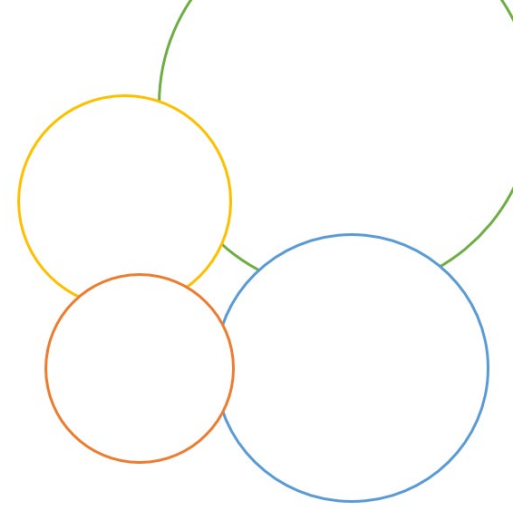


**ROYBAL**

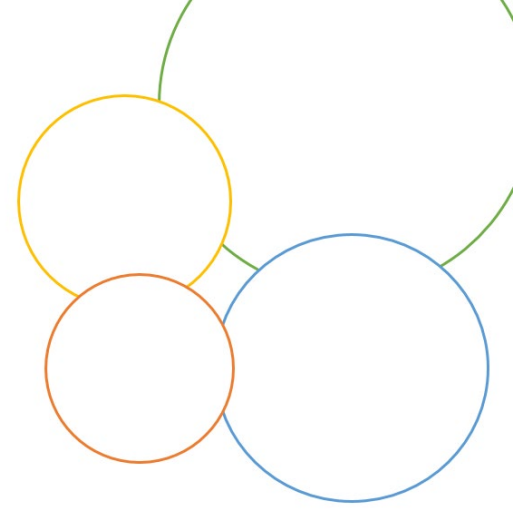
Center For  
Translational  
Research



# Welcome to the 2023 Annual Meeting

Edward R. Roybal Centers for Translational Research in  
the Behavioral and Social Sciences of Aging

March 14-15, 2023  
Day 1



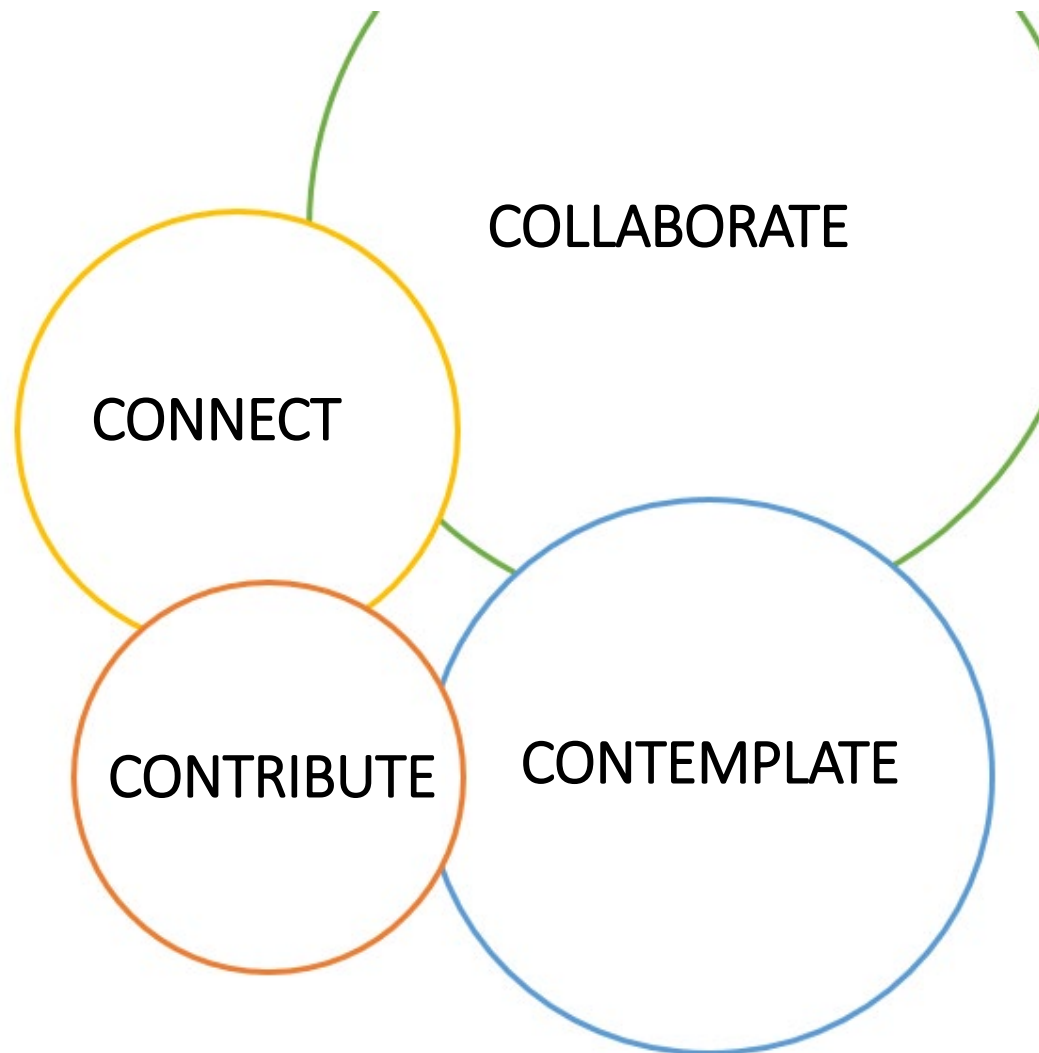
# Welcome

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KARINA DAVIDSON, PHD, MASC

ROYBAL COORDINATING CENTER PI

NORTHWELL HEALTH







# Meeting Goals

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# Day 1 Meeting Agenda

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 10:00am-10:20am –	<b>NIA Welcome</b>	 2:50pm-3:10pm	<b>BREAK</b>
 10:20am-11:10am –	<b>Recommendations for Early-Stage Trials</b>	 3:10pm-4:30pm	<b>Innovative Strategies for Enhancing Retention in Clinical Trials</b>
 11:10am-11:30am –	<b>BREAK</b>	 4:30pm-5:00pm	<b>General Discussion</b>
 11:30am-12:00pm –	<b>Approaches to Intervention Optimization</b>	 5:00pm	<b>Day 1 Adjourn</b>
 12:00pm-1:30pm –	<b>LUNCH</b>	 6:00pm-7:00pm	<b>Cocktail Hour</b>
 1:30pm-2:30pm –	<b>Multimodal and Multilevel Adaptive Interventions</b>	 7:00pm-9:00pm	<b>Dinner Reception</b>
 2:20pm-2:50pm –	<b>Panel Discussion: Intervention Optimization</b>		



# Housekeeping for Today's Meeting

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## **BE FULLY PRESENT**

TURN OFF CELL PHONES, CLOSE YOUR  
EMAIL, ETC.



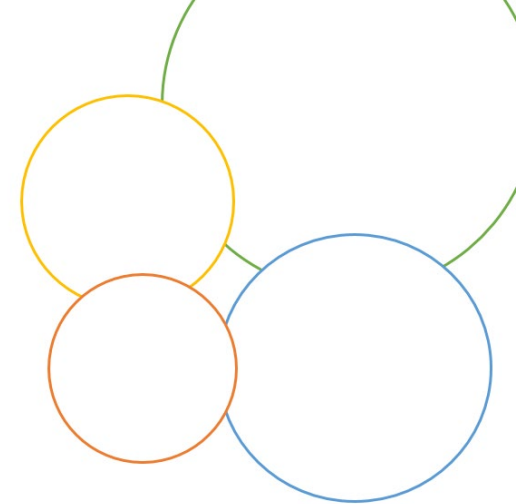
## **DON'T BE LATE**

PLEASE RETURN FROM LUNCH AND  
BREAKS ON TIME



## **SPEAK OFTEN AND LOUDLY**

PLEASE BE SURE TO SPEAK INTO THE  
MICROPHONES LOCATED AT EACH TABLE



# Welcome from the NIA

Edward R. Roybal Centers for Translational Research in the  
Behavioral and Social Sciences of Aging

**Lisbeth Nielsen, PhD**

Director, Division of Behavioral and Social Research  
National Institute on Aging

**Lisa Onken, PhD**

Director, Behavior Change and Intervention Program  
National Institute on Aging

# Recommendations for Pilot Trials in Health-Related Behavioral Intervention Research

Kenneth E. Freedland, PhD  
Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, Missouri



Washington University in St. Louis  

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

# Disclosure

- Research funding: NHLBI, NIMH.
- Other relevant financial interests: None

# Preface

- I've reviewed hundreds (thousands?) of pilot study and RCT proposals and reports as a:
  - grant reviewer
  - journal editor or reviewer
  - consultant or co-investigator
  - Summer Institute faculty member
- Through all of this, I've found that:
  - Many pilot studies have similar weaknesses.
  - Reviewers often overlook or disagree about them.

# Preface

- Roybal pilot study proposals and plans:
  - Great ideas -- promising interventions for significant problems. 😊
  - Despite their strengths, many have similar weaknesses. 😞
  - Roybal FOAs promote some of them. 😞 😞
- This presentation will include:
  - An honest critique.
    - You may disagree or find it difficult to accept.
    - You may be right, and I may be wrong.
    - But please keep an open mind about it.
  - Recommendations
    - Would help to improve Roybal-funded research if adopted.

# Background

- “Pilot” is used informally to label many kinds of studies.
- “Pilot” is defined in the Roybal FOAs as follows:
  - For the purposes of this FOA, Stage I studies and small-scale Stage 0, II, III, and IV studies will be referred to as “pilot” studies.
  - All applications must include Stage I studies, in which a principle-driven intervention and the intervention's associated materials are created, refined, adapted, and pilot tested for feasibility, acceptability and efficacy.
- *Inconsistent with current methodological guidance on pilot studies.*

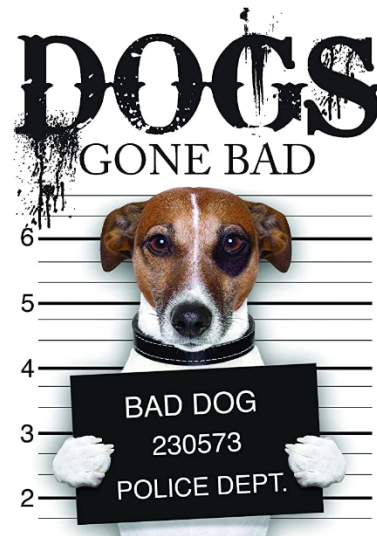
# Background

- Across many disciplines and fields of intervention research:
  - Most “pilot” studies have been **preliminary efficacy trials (PETs)**.
  - Miniature, severely underpowered, randomized controlled efficacy trials.
    - (Severely underpowered by design, not due to underenrollment.)



# PETs

- Disappointing PETs typically:
  - Kill innovative interventions in their cribs.
    - Including ones that are very promising.
  - Don't get published.



# PETs

- Pleasing PETs:
  - Often get published.
  - Are used to support claims of
    - “preliminary evidence of efficacy” or
    - “a signal of efficacy.”
  - Are often used to justify a larger RCT proposal.
  - Provide the effect size for the proposal’s power analysis.



# PETs

- Most of us thought this was the right way to do intervention research – it seemed obvious, and we didn't question it.
- Until this mind-boggling paper was published:
  - [Kraemer HC et al. Caution regarding the use of pilot studies to guide power calculations for study proposals. \*Archives of General Psychiatry\* 2006;63\(5\):484-489.](#)
- It had profound implications for:
  - [The purposes, specific aims, and design of interventional pilot studies.](#)
  - [Other types of early-phase intervention research.](#)
  - [The purposes and outcomes of full-fledged RCTs.](#)

# Kraemer et al. (2006): Some Key Points

- The most likely outcomes of PETs are that:
  - RCTs that would be worth performing will be aborted instead.
  - RCTs that are not aborted will be underpowered.
- Why?
  - PETs yield highly inaccurate & biased effect size estimates.
  - But even if PETs yielded accurate estimates, PET effect sizes would still be the wrong ones to use in power analyses for larger RCTs.
- What's the right effect size to use?
  - The minimum clinically important difference (MCID).
- Valid MCID values almost never emerge from pilot studies.
  - Other kinds of studies are needed to establish valid MCIDs.

# PETs With Long Lives

- Only around 5% of PET publications are ever followed by the publication of a full-fledged RCT.
- When larger efficacy trials *are* conducted, they usually produce smaller effects than PETs, or even null results.
- But PET publications live forever.
  - They inject what Paul Krugman calls “zombie ideas” – erroneous ideas that never die – into the behavioral treatment literature.
  - Despite the glaring weaknesses of the evidence they provide, they are often cited as supporting the efficacy or superiority of the intervention.
  - More rigorous confirmatory or contradictory evidence may never appear.
- Thus, PETs do much more harm than good for the cause of evidenced-based behavioral intervention research & practice.

# PETs With Long Lives

APA's 89 journals published more than 5,500 articles in 2022.  
This PET was **#4** on APA's list of the top 10 most widely read articles.



Psychotherapy

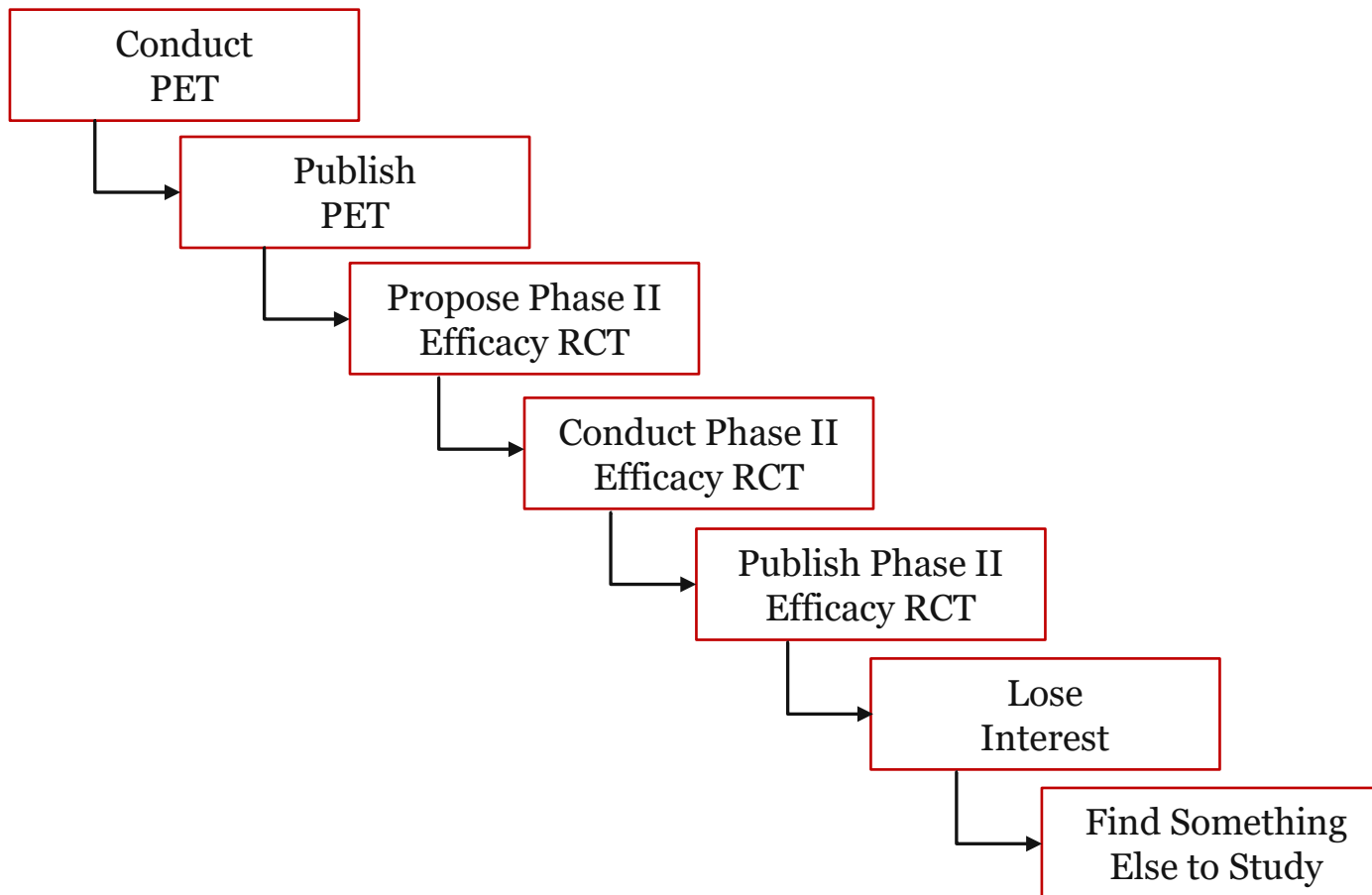
© 2022 American Psychological Association  
ISSN: 0033-3204

2022, Vol. 59, No. 1, 84–95  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/pst0000427>

