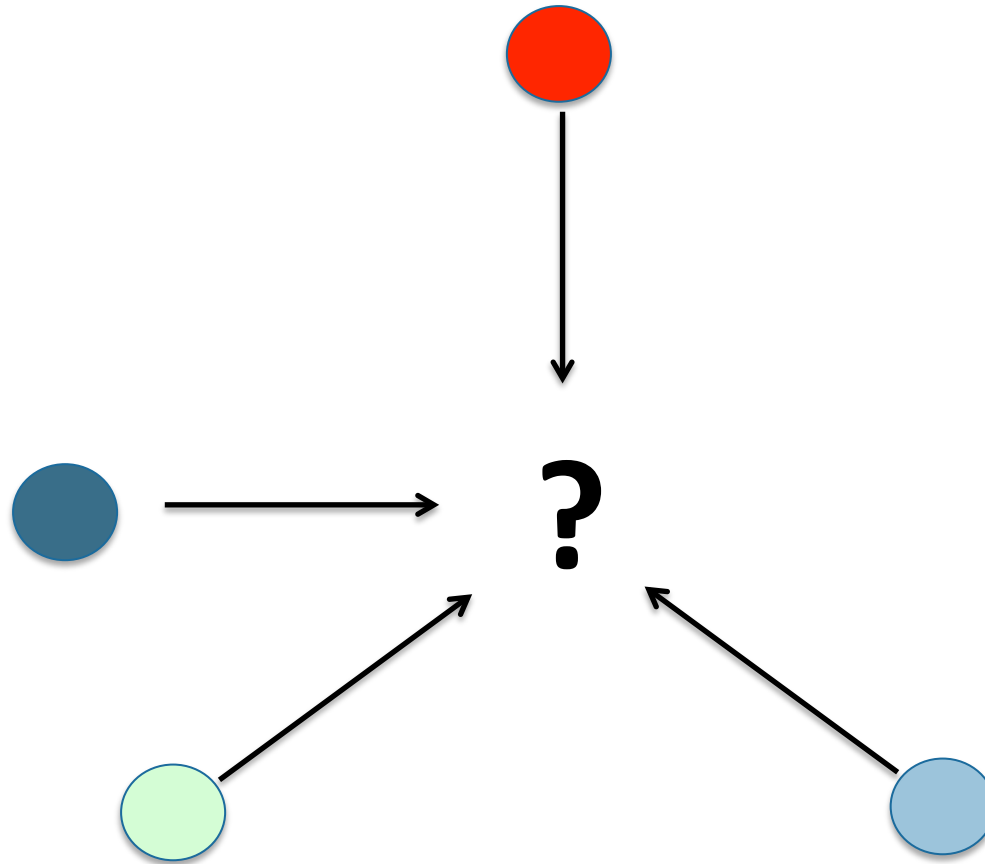
How we do this....
Pragmatic and problem based approach

?

Who are 'we' and who decides on these questions....