## A Comparison of Emotion-Focused Therapy and Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy in the Treatment of Generalized Anxiety Disorder: Results of a Feasibility Randomized Controlled Trial

Ladislav Timulak<sup>1</sup>, Daragh Keogh<sup>1</sup>, Craig Chigwedere<sup>1</sup>, Charlotte Wilson<sup>1</sup>, Fiona Ward<sup>2</sup>, David Hevey<sup>1</sup>, Patrick Griffin<sup>2</sup>, Louise Jacobs<sup>2</sup>, Suzanne Hughes<sup>1</sup>, Christina Vaughan<sup>1</sup>, Kea Beckham<sup>1</sup>, and Shona Mahon<sup>1</sup>

# Traditional Trajectory

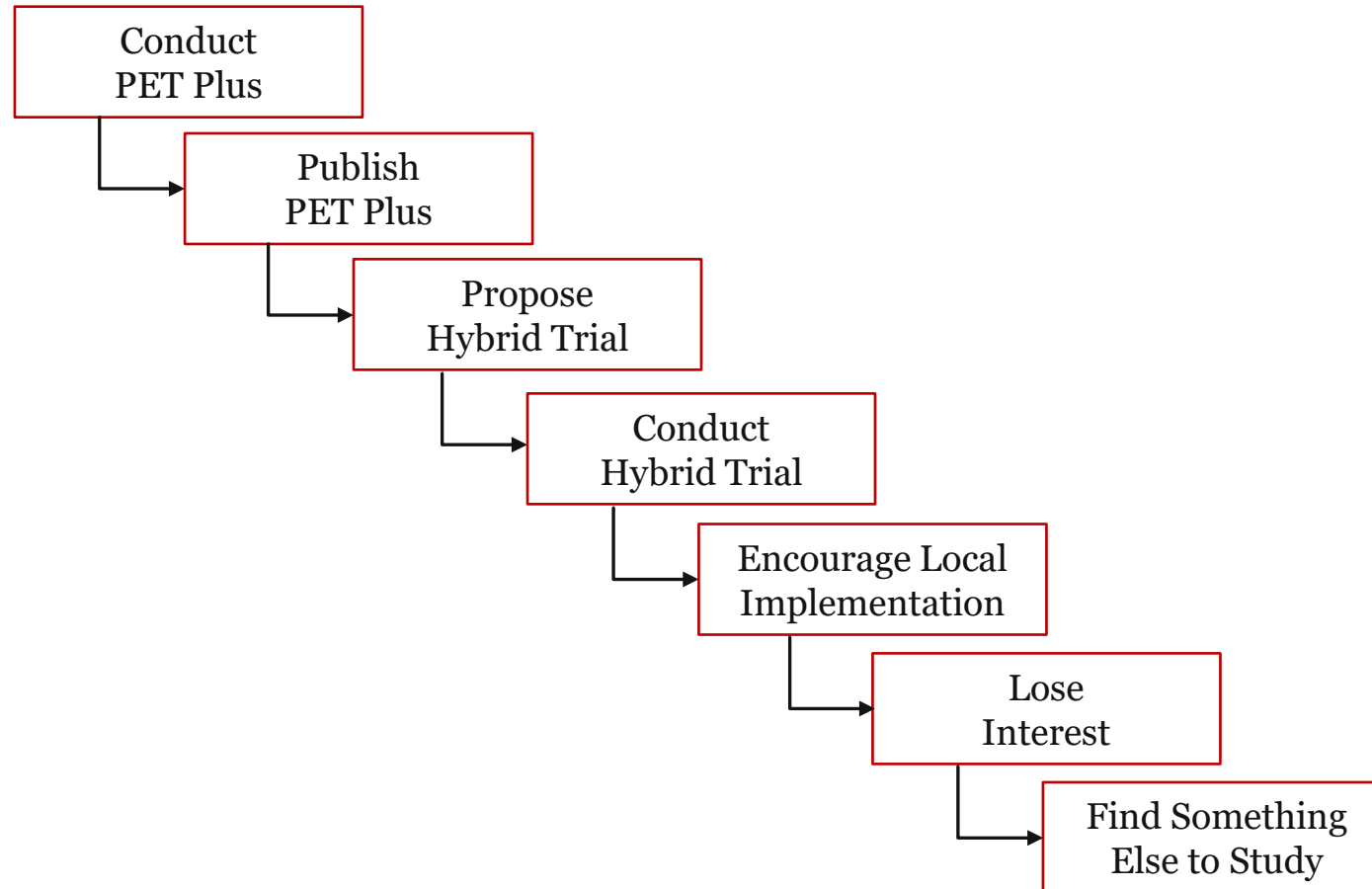


# PET Plus

- Many researchers know that something's wrong with PETs but
  - they don't fully understand their drawbacks, and
  - they don't know enough about alternative approaches, so
  - they propose a PET but bury it under a pile of other aims and analyses.
- They've also heard that pilot studies are supposed to have something to do with feasibility and that they should be thinking ahead about scalability and implementation.
  - So, they add aims concerning feasibility, acceptability, etc.
- These "PET Plus" studies often launch investigators on a different trajectory.



# Emerging Trajectory



# Another Major Development

- Kramer et al. hit many of us like a big earthquake.
- Eldridge et al. hit us like a major aftershock.

## CONSORT 2010 statement: extension to randomised pilot and feasibility trials

Sandra M Eldridge,<sup>1</sup> Claire L Chan,<sup>1</sup> Michael J Campbell,<sup>2</sup> Christine M Bond,<sup>3</sup> Sally Hopewell,<sup>4</sup> Lehana Thabane,<sup>5</sup> Gillian A Lancaster<sup>6</sup> on behalf of the PAFS consensus group

*British Medical Journal* 2016;355:i5239

# Definitions

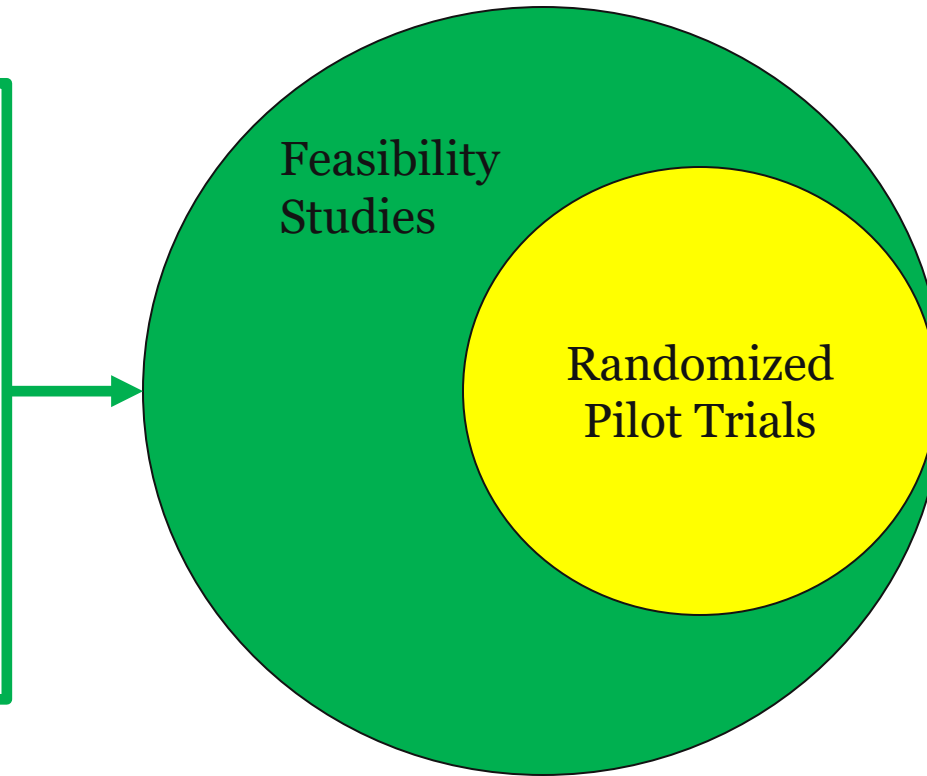
- Before developing the CONSORT guideline, Eldridge et al. established consensus definitions of “feasibility” and “pilot” and established a conceptual framework for these studies.
- They based their definitions and framework on:
  - An extensive literature review.
  - A Delphi survey of clinical trial experts.
  - Discussion sessions at methodology conferences.
  - An international consensus meeting.
    - Eldridge SM et al. *PLOS One* 2016;11(3):e0150205.

# Definitions

- **Feasibility studies:**
  - are done before an RCT to assess: **“Is this RCT doable?”**
  - address recruitment, retention, delivery of the intervention, etc.
  - i.e., critical factors for the successful conduct of the future RCT.
- **Randomized pilot trials:** a special type of feasibility study.
  - **Key design feature:** A pilot trial is a smaller version of the main trial.
    - Same intervention and control groups, same measures, etc.
    - Much smaller sample.
  - **Aims** do *not* include a preliminary efficacy analysis.

# Feasibility Studies and Randomized Pilot Trials

- Single-arm trials
- Quasi-experimental (non-randomized) trials with two or more arms.
- Data mining studies (e.g., analyses of EMR data)
- Stakeholder surveys or focus groups
- Experimental tests of alternative trial procedures



*All of the above can address questions about **whether a future RCT is doable.***

# Added Value of Randomized Pilot Trials

- There are many kinds of feasibility studies.
- So why conduct a randomized pilot trial?
  - (Either instead of or in addition to other kinds of feasibility studies.)
- They address questions that other feasibility studies can't, e.g.,
  - Will our randomization and concealment procedures work?
  - Will participants accept randomization?
  - Can we prevent differential attrition?
- Pilot trials can also address a variety of other RCT feasibility questions, including questions about the control group.

# RCT Reviewer's Perspective

- Reviewers of proposals for relatively large, complex, and/or expensive trials (including single-site trials) want to know:
  - Is this trial doable by these investigators, at this site (or these sites), with these resources, within this budget, etc.?
- They usually look for certain kinds of feasibility data.
  - e.g., how large is the pool of potentially eligible patients at this center?
- They may want to see randomized pilot trial data.
  - Unless the need is obviated by previous RCTs or favorable circumstances.
- Reviewers also look elsewhere for evidence of RCT feasibility.
  - E.g., How much clinical trial experience does this team have?
  - E.g., Do they have the necessary expertise and institutional support?
  - E.g., Is the protocol unduly complicated or burdensome?

# When “Feasibility” ≠ CONSORT Feasibility

- Many pilot grant applicants misunderstand feasibility.
  - They believe that the purpose of a feasibility study is to establish the feasibility of the *intervention* rather than the feasibility of a future RCT.
- Problematic for two reasons:
  - Their pilot study will not establish the feasibility of the future RCT.
    - Seriously jeopardizes the chances of funding for their future RCT.
  - “Feasibility” is not an inherent property of behavioral interventions.
    - Intervention feasibility is almost always *context-dependent*.
      - An intervention may be feasible in one setting but not another.
    - Context-dependent intervention feasibility is a proper question for optimization trials in the MOST framework and for implementation research, but usually not for pilot trials.



# Intervention Data in Randomized Pilot Trials

- But certain questions about the intervention can and should be addressed in a pilot trial and/or in other feasibility studies.
  - E.g., is the intervention *acceptable* to people who would be eligible to participate in the future RCT?
  - E.g., do our therapist training, supervision, & fidelity procedures work?
  - E.g., do most participants adhere to the intervention protocol?
- There are other questions about interventions that should *not* be asked in pilot trials.
  - They should be asked in other kinds of studies.
  - More on this later.

# A Rare Bit of Wisdom From Donald Rumsfeld

There are known knowns.

*These are things we know that we know.*

There are known unknowns.

*That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know.*

But there are also unknown unknowns.

*There are things we don't know we don't know.*



# Known and Unknown Unknowns in Pilot Trials

- Favorable feasibility data can build confidence among RCT reviewers, funders, and investigators that a trial is doable.
- It can't *guarantee* that the RCT will turn out to be doable or that it will run as smoothly as one might hope.
  - E.g., recruitment often turns out to be much more difficult than anyone ever expects, even after a successful pilot trial is conducted.
- In short, "Life is full of surprises!"
  - --Mr. Bytes, the evil ringmaster in the classic 1980 film [The Elephant Man](#)



# Known and Unknown Unknowns in Pilot Trials

- Proper pilot trials enable us to form sensible albeit fallible expectations about the feasibility of a future clinical trial.
- In contrast, the faulty logic of PETs can easily lead us astray.
  - False: Conducting a PET proves I can conduct a much larger RCT.
    - Like claiming that running a mile proves I can run a marathon.
  - False: Pleasing PET results make it very likely that the larger RCT will confirm the efficacy or superiority of my intervention.
    - Like claiming that running a mile proves I will *win* the marathon.



# Known and Unknown Unknowns in Pilot Trials

- It's impossible to evaluate the feasibility of a future RCT about which nothing is known.
- Thus, ironically, it's necessary to develop a formative plan for the future RCT *before* you propose a randomized pilot trial.
- The formative plan must include such elements as:
  - the design of the trial,
  - the approximate sample size,
  - the primary outcome measure and occasion,
  - the durations of the recruitment, intervention, and follow-up phases,
  - etc.

# Known and Unknown Unknowns in Pilot Trials

- The formative plan makes it possible to design a smaller version of the future RCT, i.e., a randomized pilot trial.
- Also makes it possible to set “*go/no-go*” *feasibility criteria*.
  - If the criteria are met: Proceed with the RCT proposal.
  - If not: Refine the trial procedures and try again.
- Example:
  - Big RCT will require enrollment of ~200 patients over 24 months.
    - ~8.3 patients per month.
  - Pilot trial target: 9 patients per month for 4 months (n=36)
    - If actual enrollment <9/month: **no-go**.
    - If actual enrollment  $\geq$ 9/month: **go** (if other criteria are also met).

# I Miss My PET

- Favorable CONSORT-style pilot trial results reassure RCT grant reviewers that the proposed trial is doable.
- They *don't* provide some of the other preliminary data that a pleasing PET supposedly yields, especially:
  - a “preliminary signal of efficacy”
  - an effect size for the RCT power analysis

# I Miss My PET

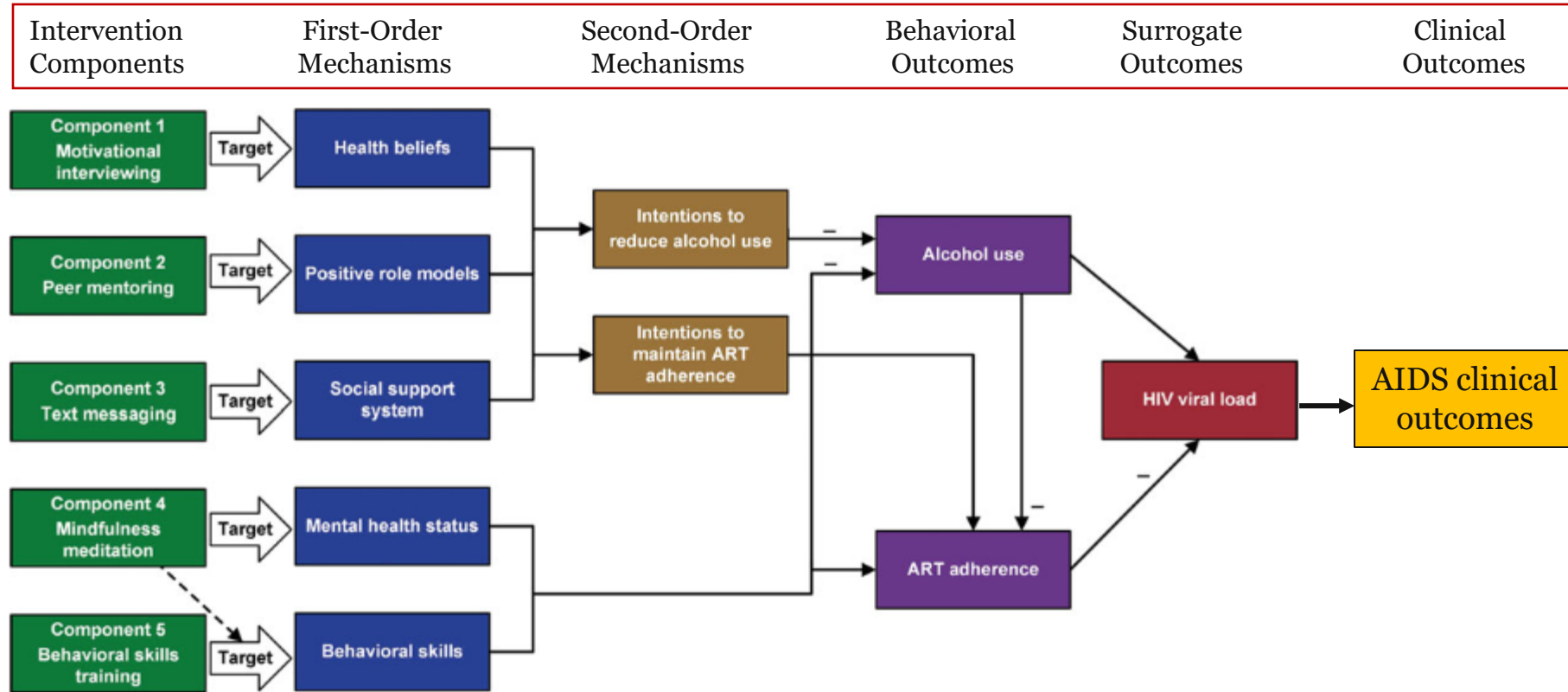
- What can RCT applicants provide instead of PET results?
  1. **A suitable minimum clinically important difference (MCID).**
  2. ***Design & refine* data to bolster the intervention's *credibility*.**
  3. ***Proof-of-concept* data to support the *plausibility* of its benefits.**



# MIDs and MCIDs

- The primary effect in an RCT is a **between-group difference**.
  - **How big of a difference is big enough?**
- **MCID** is the answer to that question if the primary outcome of the RCT is clinically important.
- **MID** is the answer in earlier phases of intervention research when focusing not on clinical outcomes but instead on:
  - intermediate outcomes
  - intervention components or mechanisms
  - MID: How big of a between-group difference in this variable do we need to move forward in our translational research program?
- (Surrogate or intermediate outcome effects may be described either as MIDs or as MCIDs, depending on the circumstances.)

# Treatment Model Example



**Fig. 2.1** Conceptual model for a hypothetical behavioral intervention to reduce viral load in HIV-positive individuals who are heavy drinkers (Adapted from model in Collins et al. (2016))

Adapted from Collins LM. (2018). *Optimization of Behavioral, Biobehavioral, and Biomedical Interventions: The Multiphase Optimization Strategy (MOST)*. Springer Nature. Cham, Switzerland

# MID & MCID Examples

- MID
  - How big of a between-group difference in health beliefs does it take to change intentions to reduce alcohol use in excessive alcohol users with HIV?
- MCIDs
  - How big of a difference in alcohol use and ART adherence is big enough to make a clinically meaningful difference in HIV viral load?
  - How big is big enough to change clinical practices?
  - How big of a between-group difference in HIV viral load is big enough to make a difference in AIDS clinical outcomes?

# MIDs & MCIDs

- Early-phase MIDs often concern “how big of an effect on this variable do we need to move on to later-phase studies of behavioral or surrogate outcomes?”
- Later-phase MCIDs concern “how big of an effect is big enough to conclude that the intervention is clinically superior to a specific alternative?”
- Use MIDs or MCIDs, not PET results, in RCT power analyses.
- Meaningful MCIDs emerge from risk factor research, clinical research, clinical practice guidelines, public health goals, cost-effectiveness considerations, stakeholder engagement, etc.
  - Seldom if ever from pilot trials.

# Behavioral Treatment Models

- Treatment models for complex behavioral interventions can reveal needs for a variety of early-phase studies.
  - Some studies may be qualitative, observational, or quasi-experimental.
  - **Others may be randomized controlled trials.**
    - Relatively small samples are often adequate for early-phase investigations of components, mechanisms, or behavioral variables.
    - They're affordable within the limits of many pilot grant opportunities.
    - Roybal pilot grant applicants can propose productive, early-phase randomized trials *without* having to propose PETs.

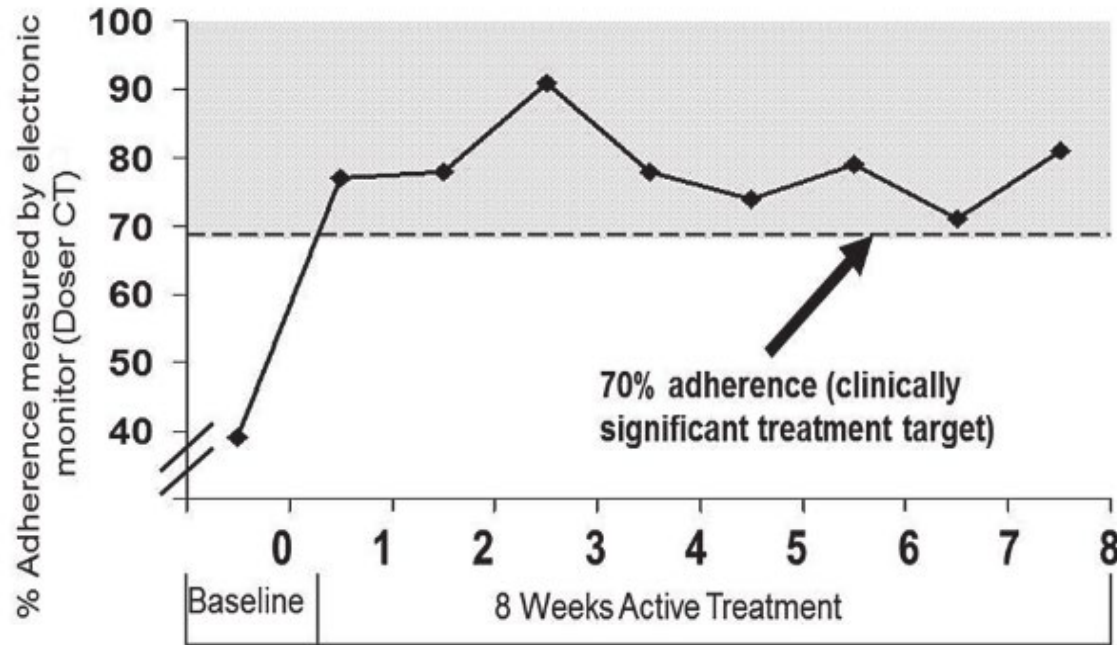
# Systematic Design & Refine Data to Establish the Intervention's *Credibility*.

- Few grant reviewers want to bet on interventions that are based on unclear rationales, vague theories, fads, etc.
  - They tend to be more enthusiastic about ones that build on:
    - basic behavioral and social science research
    - rigorous clinical research
    - systematic intervention “design and refine” research, e.g.,
      - Patient & clinician input via survey studies, focus groups, etc.
      - Clinically-relevant tests of techniques derived from lab studies.
      - Dose-finding studies (Voils et al., *Ann Behav Med* 2014).
      - Intervention optimization in the MOST framework.
      - Mechanistic findings in the SOBC or MOST framework.
- There may be needs and opportunities for a *variety* of early-phase studies on intervention components, mechanisms, intermediate outcomes, etc.

# *Proof-of-Concept* Data to Support the *Plausibility* of the Intervention's Benefits.

- “Proof of concept” means different things to different people.
- The ORBIT Model defines a proof-of-concept (PoC) study as:
  - A small-scale test of an intervention or complex intervention package.
  - Conducted only *after* the team thinks that they’re done tinkering with it.
  - Asks “will most participants reach a *clinically significant target*?”
  - Doesn’t require a control group.
  - Doesn’t produce “preliminary efficacy” findings.
- Favorable results speak to the *plausibility* of benefit.
  - Used in RCT proposals to argue that an effect as large or larger than the MCID is a *plausible* outcome of the trial.

# Proof of Concept in ORBIT



**Fig. 3.3 Adherence to drug therapy during run-in and after introduction of treatment, in four subjects**

- n=10 might be more persuasive than n=4
- n=20 might be more persuasive than n=10
- Bigger is better, within limits.
- **High success rate** is what's essential. e.g.
  - 8/10 patients reached the target: Great!
  - 4/10 reached the target: Not so great!

Source: Powell, Freedland, & Kaufmann (2021)



# Proof of Concept in MOST

- To the best of my knowledge, the MOST framework doesn't include proof-of-concept studies.
- However, optimization trials can provide a form of PoC.
  - Which combination of components gives us the best chance of establishing efficacy in our future RCT?
  - Helps to establish the plausibility of a between-group effect  $\geq$  MCID.
  - Different kind of proof-of-concept data than ORBIT, but persuasive.
    - And it should be possible to extract ORBIT-style PoC data from optimization trials conducted in the MOST framework.
- Optimization trials can also help to bolster the scientific *credibility* of interventions.

# PETs as Proof of Concept

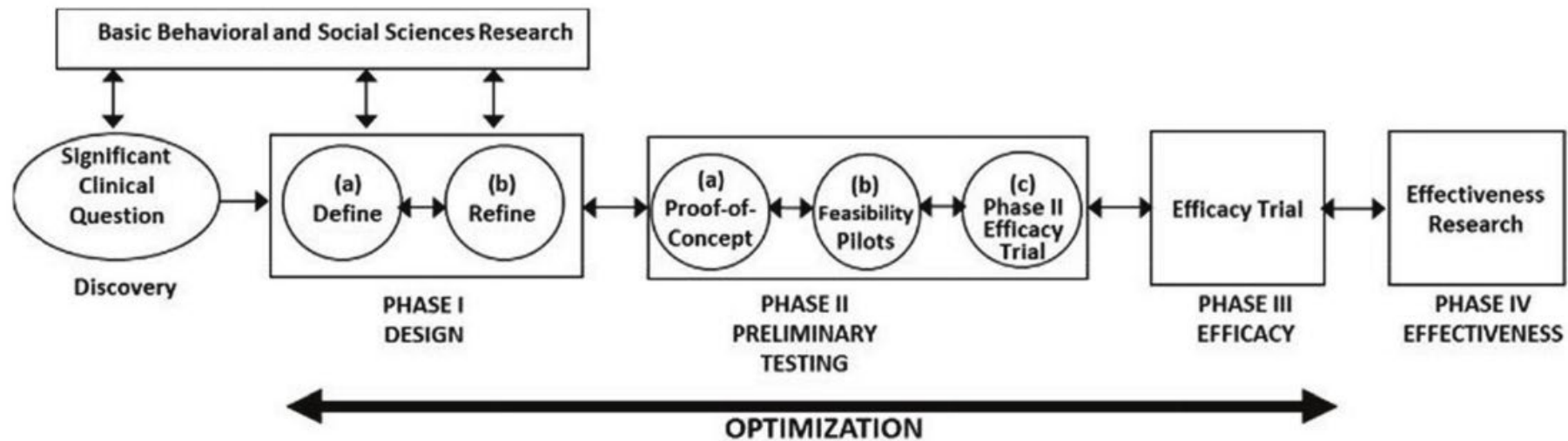
- “Preliminary efficacy” is a kind of proof of concept.
  - But it’s a bad one.
- PET effects are much less trustworthy than they may seem.
- The harms of PETs greatly outweigh their perceived value.
  - Short-term harms to the investigator’s research program.
  - Longer-term harms to the cause of evidence-based practices.
- Some reviewers still favor PETs.
  - But grant applicants don’t have to go along with them.
  - Successful RCT proposals can build on other kinds of preliminary data.

# Recap: Alternatives to PETs

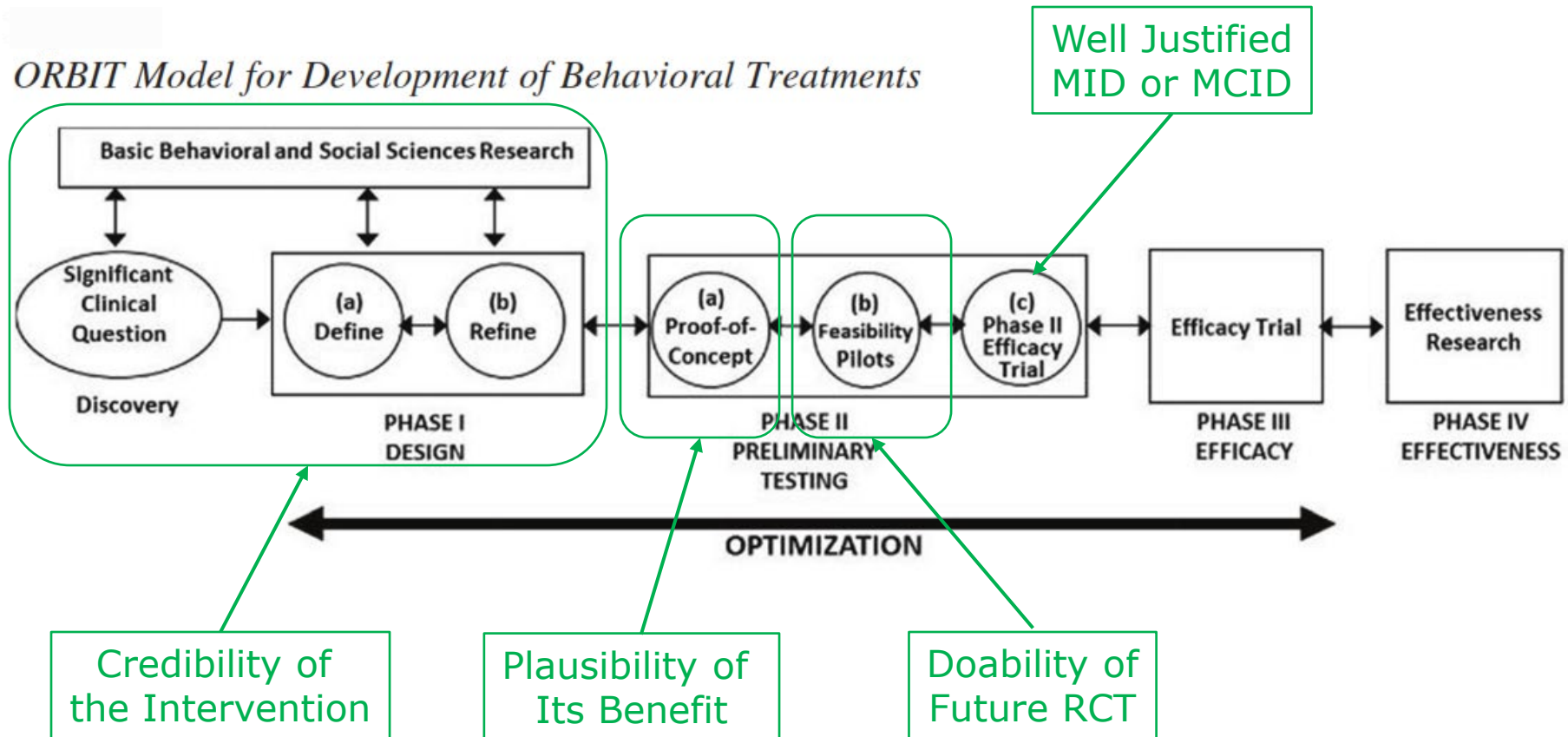
- Support the *credibility* of the intervention by, for example:
  - obtaining stakeholder input,
  - translating basic science findings into clinical intervention techniques,
  - conducting early-stage studies to develop & refine the intervention.
- Use a well-chosen, well-justified **MID or MCID** as the between-group effect size for the RCT power analysis.
  - Caution: clinical significance in RCTs is a complicated subject.
- Support the *plausibility* of obtaining an effect  $\geq$ MID or  $\geq$ MCID by providing *proof of concept* data.
  - And/or other supporting evidence from previous research.