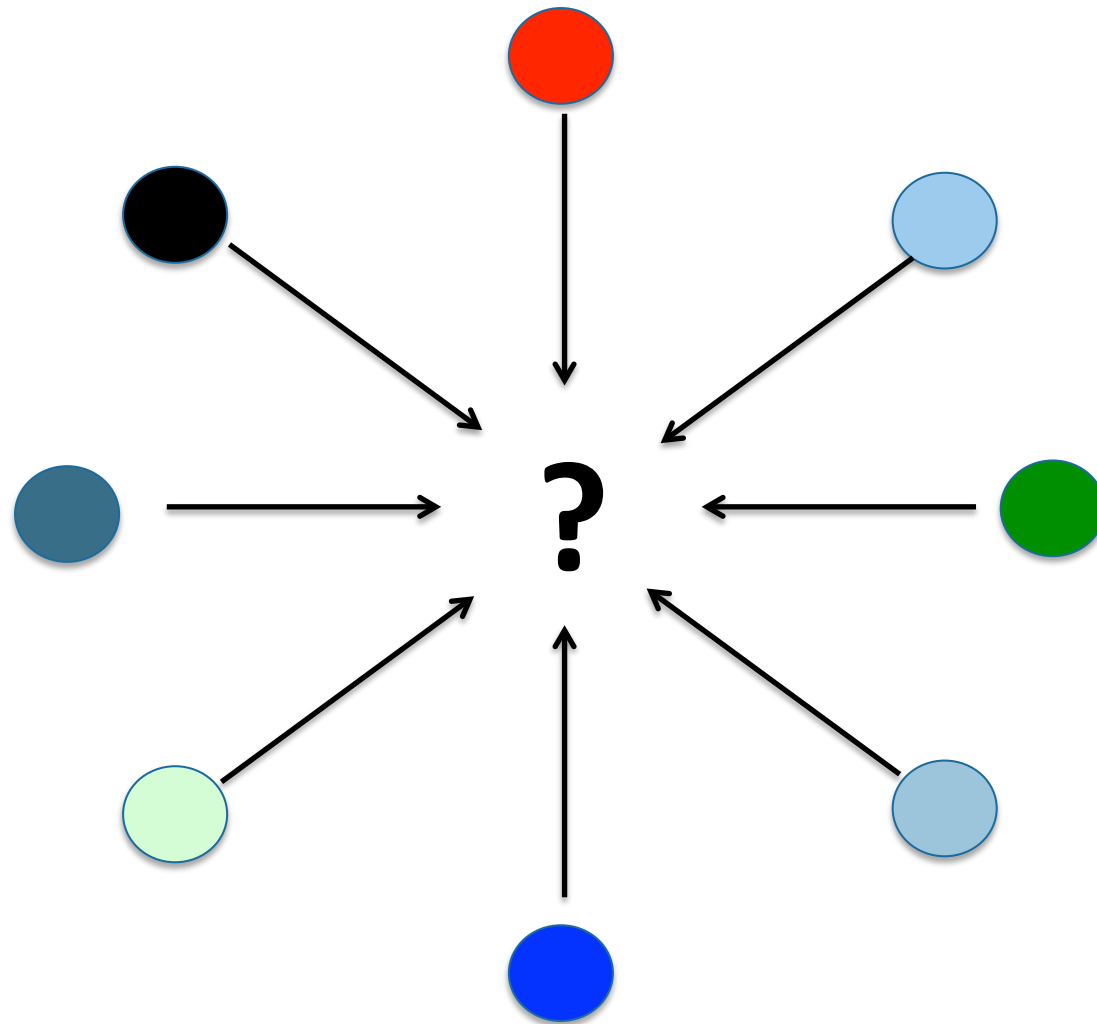


Which disciplines?