# Alternatives to PETs

**Figure 8**  
*ORBIT Model for Development of Behavioral Treatments*



# Alternatives to PETs



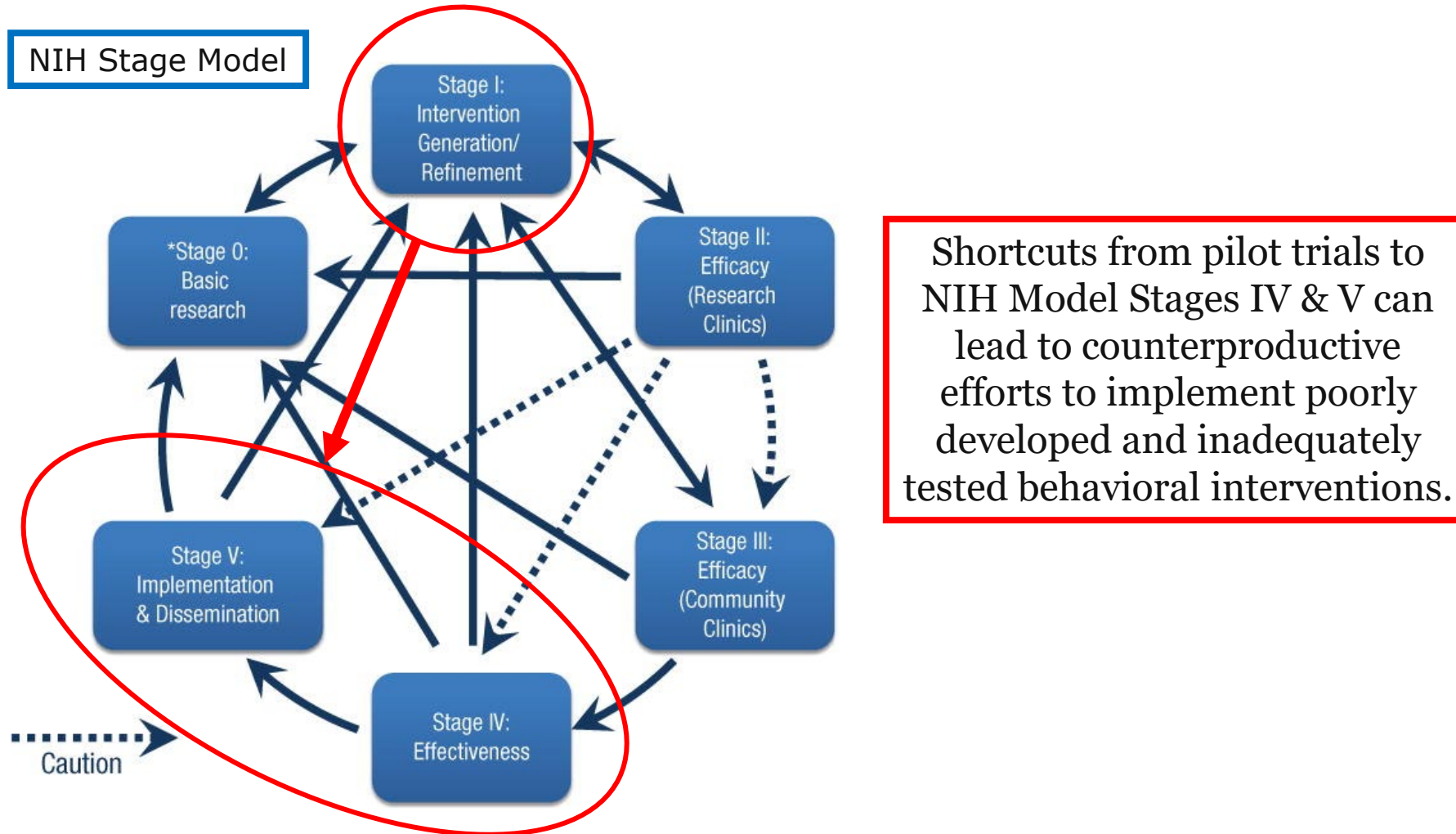
# Proof of Concept in Pilot Trials

- Some investigators hesitate (perhaps with good reason) to propose *only* feasibility aims in a pilot trial grant proposal.
  - May seem too dull and/or like a missed opportunity to do more.
- So they insert some proof-of-concept aims into their proposal.
  - Let's assume they're *not* proposing a "PET plus" trial.
  - They're proposing to use intervention arm data for ORBIT-style PoC.
- Might be a good strategy, but only if they've *already* demonstrated proof of concept in a previous study!
  - Why propose to assess your readiness to conduct a large RCT if you haven't already established that the intervention is worth testing?
  - *Additional* proof-of-concept data collected in the context of a CONSORT-style pilot trial might help to strengthen the future RCT proposal.

# Pilot Trials and Subsequent Research Plans

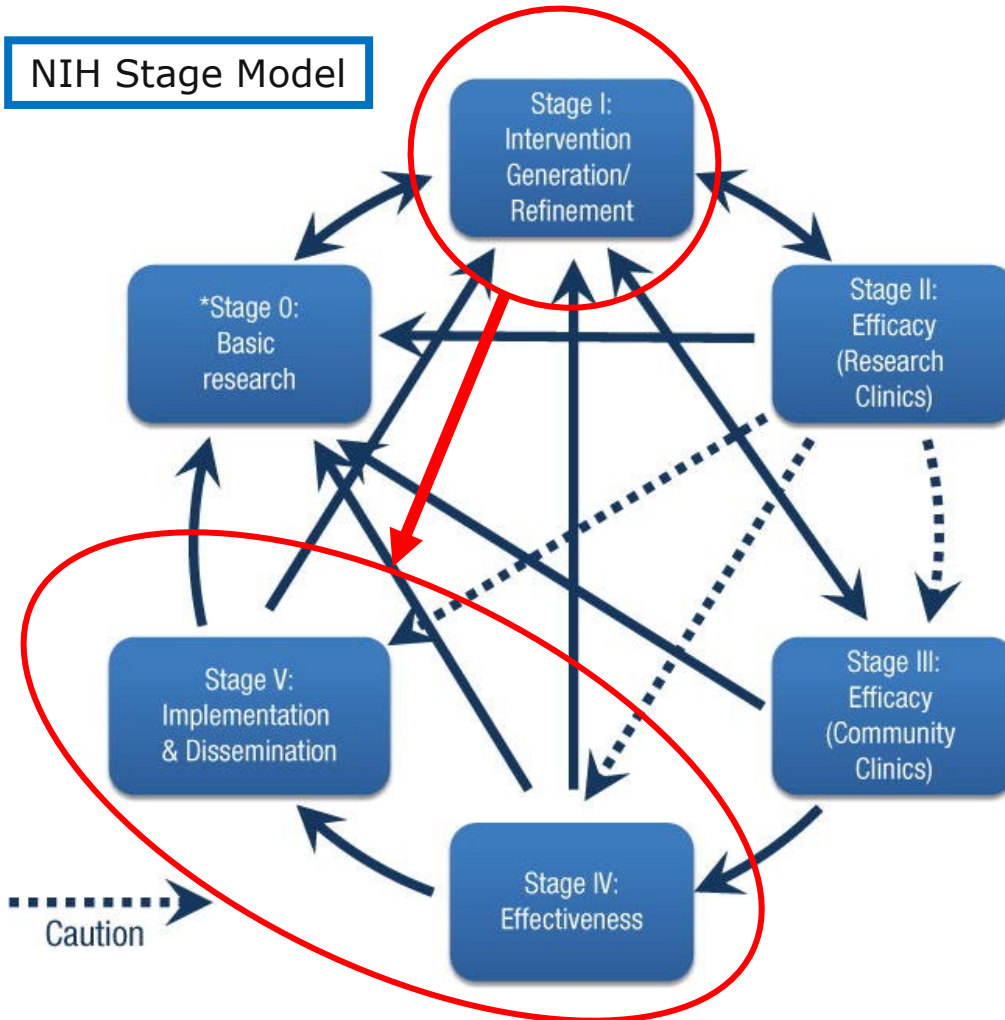
- Roybal pilot study applicants are expected to think ahead about real-world **implementation** of their intervention.
  - Makes obvious sense.
- But this may be contributing to a couple of interrelated problems in some of the Roybal research plans that I've seen.
  - Hasty progression to hybrid trials
  - Localism

# Hasty Progression to Hybrid Trials





# Hasty Progression to Hybrid Trials



## Inadvertently Encouraged by the FOAs?

“Multiple **Stage I** studies...are often needed to lay the groundwork for **Stage III** and **Stage IV** studies that can serve as necessary steps toward ultimate implementation.”

Omits Stage II

Might be interpreted as greenlighting a direct Stage I → Stage IV / V path

# Localism

- Localism: Limiting implementation goals to wherever you're doing your intervention research. e.g.,
  - Formative intervention research is done at a community center.
  - Implementation goal is sustainable uptake at this community center.
  - Implementation on a much wider scale is unlikely, even if hoped for.
- This is a small “i” implementation goal.
- Examples of implementation goals with a capital “I”:
  - Intervention incorporated into healthcare policies, covered by payers, etc.
  - Widespread adoption of the intervention in clinical practice.
- Thinking small about implementation makes sense sometimes.
  - But bigger is better in many lines of research.

# Implementation with a Capital “I”

- The road to Implementation with a capital “I” runs through:
  - Rigorous Stage II and/or Stage III efficacy trials.
  - Meta-analyses confirming clinically significant benefits in rigorous Stage II and/or Stage III efficacy trials.
  - Evidence that is strong enough to change major clinical practice guidelines, USPSTF recommendations, etc.



# Implementation with a Capital “I”

- Even the best efficacy trials have limitations.
  - Including questions about generalizability to “real world” settings.
- But practice guideline writers yearn for definitive efficacy data.
  - High grades of evidence and strong recommendations in practice guidelines tend to be driven by rigorous efficacy data.
- “Voltage drop” is common in pragmatic effectiveness trials.
  - It’s good to know how effective an intervention can be under favorable conditions before testing it under more challenging circumstances.
- Small “i” implementation research can be valuable, but it rarely affects practice guidelines or healthcare policies.
- If Implementation is the ultimate goal, hybrid trials should wait until after successful Stage II and/or III efficacy trials.

# Conclusions

- CONSORT-style randomized pilot trials primarily concern the feasibility of a future RCT.
  - Not preliminary efficacy, and not the “feasibility” of the intervention.
- Other kinds of early-stage studies (including early-stage randomized trials) can have *other* aims.
  - It may take *multiple* preliminary studies, not just a single “pilot trial,” to lay the groundwork for a successful (R01- or R61/R33-level) RCT.
  - If it’s needed, a proper feasibility pilot trial should be the *last* preliminary study before an RCT proposal – and usually not the first or only one.
- Pilot study weaknesses affect more than the pilot study itself.
  - They’re closely connected to problems in subsequent stages of research.

# Recommendations

- The NIH Stage Model is wonderful, but...
  - it could be improved by updating its conceptualizations of pilot studies, feasibility, and preliminary efficacy.
- Roybal FOAs incorporate these (outdated) conceptualizations.
  - Nevertheless, most of the following recommendations could be implemented without deviating from the FOAs.
  - The rest are actionable within the spirit if not the letter of the FOAs.

# Recommendations

- **Discourage**

- context-independent research on intervention “feasibility.”
- preliminary efficacy trials (PETs).
- hasty progression to hybrid trials.
- localism in implementation goals except where it truly makes sense.

- **Encourage**

- Programmatic intervention development and refinement research.
- Proof-of-concept (plausibility) evidence instead of “preliminary efficacy.”
- Proper feasibility studies & CONSORT-style pilot trials, when needed.
- Progression through the efficacy stages of the NIH Stage Model.
- Thinking big about the long-term goals of intervention research.

# Thank you!

Kenneth E. Freedland, PhD  
Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, Missouri





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# Approaches to intervention optimization: The multiphase optimization strategy (MOST)

**Linda M. Collins**

Presented at the 2023 Roybal Collaborative Meeting

March 14, 2023

**cadio**

# Outline

- Why consider an alternative framework for intervention development and evaluation?
- An application of MOST in weight loss
- The argument room
- Fixed and adaptive intervention strategies

*The goal of the Roybal Center program is the translation and integration of basic behavioral and social research findings into interventions to improve the lives of older people and the capacity of institutions to adapt to societal aging.*

From the NIA website 3/4/23

# Intervention science objectives:

1. Build a **coherent knowledge base** about what intervention strategies work, for whom, and why
2. Use this knowledge to develop interventions that have **immediate public health impact**
3. Keep making **improvements** in these interventions over time

**WHAT HAS 30+ YEARS  
OF THIS APPROACH  
DELIVERED?**

# Objective 1: Coherent knowledge base

- When an intervention demonstrates a detectable effect, **we don't know why or how** it worked
- When an intervention does not show a significant effect, **we don't know why** it didn't work
- **Conclusion: Not making good progress toward a coherent knowledge base**

# Objective 2: Immediate public health impact

- Many interventions developed empirically are **too expensive, complex, or burdensome to be implemented**
- No way to fix this without risking making them ineffective
- **Conclusion: No implementation = zero public health impact**

# Objective 3: Improvements

- We do not know which are the strong and weak components in an intervention
- Next steps to make improvements unclear
- **Conclusion: Not set up to make ongoing improvements**



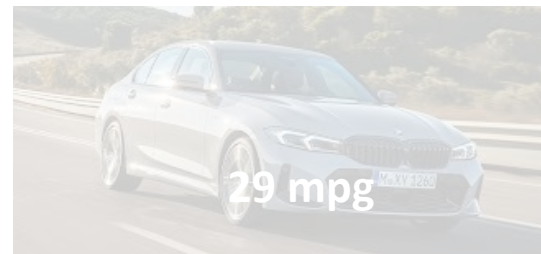
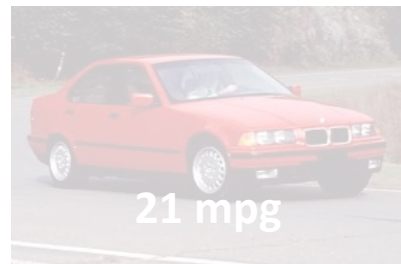
Late 20<sup>th</sup>  
century  
(mid 1980's)



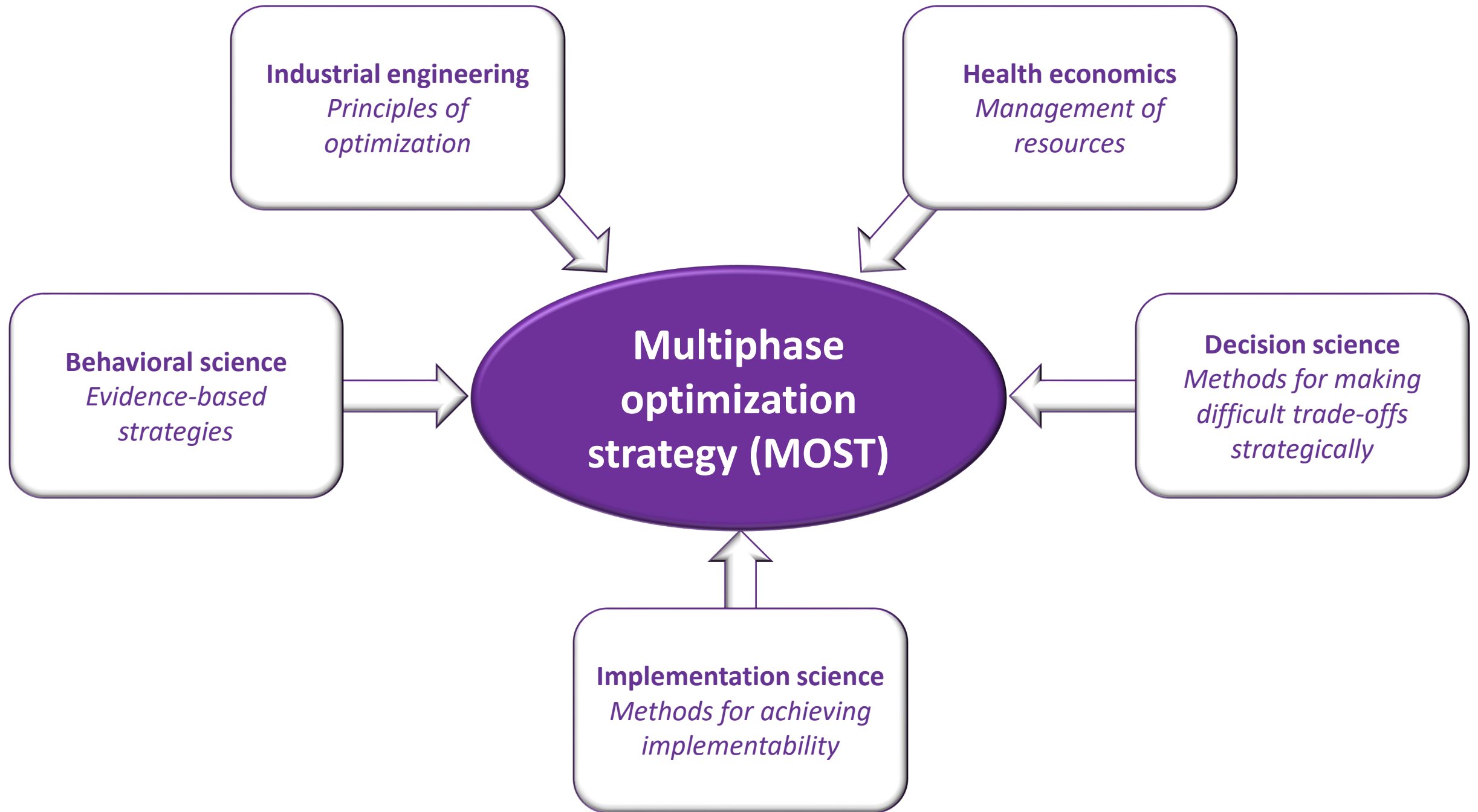
Early 21<sup>st</sup>  
century  
(today)



# Meanwhile, in other fields...



Maybe we need to consider  
a different approach



# Intervention *EASE*: A strategic balance of *Effectiveness*, *Affordability*, *Scalability*, and *Efficiency*

*EASE* is achieved by  
BALANCING

***E***ffectiveness

**BUT HOW?**

**OPTIMIZATION**

**VIA MOST**



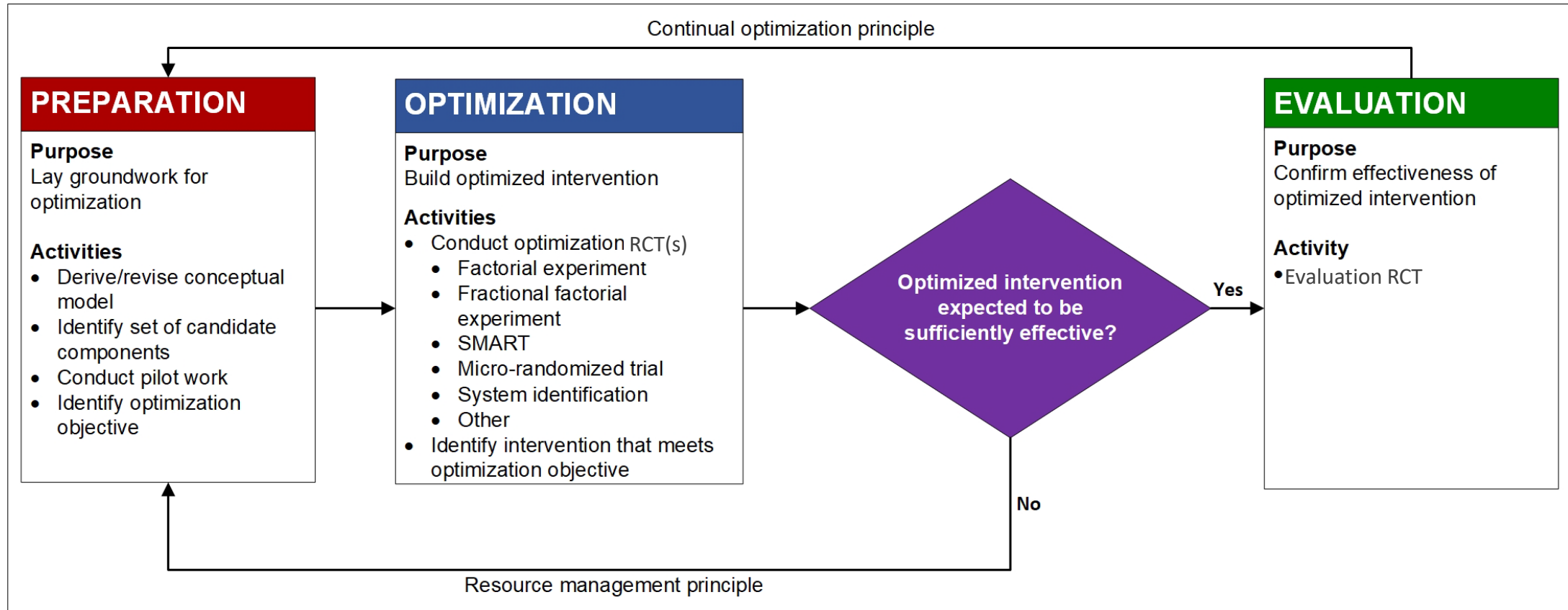
AGAINST

***A***ffordability

***S***calability

***E***fficiency

# Multiphase optimization strategy (MOST)



Flow chart of the three phases of the multiphase optimization strategy (MOST). Rectangle = action. Diamond = decision.