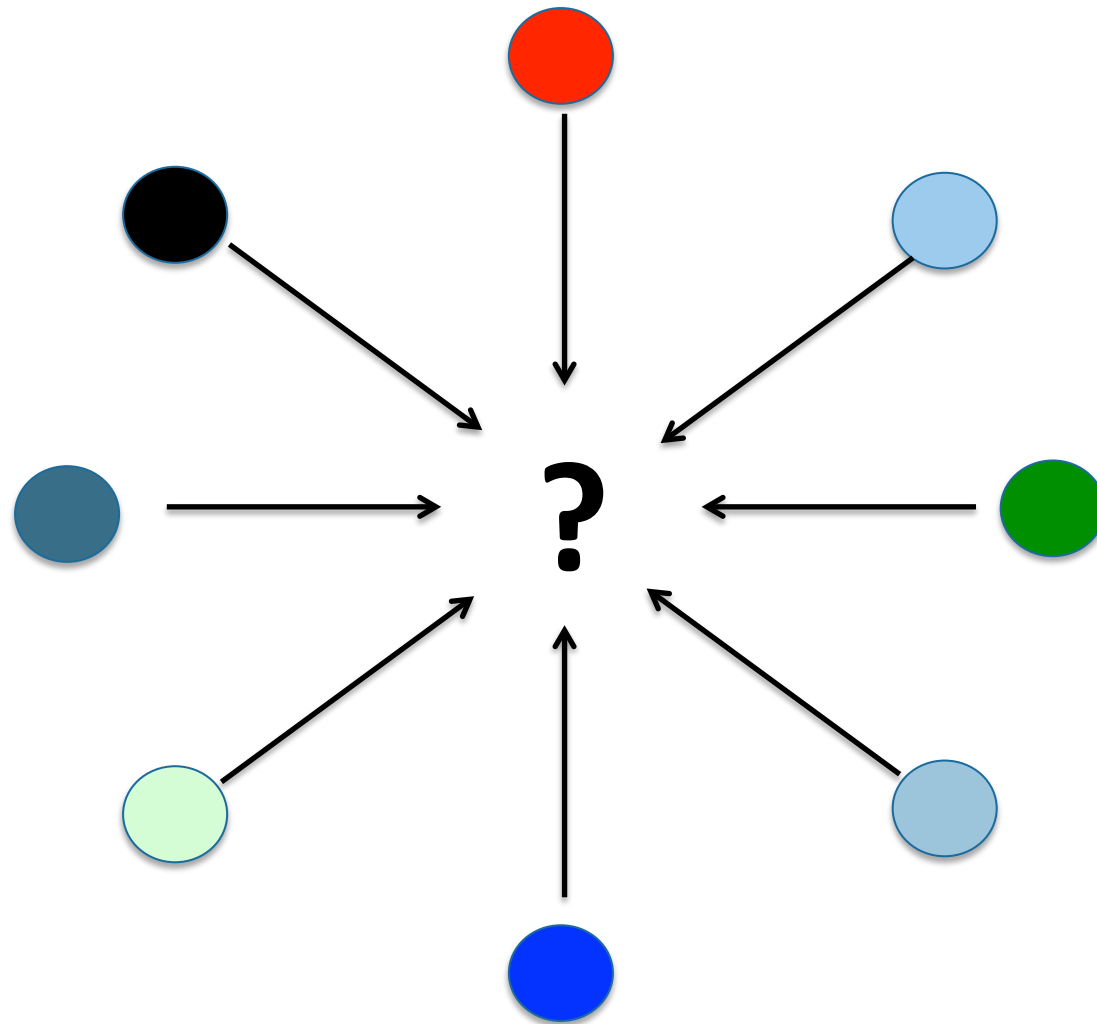


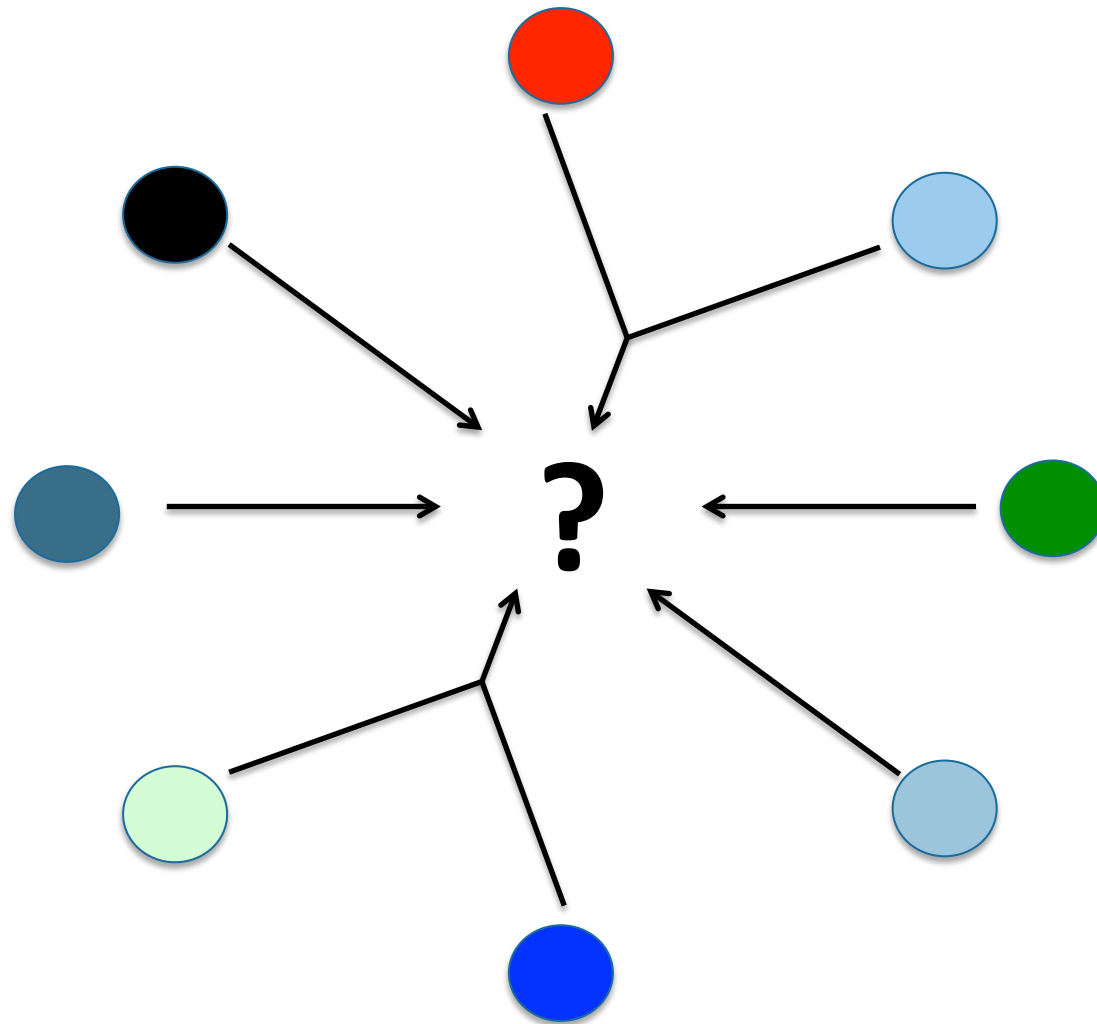
Implementation & impact? Broader range of disciplines and partners..