Figure taken from Collins, L.M. (2018). *Optimization of Behavioral, Biobehavioral, and Biomedical Interventions: The Multiphase Optimization Strategy (MOST)*. New York: Springer.

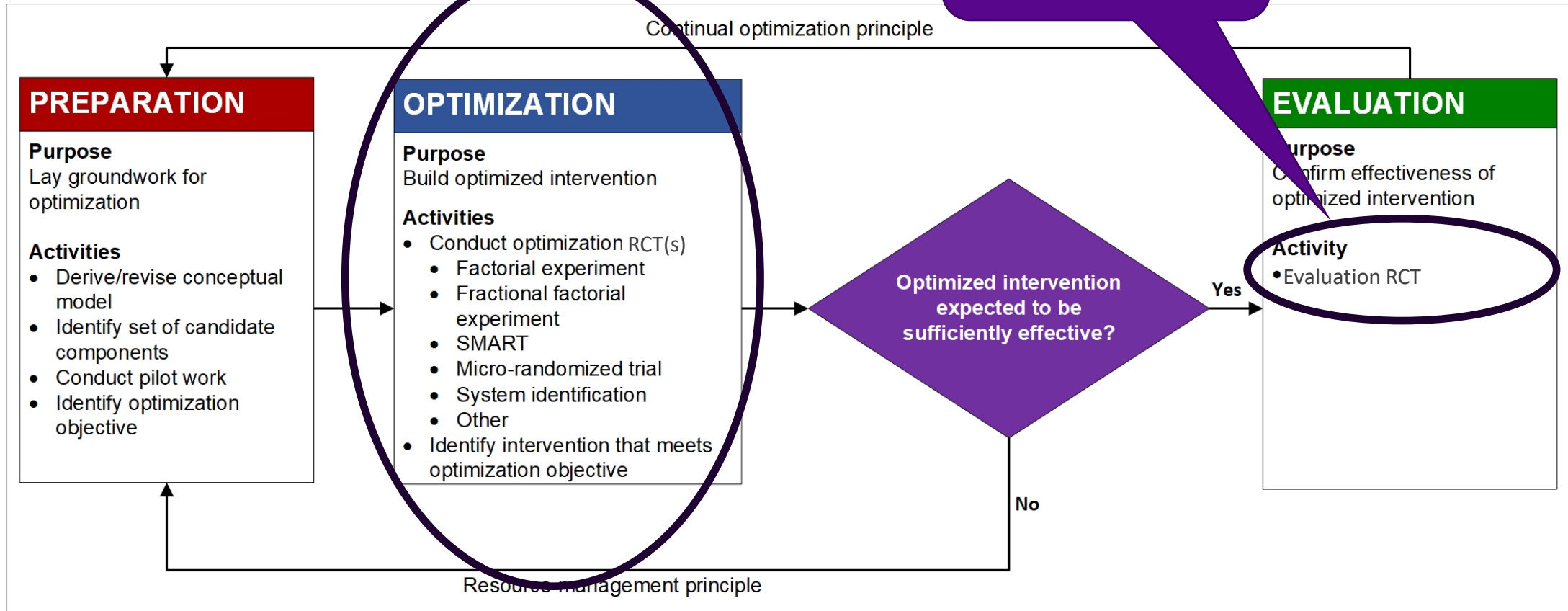
# The multiphase optimization strategy (MOST)

Using MOST it is possible to engineer an intervention to meet a specific objective, e.g.:

- Best expected outcome < \$300 per person
- Best expected outcome < 30 minutes staff time
- Most cost-effective

# Multiphase optimization strategy (MOST)

The classical evaluation RCT is a part of MOST



Flow chart of the three phases of the multiphase optimization strategy (MOST). Rectangle = action. Diamond = decision.

Figure taken from Collins, L.M. (2018). *Optimization of Behavioral, Biobehavioral, and Biomedical Interventions: The Multiphase Optimization Strategy (MOST)*. New York: Springer.

# Outline

- Why consider an alternative framework for intervention development and evaluation?
- An application of MOST in weight loss
- The argument room
- Fixed and adaptive intervention strategies






# Example: Opt-IN (funded by NIDDK: B. Spring & L. Collins, MPIs)

## Original Article

CLINICAL TRIALS AND INVESTIGATIONS

Obesity

## A Factorial Experiment to Optimize Remotely Delivered Behavioral Treatment for Obesity: Results of the Opt-IN Study

Bonnie Spring <sup>1</sup>, Angela F. Pfammatter<sup>1</sup>, Sara H. Marchese <sup>1</sup>, Tammy Stump<sup>1</sup>, Christine Pellegrini <sup>2</sup>, H. Gene McFadden<sup>1</sup>, Donald Hedeker<sup>3</sup>, Juned Siddique<sup>1</sup>, Neil Jordan<sup>1,4,5</sup>, and Linda M. Collins<sup>6,7</sup>

**Objective:** Intensive behavioral obesity treatments face scalability challenges, but evidence is lacking about which treatment components could be cut back without reducing weight loss. The Optimization of Remotely Delivered Intensive Lifestyle Treatment for Obesity (Opt-IN) study applied the Multiphase Optimization Strategy to develop an entirely remotely delivered, technology-supported weight-loss package to maximize the amount of weight loss attainable for  $\leq$ \$500.

### Study Importance

#### What is already known?

- ▶ Effective behavioral treatment packages for obesity impose a burden and cost that impede scalability, but evidence is lacking about which components could be reduced or eliminated

# What is the objective of optimization in Opt-IN?

**Objective:** Intensive behavioral obesity treatments face scalability challenges, but evidence is lacking about which treatment components could be cut back without reducing weight loss. The Optimization of Remotely Delivered Intensive Lifestyle Treatment for Obesity (Opt-IN) study applied the Multiphase Optimization Strategy to develop an entirely remotely delivered, technology-supported weight-loss package to maximize the amount of weight loss attainable for  $\leq$ \$500.

# Components\* being examined in optimization trial

Candidate component	Higher level	Lower level
Coaching calls (10-15 min calls from a health coach)	24	12
Text messages	Yes	No
Meal replacement recommendation	Yes	No
PCP reports (report about weigh-loss progress sent to PCP)	Yes	No
Buddy training	Yes	No

\*All participants received a core intervention based on a custom-designed smartphone app showing personalized goals for diet, PA, and weight and enabling self-monitoring

# Comparison of three alternative approaches

<b>Design</b>	<b>Approximate N to achieve power <math>\geq .80</math> (Cohen's <math>d=.28</math>)</b>	<b>Number of experimental conditions</b>	<b>Can interactions be examined?</b>
<b>Option A: Five individual experiments</b>	2,560	10	No

# Comparison of three alternative approaches

<b>Design</b>	<b>Approximate N to achieve power <math>\geq .80</math> (Cohen's <math>d=.28</math>)</b>	<b>Number of experimental conditions</b>	<b>Can interactions be examined?</b>
<b>Option A: Five individual experiments</b>	2,560	10	No
<b>Option B: Comparative treatment</b>	1,536	6	No

# Comparison of three alternative approaches

<b>Design</b>	<b>Approximate N to achieve power <math>\geq .80</math> (Cohen's <math>d = .28</math>)</b>	<b>Number of experimental conditions</b>	<b>Can interactions be examined?</b>
<b>Option A: Five individual experiments</b>	2,560	10	No
<b>Option B: Comparative treatment</b>	1,536	6	No
<b>Option C: Factorial experiment</b>	512	32	Yes, all

When used to address suitable research questions, balanced factorial experimental designs often require many FEWER participants than alternative designs.

**Don't believe me? Try reading:**

Chakraborty, B., Collins, L.M., Strecher, V., and Murphy, S.A. (2009). Developing multicomponent interventions using fractional factorial designs. *Statistics in Medicine*, 28, 2687-2708.

Collins, L.M., Dziak, J.J., Kugler, K.C., & Trail, J.B. (2014). Factorial experiments: Efficient tools for evaluation of intervention components. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 47, 498-504.

Collins, L.M., Dziak, J.J., & Li, R. (2009). Design of experiments with multiple independent variables: A resource management perspective on complete and reduced factorial designs. *Psychological Methods*, 14, 202-224.

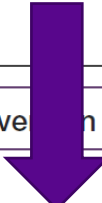
Chapter 3 in Collins, L.M. (2018), *Optimization of Behavioral, Biobehavioral, and Biomedical Interventions: The Multiphase Optimization Strategy (MOST)*. New York: Springer.

# Optimize based on results of optimization trial

- Analyze data, obtain estimates of effects of each of the components
- Use this information to select components
  - Discard components that do not perform adequately
  - If desired, based on predicted outcomes and estimated costs, select components that will make up optimized intervention

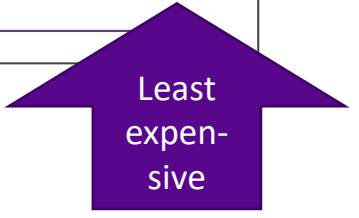


**Objective:** Intensive behavioral obesity treatments face scalability challenges, but evidence is lacking about which treatment components could be cut back without reducing weight loss. The Optimization of Remotely Delivered Intensive Lifestyle Treatment for Obesity (Opt-IN) study applied the Multiphase Optimization Strategy to develop an entirely remotely delivered, technology-supported weight-loss package to maximize the amount of weight loss attainable for  $\leq \$500$ .



**TABLE 6** Predicted 6-month weight change and cost of candidate component combinations (i.e., intervention packages)

No.	Calls	Text message	Meal replacement	PCP report	Buddy training	Estimated effects			Cost
						6-month weight change (kg)	Achieving 5% weight loss (%)	Achieving 7% weight loss (%)	
21	12	No	No	Yes	Yes	-6.1112	57.13	51.77	\$427
1	12	No	No	Yes	No	-3.3966	34.48	25.86	\$337
5	12	No	No	No	Yes	-5.0540	46.56	31.02	\$414
17	12	No	No	No	No	-5.2389	52.95	41.17	\$324



# Outline

- Why consider an alternative framework for intervention development and evaluation?
- An application of MOST in weight loss
- The argument room
- Fixed and adaptive intervention strategies



# “MOST takes too long!”

- RESPONSE: Too long to accomplish... what exactly?
- Is the objective SOLELY to get a significant effect in an evaluation RCT without
  - Understanding why the intervention works
  - Ensuring it is implementable
  - Laying groundwork for ongoing improvement?
- If this is your objective, MOST is not for you

# “MOST takes too long!”

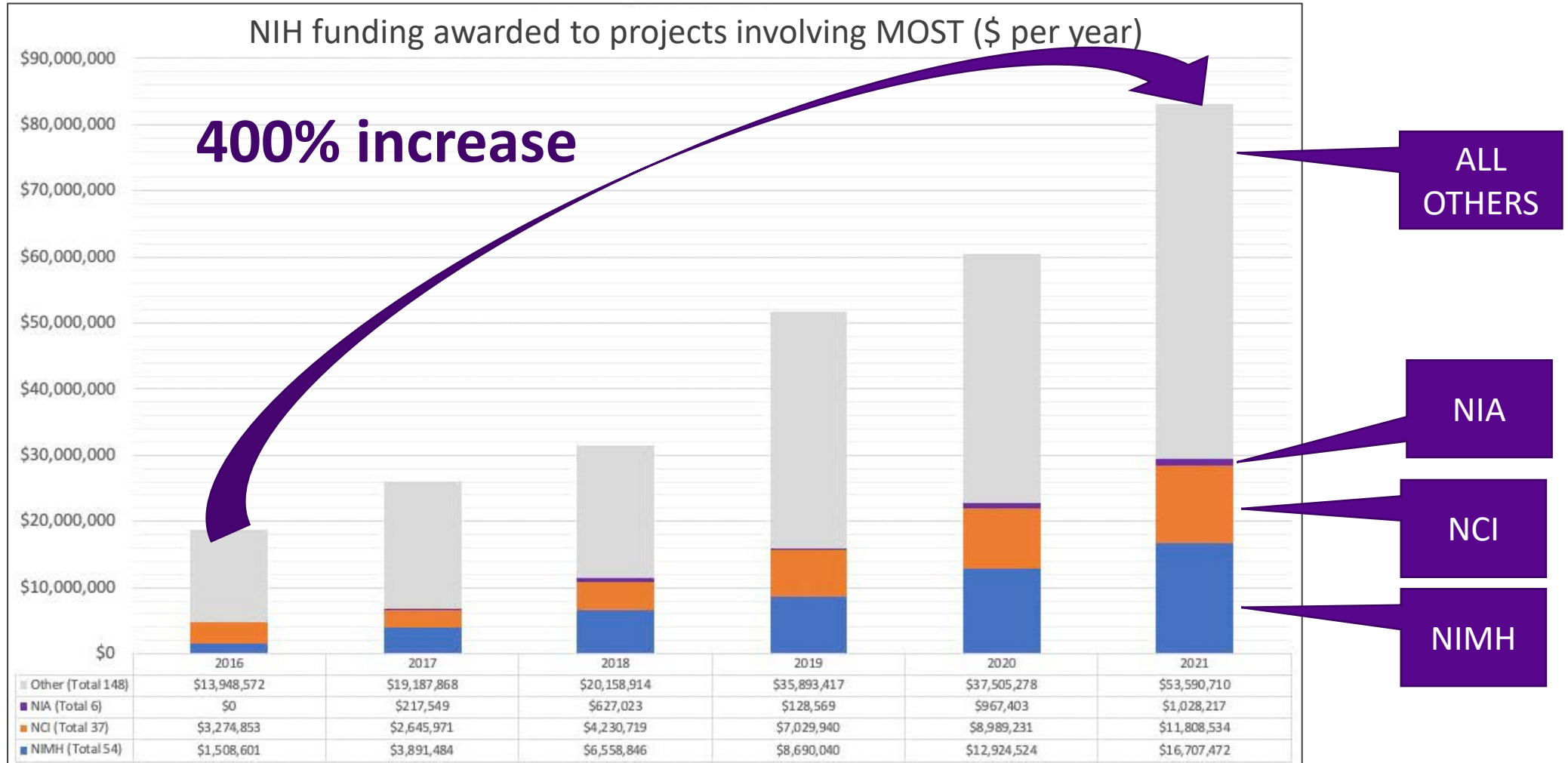
- OR is the objective to
  - Build a coherent base of knowledge that can be used to...
  - ...develop interventions with high public health impact and...
  - ...keep improving the interventions over time?
- I would argue MOST is much faster than the classical approach

“Nice ideas, but you will never get them through an NIH review committee.”

*“...conformity is anathema to scientific progress.”*

Neil deGrasse Tyson, *Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization* (2022)

“Nice ideas, but you will never get them through an NIH review committee.”