Multi vs Interdisciplinarity?



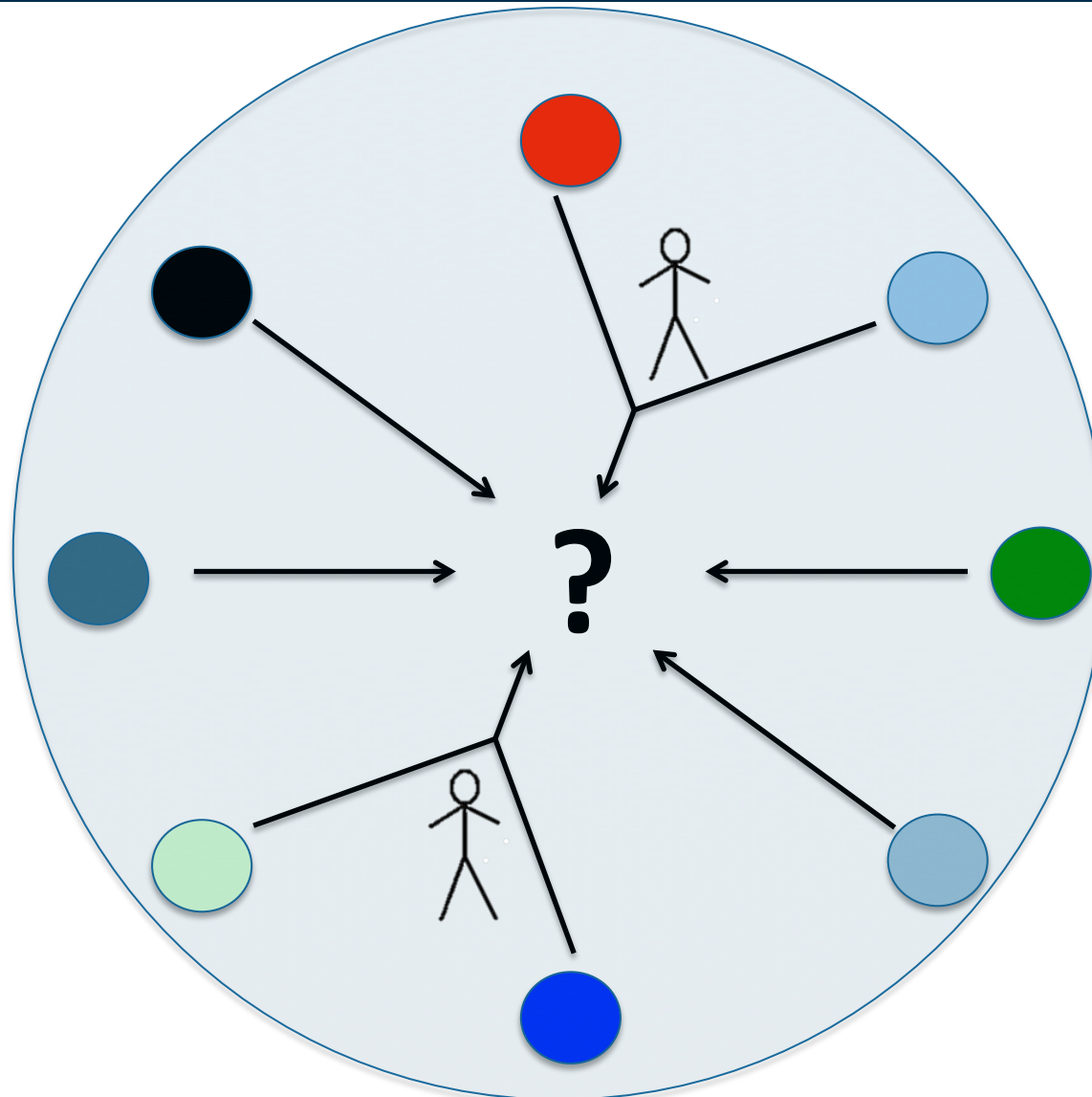


Interdisciplinarity

- Takes place in the spaces between disciplines
- Integration of insights from different disciplines and the action taken
- > More comprehensive understanding and advances in thinking (that informs actions)...