# Outline

- Why consider an alternative framework for intervention development and evaluation?
- An application of MOST in weight loss
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# Two types of intervention strategies

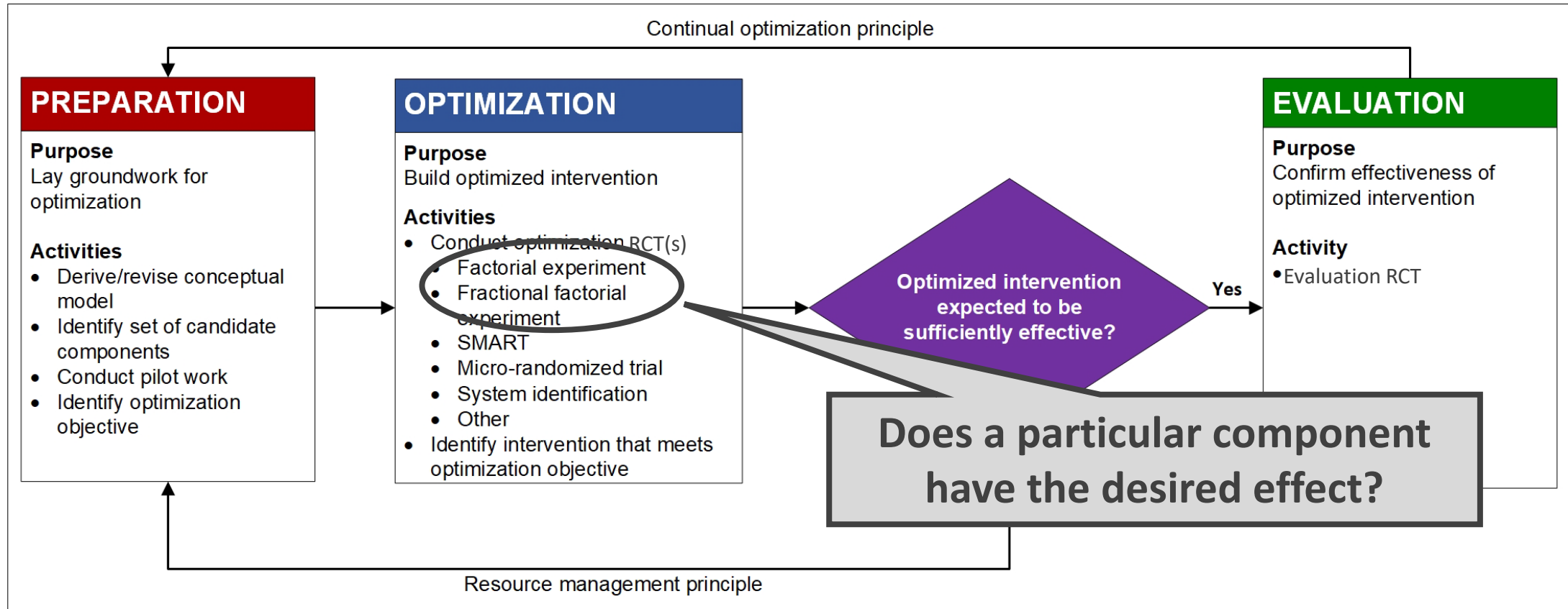
- **Fixed:** all participants offered the same treatment
- **Adaptive:** treatment is strategically varied
- An intervention may use both strategies



# Why strategically vary treatment?

- To **produce good outcomes for all individuals** by providing each individual with the appropriate treatment...
- ...and **make efficient use of resources** by providing only what treatment is needed and no more

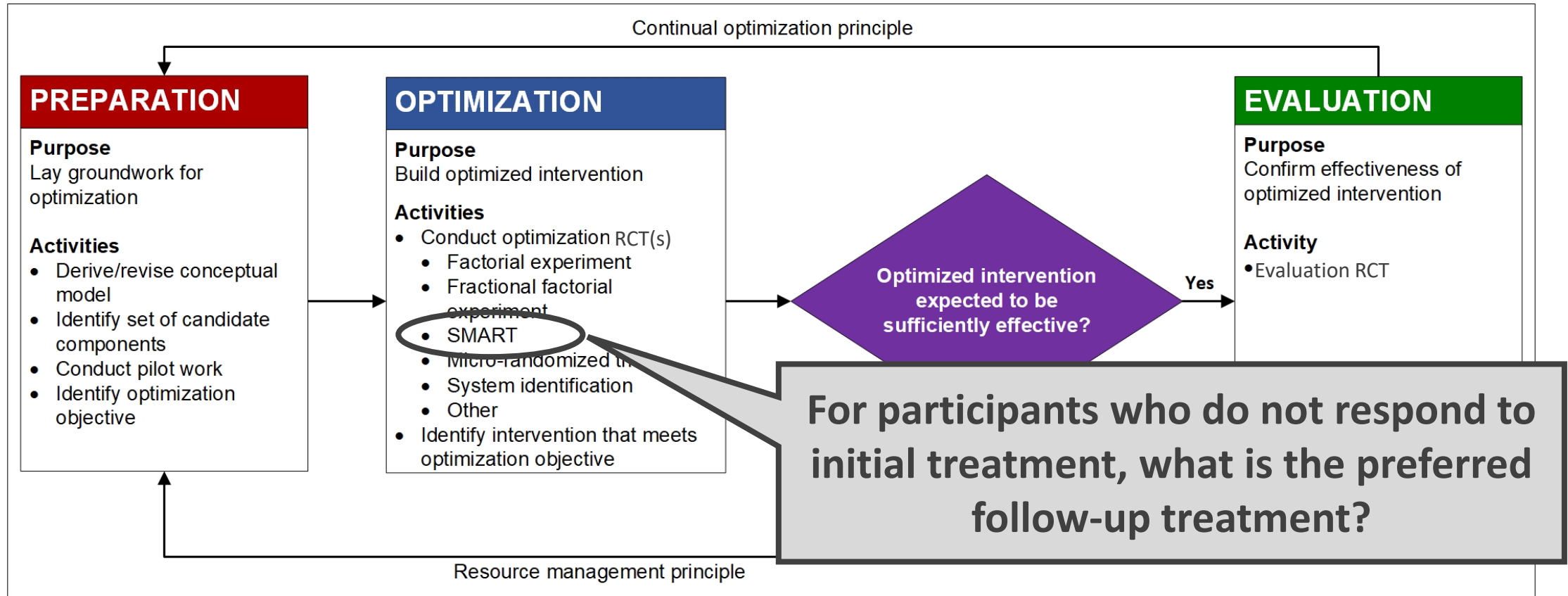
# Different research questions require different optimization trial designs



Flow chart of the three phases of the multiphase optimization strategy (MOST). Rectangle = action. Diamond = decision.

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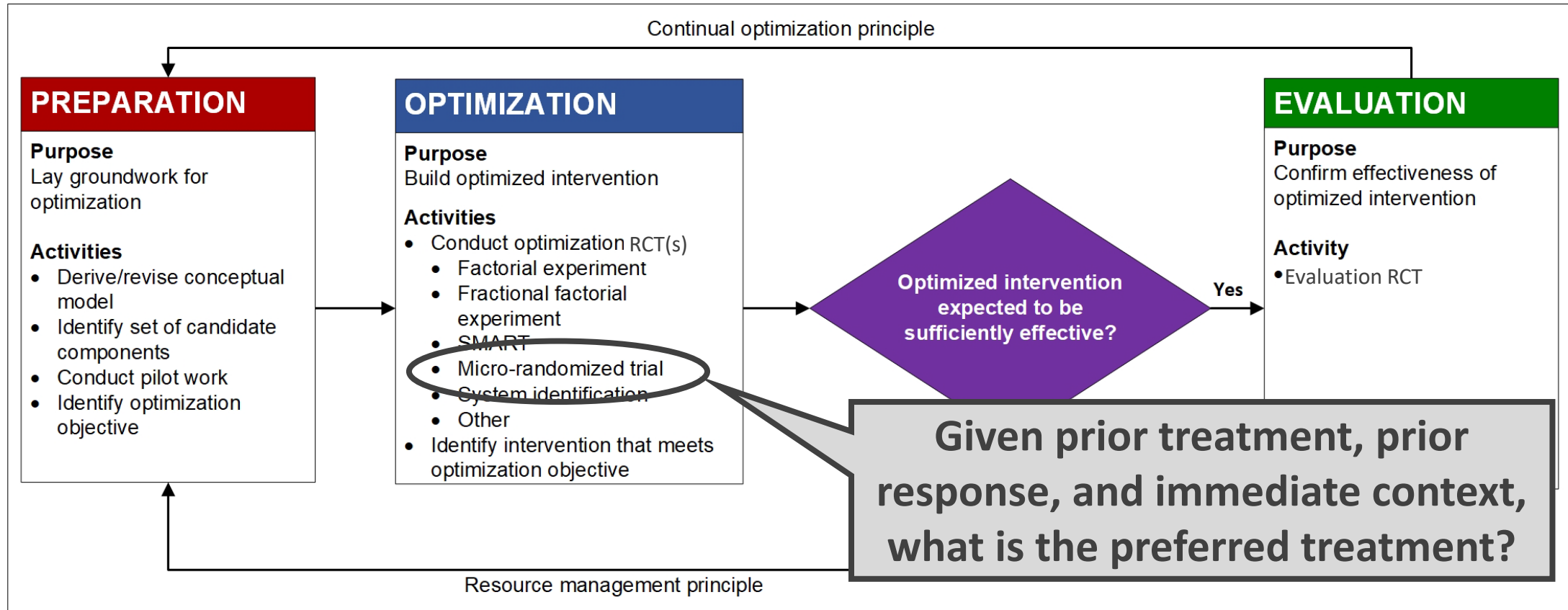
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# Virtual training on MOST May 22-25, 2023



<https://cadio.org/cadio-academy>

Brief application due **March 24**

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Wednesdays from 1-2 pm Eastern



# APPENDIX

# Detour: Brief refresher on factorial experiments

- Example: 2 X 2, or 2<sup>2</sup>, factorial design

		Factor (Component) A	
		Off	On
Factor (Component) B	Off	A,B off	A on, B off
	On	A off, B on	A,B on

- Factorial experiments can have
  - $\geq 2$  factors
  - $\geq 2$  levels per factor
- On the next slide is a 2<sup>4</sup> factorial design

Experimental Condition	Factor A	Factor B
1	Off	Off
2	Off	On
3	On	Off
4	On	On



Experimental conditions in a factorial experiment with four factors

Experimental condition	Factor A	Factor B	Factor C	Factor D
1	Off	Off	Off	Off
2	Off	Off	Off	On
3	Off	Off	On	Off
4	Off	Off	On	On
5	Off	On	Off	Off
6	Off	On	Off	On
7	Off	On	On	Off
8	Off	On	On	On
9	On	Off	Off	Off
10	On	Off	Off	On
11	On	Off	On	Off
12	On	Off	On	On
13	On	On	Off	Off
14	On	On	Off	On
15	On	On	On	Off
16	On	On	On	On

# What are we trying to estimate with a factorial experiment?

- Most important for decision making: Main effect of each factor
  - DEFINITION OF MAIN EFFECT OF FACTOR A:
  - Effect of Factor A averaged across all levels of all other factors
- Also selected interactions
  - DEFINITION OF INTERACTION BETWEEN FACTOR A AND FACTOR B (assuming each factor has two levels):
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  ((effect of Factor A at level 1 of Factor B) – (effect of Factor A at level 2 of Factor B))

MAIN EFFECT OF  
FACTOR A is mean of  
conditions 1-8 vs. mean  
of conditions 9-16

Experimental condition	Factor A	Factor B	Factor C	Factor D
1	Off	Off	Off	Off
2	Off	Off	Off	On
3	Off	Off	On	Off
4	Off	Off	On	On
5	Off	On	Off	Off
6	Off	On	Off	On
7	Off	On	On	Off
8	Off	On	On	On
9	On	Off	Off	Off
10	On	Off	Off	On
11	On	Off	On	Off
12	On	Off	On	On
13	On	On	Off	Off
14	On	On	Off	On
15	On	On	On	Off
16	On	On	On	On

MAIN EFFECT OF  
 FACTOR B is mean of  
 conditions 5—8 and 13—  
 16 vs. mean of  
 conditions 1—4 and 9—  
 12

Experimental condition	Factor A	Factor B	Factor C	Factor D
1	Off	Off	Off	Off
2	Off	Off	Off	On
3	Off	Off	On	Off
4	Off	Off	On	On
5	Off	On	Off	Off
6	Off	On	Off	On
7	Off	On	On	Off
8	Off	On	On	On
9	On	Off	Off	Off
10	On	Off	Off	On
11	On	Off	On	Off
12	On	Off	On	On
13	On	On	Off	Off
14	On	On	Off	On
15	On	On	On	Off
16	On	On	On	On

MAIN EFFECT OF FACTOR C is mean of conditions 3,4,7,8,11,12,15, and 16 vs. mean of conditions 1,2,5,6,9,10, 13, and 14

Experimental condition	Factor A	Factor B	Factor C	Factor D
1	Off	Off	Off	Off
2	Off	Off	Off	On
3	Off	Off	On	Off
4	Off	Off	On	On
5	Off	On	Off	Off
6	Off	On	Off	On
7	Off	On	On	Off
8	Off	On	On	On
9	On	Off	Off	Off
10	On	Off	Off	On
11	On	Off	On	Off
12	On	Off	On	On
13	On	On	Off	Off
14	On	On	Off	On
15	On	On	On	Off
16	On	On	On	On

MAIN EFFECT OF FACTOR D is mean of conditions 1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15 vs. mean of conditions 2,4,6,8,10,12,14,16

Experimental condition	Factor A	Factor B	Factor C	Factor D
1	Off	Off	Off	Off
2	Off	Off	Off	On
3	Off	Off	On	Off
4	Off	Off	On	On
5	Off	On	Off	Off
6	Off	On	Off	On
7	Off	On	On	Off
8	Off	On	On	On
9	On	Off	Off	Off
10	On	Off	Off	On
11	On	Off	On	Off
12	On	Off	On	On
13	On	On	Off	Off
14	On	On	Off	On
15	On	On	On	Off
16	On	On	On	On

# Opt-IN experimental design

**TABLE 1** Opt-IN factorial design with 32 conditions

Intervention target	Individual		Environment		
	Coaching calls	Texts	Meal replacement	PCP reports	Buddy training
1	12	No	No	Yes	No
2	12	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	12	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
4	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
5	12	No	No	No	Yes
6	12	No	Yes	No	No
7	12	Yes	No	No	No
8	12	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
9	24	No	No	Yes	No
10	24	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	24	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
12	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
13	24	No	No	No	Yes
14	24	No	Yes	No	No
15	24	Yes	No	No	No
16	24	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
17	12	No	No	No	No
18	12	No	Yes	No	Yes
19	12	Yes	No	No	Yes
20	12	Yes	Yes	No	No
21	12	No	No	Yes	Yes
22	12	No	Yes	Yes	No
23	12	Yes	No	Yes	No
24	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
25	24	No	No	No	No
26	24	No	Yes	No	Yes
27	24	Yes	No	No	Yes
28	24	Yes	Yes	No	No
29	24	No	No	Yes	Yes
30	24	No	Yes	Yes	No
31	24	Yes	No	Yes	No
32	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# Opt-IN experimental design

**TABLE 1** Opt-IN factorial design with 32 conditions

Intervention target	Individual		Environment		
	Coaching calls	Texts	Meal replacement	PCP reports	Buddy training
1	12	No	No	Yes	No
2	12	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	12	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
4	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
5	12	No	No	No	Yes
6	12	No	Yes	No	No
7	12	Yes	No	No	No
8	12	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
9	24	No	No	Yes	No
10	24	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	24	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
12	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
13	24	No	No	No	Yes
14	24	No	Yes	No	No
15	24	Yes	No	No	No
16	24	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
17	12	No	No	No	No
18	12	No	Yes	No	Yes
19	12	Yes	No	No	Yes
20	12	Yes	Yes	No	No
21	12	No	No	Yes	Yes
22	12	No	Yes	Yes	No
23	12	Yes	No	Yes	No
24	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
25	24	No	No	No	No
26	24	No	Yes	No	Yes
27	24	Yes	No	No	Yes
28	24	Yes	Yes	No	No
29	24	No	No	Yes	Yes
30	24	No	Yes	Yes	No
31	24	Yes	No	Yes	No
32	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



# Opt-IN experimental design

**TABLE 1** Opt-IN factorial design with 32 conditions

Intervention target	Individual		Environment		
	Combination	Coaching calls	Texts	Meal replacement	PCP reports
1	12	No	No	Yes	No
2	12	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	12	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
4	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
5	12	No	No	No	Yes
6	12	No	Yes	No	No
7	12	Yes	No	No	No
8	12	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
9	24	No	No	Yes	No
10	24	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	24	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
12	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
13	24	No	No	No	Yes
14	24	No	Yes	No	No
15	24	Yes	No	No	No
16	24	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
17	12	No	No	No	No
18	12	No	Yes	No	Yes
19	12	Yes	No	No	Yes
20	12	Yes	Yes	No	No
21	12	No	No	Yes	Yes
22	12	No	Yes	Yes	No
23	12	Yes	No	Yes	No
24	12	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
25	24	No	No	No	No
26	24	No	Yes	No	Yes
27	24	Yes	No	No	Yes
28	24	Yes	Yes	No	No
29	24	No	No	Yes	Yes
30	24	No	Yes	Yes	No
31	24	Yes	No	Yes	No
32	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Statistics for Social and Behavioral Sciences

Linda M. Collins

# Optimization of Behavioral, Biobehavioral, and Biomedical Interventions

The Multiphase Optimization Strategy  
(MOST)

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# Resources at <https://cadio.org/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Center for Advancement and Dissemination of Intervention Optimization (cadio). The website has a purple and black color scheme. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'About', 'People', 'News', and 'Newsletter Sign Up'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with the 'cadio' logo and links for 'Intervention Optimization', 'cadio Academy', 'Resources', and 'Events'. The main content area features a large heading for the center, a brief description of the field, and a 'Learn More' button. To the right of the text is a graphic of interlocking gears. Below this is a dark purple banner for the 'Introduction to the Multiphase Optimization Strategy (MOST)' course, with a 'View Course Details' button. The bottom section consists of four white boxes with purple icons and text, each with a 'Learn More' button: 'Intervention Optimization', 'Cadio Academy', 'Resources', and 'Events'.

Center for Advancement and Dissemination of Intervention Optimization (cadio)

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Intervention optimization is a different way of thinking for intervention scientists. Here you'll understand the rationale behind and the goal(s) of intervention optimization.

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**Events**

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PUBLIC HEALTH**

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# Resources at <https://d3c.isr.umich.edu/>



## We are the Data Science for Dynamic Intervention Decision-Making Center

Our mission is to improve health and education outcomes by developing, demystifying, and disseminating data science tools for making better sequential intervention decisions.



[Intervention Designs](#)

[Trial Designs](#)

## Upcoming Events

[View All Events](#)

**Multimodal Adaptive Interventions**  
Tuesday March 14, 2023  
[Learn More](#)

**Getting SMART**  
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 to Friday, March 17, 2023  
d3center - Institute for Social Research Building  
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## Advancing Intervention Data Science, by Design

Located in the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, the d3c connects scientists and methodologists to advance the field of intervention science.

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# Linda M. Collins

Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Biostatistics  
Center for Advancement and Dissemination of  
Intervention Optimization (cadio)  
School of Global Public Health  
New York University

Email: [linda.m.collins@nyu.edu](mailto:linda.m.collins@nyu.edu)  
Twitter: @collins\_most



# Break

REFRESHMENTS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF MEETING ROOM

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PLEASE RETURN BY 11:25AM



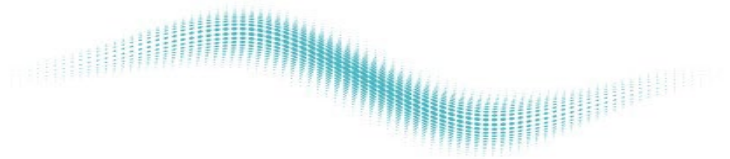


# Lunch

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED IN THE WISCONSIN ROOM

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PLEASE RETURN BY 1:25PM



# Multimodal & Multilevel Adaptive Interventions

Innovations in Intervention and Experimental Designs

Inbal Billie Nahum-Shani · Daniel Almirall

Data Science for Dynamic Decision-Making Center · University of Michigan



# Collaborators and Funding

John Dziak · UIC

Maureen Walton · UM

Walter Dempsey · UM

Linda Collins · NYU

Susan Murphy · Harvard

Catherine Stanger · Dartmouth

Sylvie Naar · FSU

Amy Kilbourne · UM

Elizabeth Connors · Yale

Andrew Quanbeck · UWisc

Aaron Lyon · UWash

P50 DA054039 · NIH, NIDA

R01 DA039901 · NIH, NIDA

U01 CA229437 · NIH, NCI

R324B210001 · IES

R305B210004 · IES

Examples are based on

R01 AA026574 · PI: Walton

R01 MH114203 · PI: Kilbourne

R01 HD095973 · PI: Kasari

K08 MH116119 · PI: Connors

R01DA047279 · PI: Quanbeck

Some examples are modified  
for illustrative purposes.

# Outline

The future of adaptive interventions is **multi-modal & multi-level**

## Multimodal Adaptive Interventions

Hybrid Experimental Designs

## Multilevel Adaptive Interventions

Multilevel SMART Design



# The Future

Prevention and treatment requires addressing people's changing needs

Adaptive interventions play an important role

Digital technology offers opportunities to adapt at different timescales and different levels

To leverage these opportunities, we need—

**Multimodal** Adaptive Interventions

MADIS

**Multilevel** Adaptive Interventions

MAISYS

# Multimodal Adaptive Interventions

Inbal Billie Nahum-Shani · University of Michigan



# A Gap

Leveraging technology requires high-quality integration of human-delivered and digital components



Human Support can combat disengagement in digital services

Digital components can extend therapeutic contact beyond the clinic



# A Gap

Leveraging technology requires high-quality integration of human-delivered and digital components

We don't know how best to sequence and adapt human-delivered and digital components




Human Support can combat disengagement in digital services

Digital components can extend therapeutic contact beyond the clinic





# What tools do we have?

Components	Time Scale for Adaptation	Intervention Framework	Experimental Design
Human-delivered	<i>Slow</i>	Adaptive Interventions	SMART
Digital	<i>Fast</i>	Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions	MRT
Human-delivered & Digital	<i>Multiple Time Scales</i>	Multimodal Adaptive Interventions	

# What tools do we have?

Components	Time Scale for Adaptation	Intervention Framework	Experimental Design
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Human-delivered & Digital	<i>Multiple Time Scales</i>	Multimodal Adaptive Interventions	<b>HED</b>

# What tools do we have?

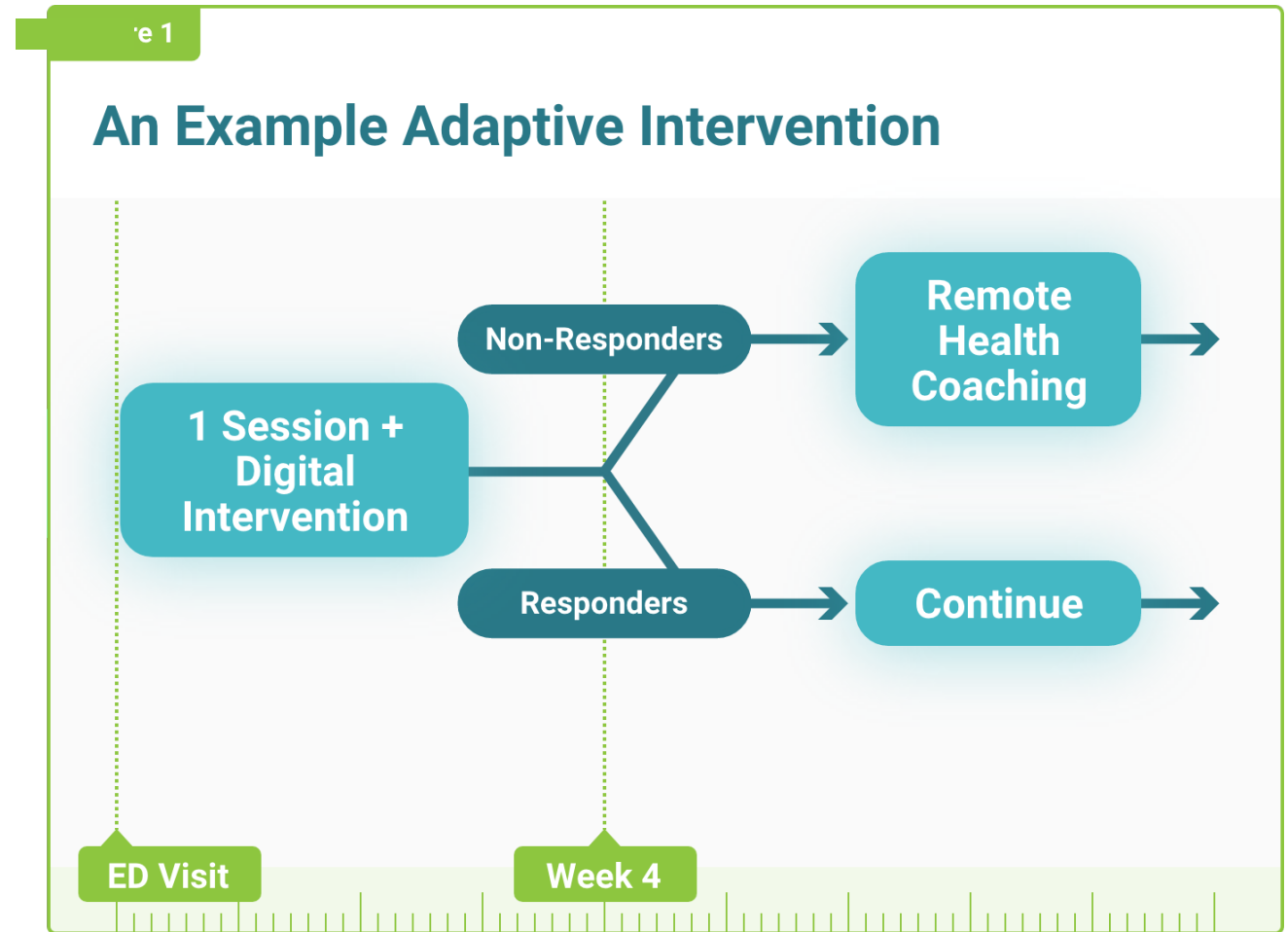
Components	Time Scale for Adaptation	Intervention Framework	Experimental Design
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# What tools do we have?

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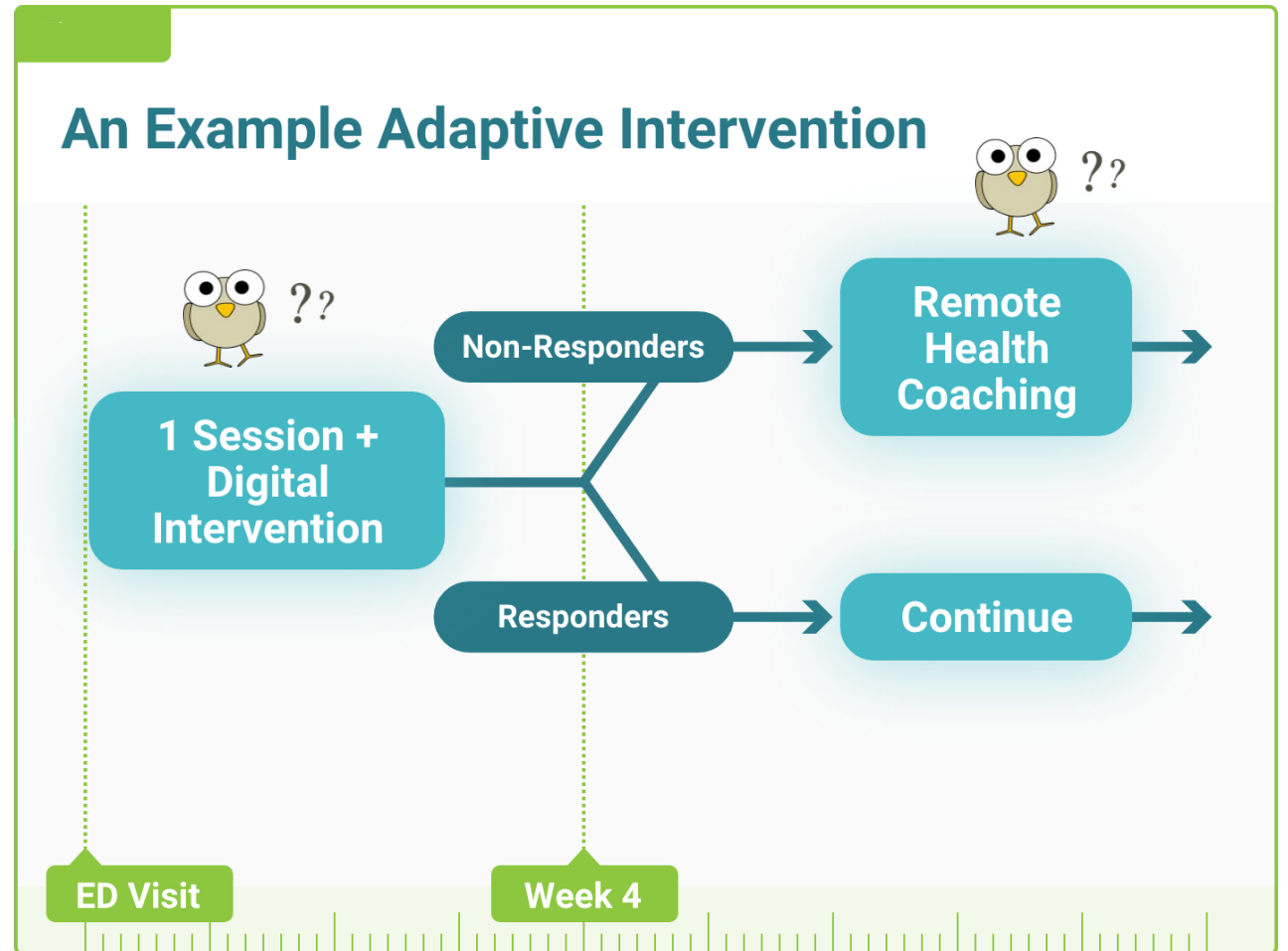
# Adaptive Interventions

- Intervention delivery framework
- Use ongoing information about the person to decide whether and how to intervene
- Address conditions that change relatively slowly
- Guide the adaptation of human-delivered components



# Adaptive Interventions

- **At ED visit**—is it beneficial to start with or without RHC?
- **At Week 4**—is it beneficial to step up the intensity or continue for non-responders?



Beneficial = reducing number of substance use days by week 16



# Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trial (SMART)

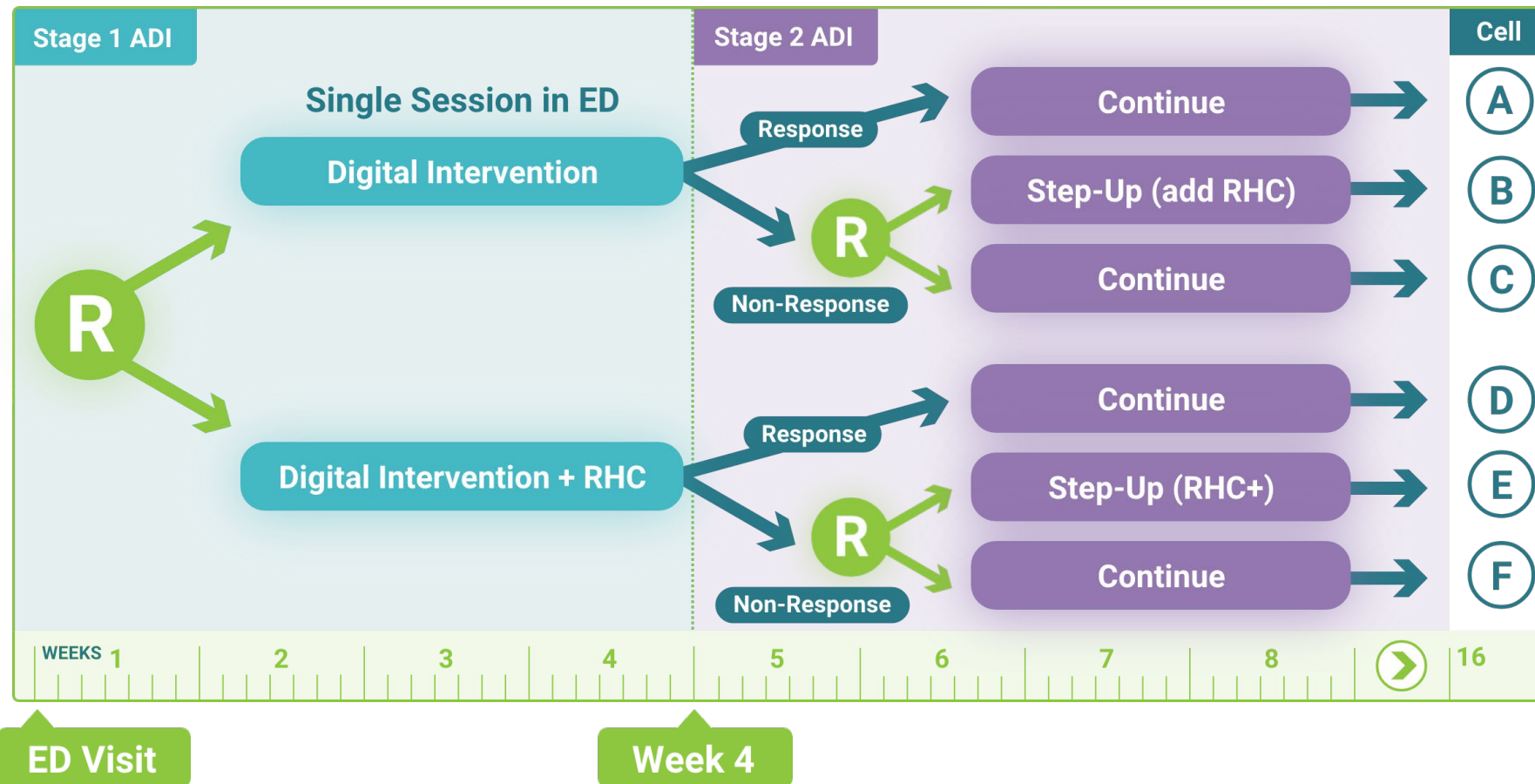
- Randomized Trial
  - Multiple stages of randomization
  - Each stage corresponds to a point in time
  - –at which we have scientific questions about the selection and adaptation of components

Lavori PW, Dawson R. A design for testing clinical strategies: biased adaptive within-subject randomization. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A (Statistics in Society)*. 2000;163(1):29-38.