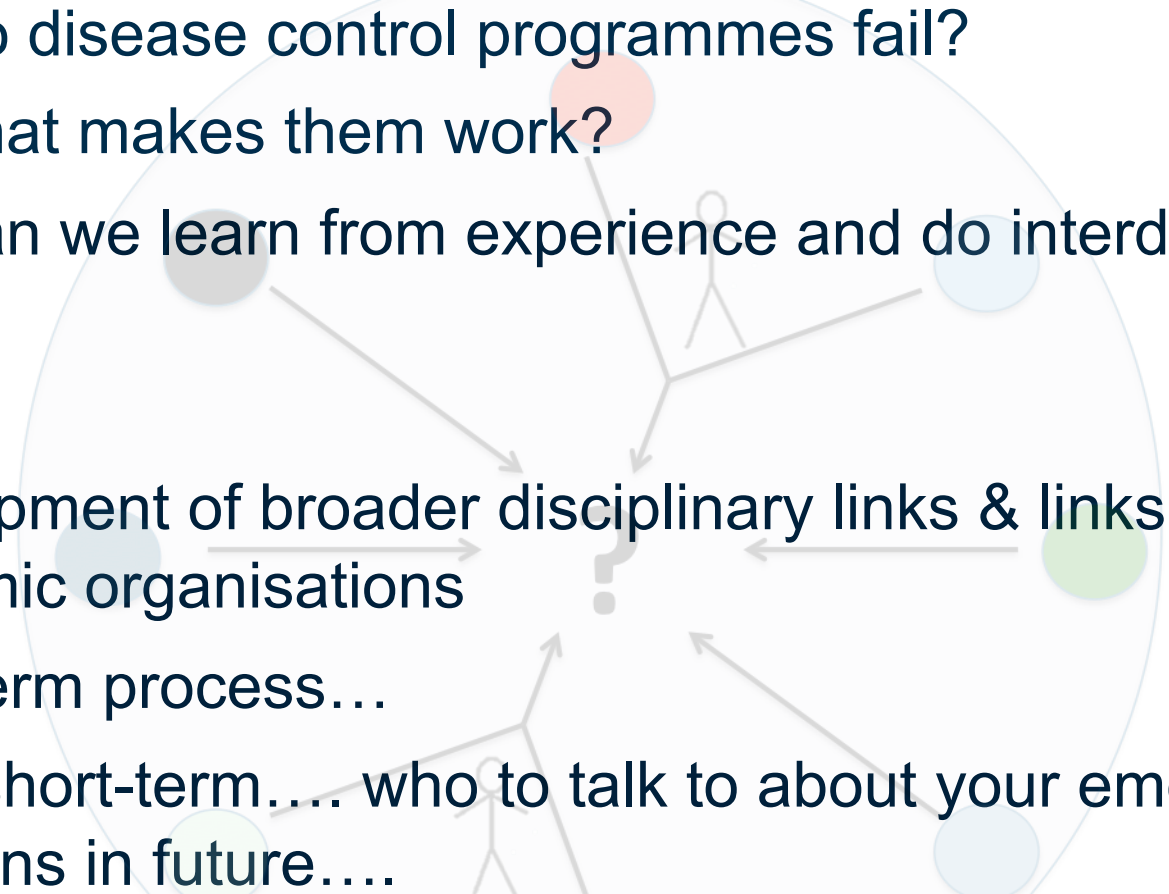


Who does this & where?



- Group of researchers that are doing this....
- QAP in recognition of **excellence, innovation & impact**
- Wealth of data, expertise and experience
- Established relationships with national and international policy makers
- Ongoing opportunities to translate research into policy achieve “**direct and positive practical impact**”



- Why do disease control programmes fail?
 - And what makes them work?
 - How can we learn from experience and do interdisciplinarity well?
 - Development of broader disciplinary links & links with non-academic organisations
 - Long-term process...
 - In the short-term.... who to talk to about your emerging questions in future....
- 

Talks on specific disease control programmes & interventions
Insights & lessons learned

Meso and micro talks

Introduction of individuals and groups with interests in this broad
area of research

Insights from 'other' disciplines ?

Future perspectives

Learning from past successes and failures

Focus on practical impact

Understanding through intervention



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