Murphy SA. An experimental design for the development of adaptive treatment strategies. *Statistics in Medicine*. 2005;24(10):1455-1481.

# The SMART

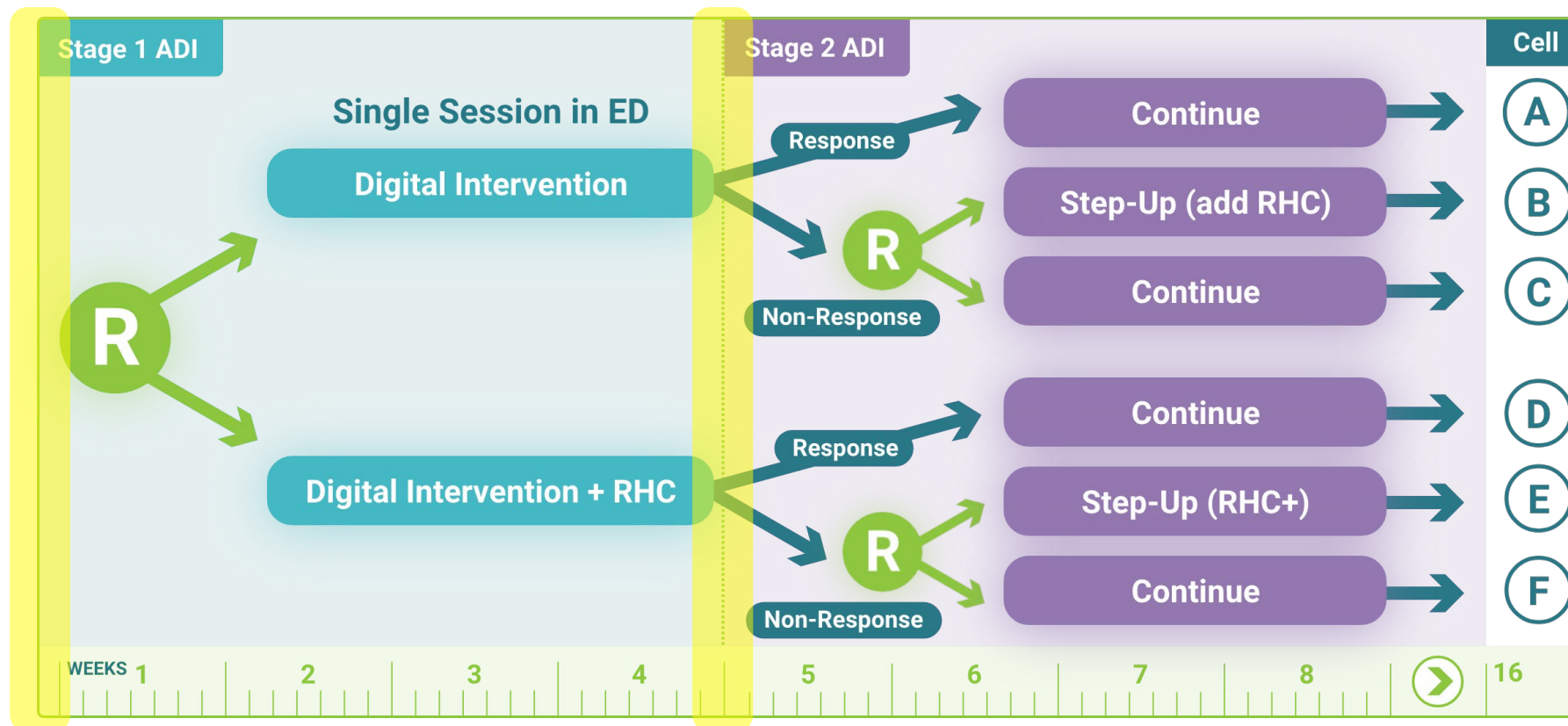
- **At ED visit**—is it beneficial to start with or without RHC?
- **At Week 4**—is it beneficial to step up the intensity or continue for non-responders?





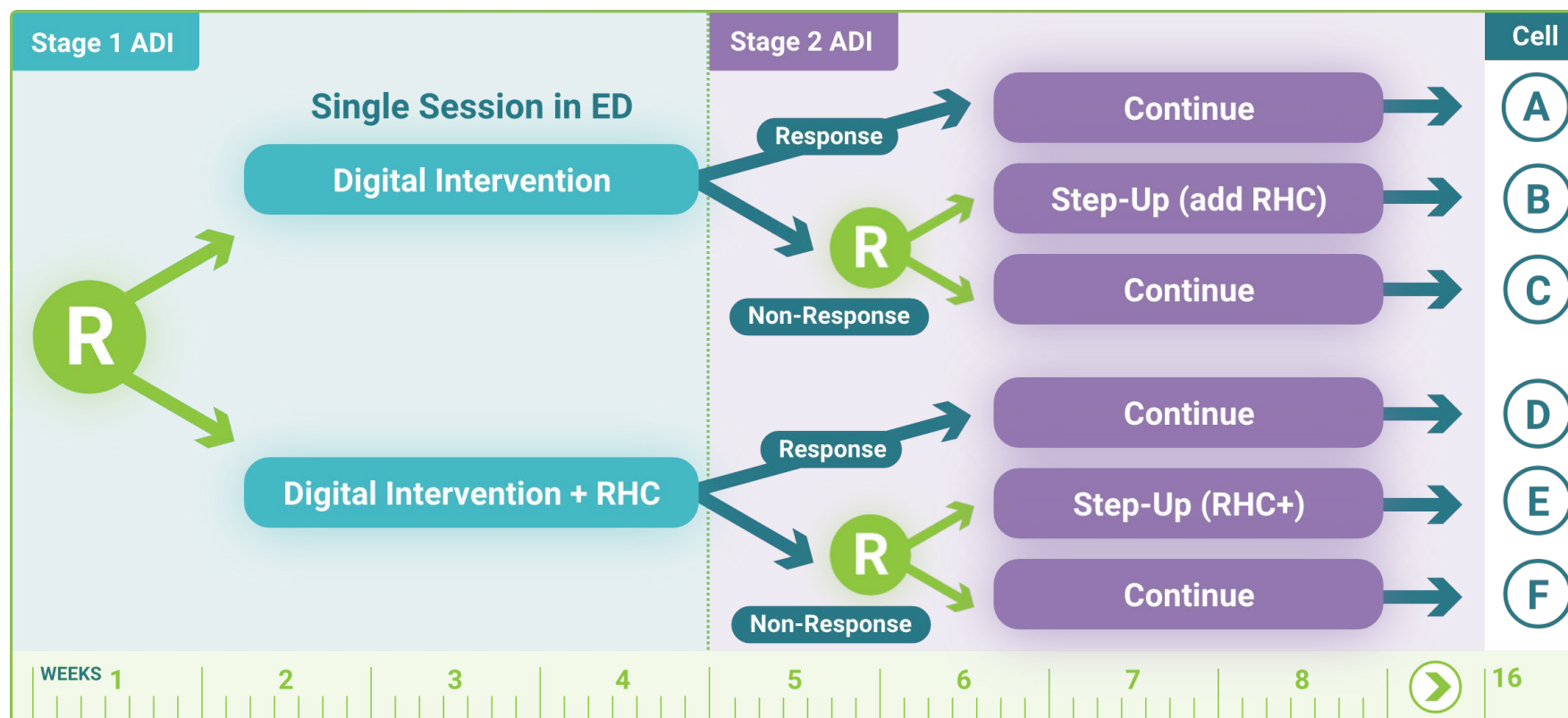
# The SMART

- Time scale for randomization: slow
- Questions: sequencing and adaptation at slow time scales



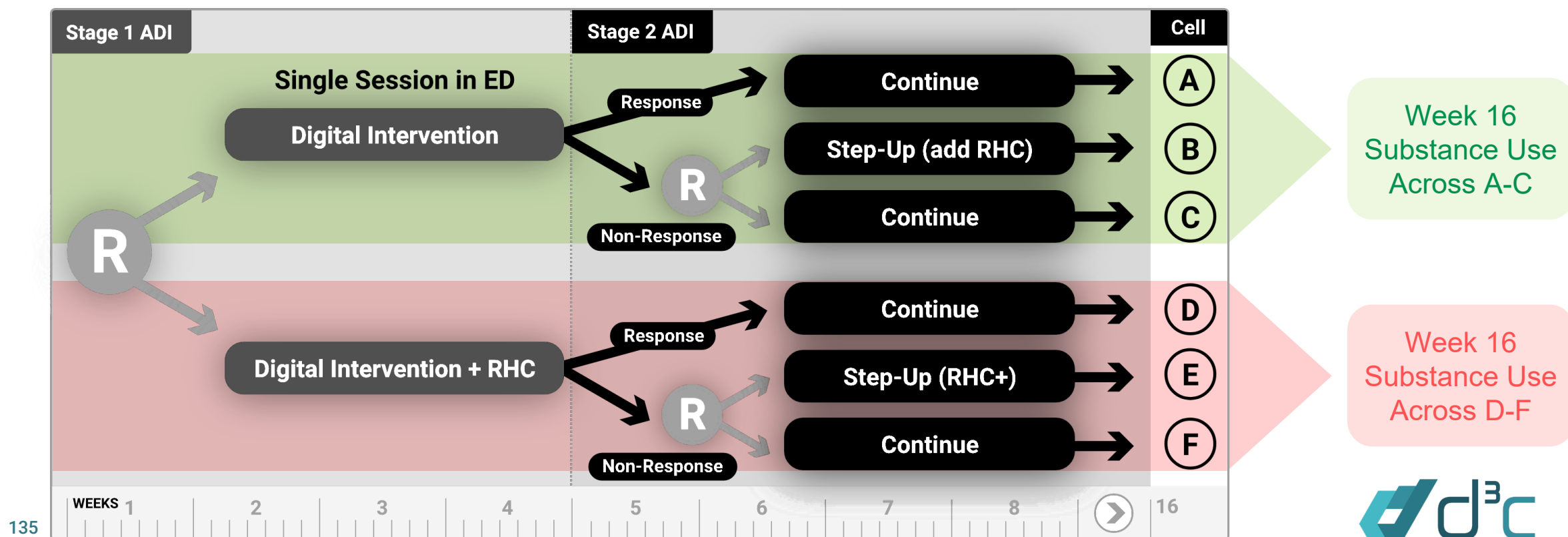
# The SMART

- How to answer scientific questions about adaptive intervention development?



# The SMART

- **At ED visit**—is it beneficial to start with or without RHC?
- **At Week 4**—is it beneficial to step up the intensity or continue for non-responders?



# What tools do we have?

Components	Time Scale for Adaptation	Intervention Framework	Experimental Design
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Human-delivered & Digital	<i>Multiple Time Scales</i>	Multimodal Adaptive Interventions	HED

# Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions (JITAI)

- Use ongoing information about the person to decide whether and how to intervene
- Address conditions that change relatively rapidly
- Guide the adaptation of digital interventions



# Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions (JITAI)

- On average, is it beneficial to deliver (vs. not deliver) a message?
- Under what conditions would delivering a message be beneficial?

Beneficial = reducing next day substance use



# Micro-Randomized Trial (MRT)

- Randomized Trial
  - Sequential randomizations: each participant randomized between intervention options at each decision point
  - Each person may be randomized 100s or 1000s of times, multiple times per day

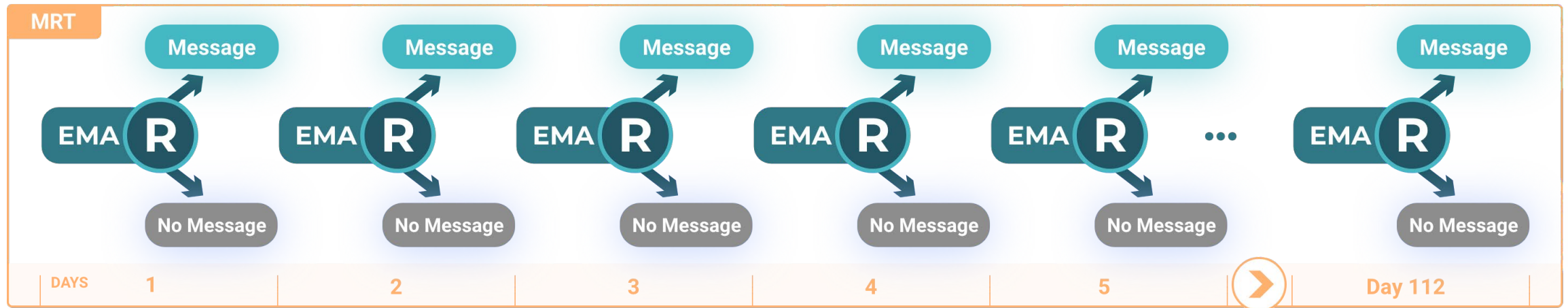
Liao P, Klasnja P, Tewari A, Murphy SA. Sample size calculations for micro-randomized trials in mHealth. *Statistics in Medicine*. 2016;35(12):1944–1971.

Qian T, Walton AE, Collins LM, ... , Murphy SA. The Micro-Randomized Trial for Developing Digital Interventions: Experimental Design and Data Analysis Considerations. *Psychological Methods*.



# Micro-Randomized Trial (MRT)

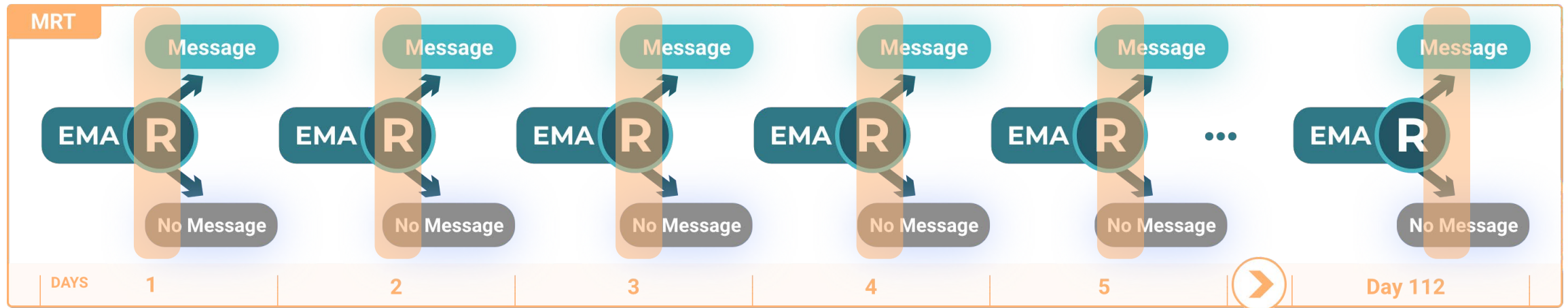
- Is it beneficial to deliver a message in terms of reducing next-day substance use?
- Under what conditions would delivering a message be beneficial?





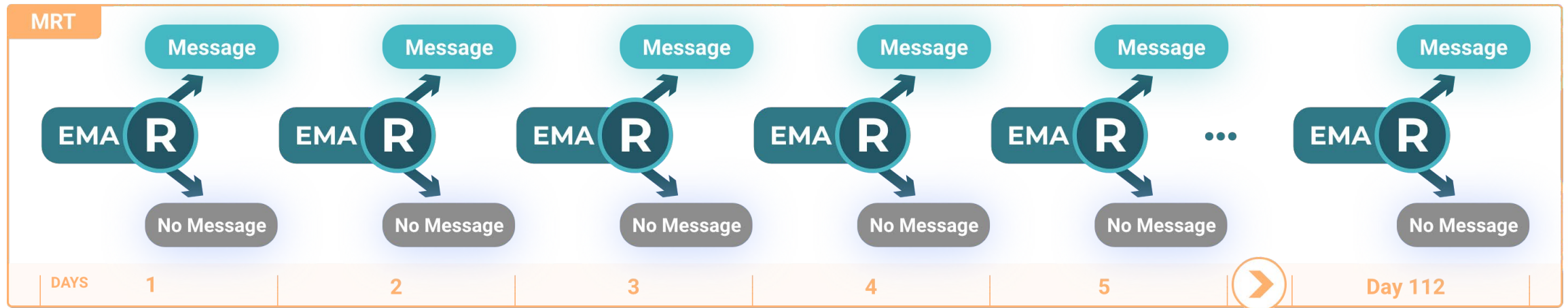
# Micro-Randomized Trial (MRT)

- Time scale for randomization: fast
- Questions: sequencing and adaptation at fast time scales



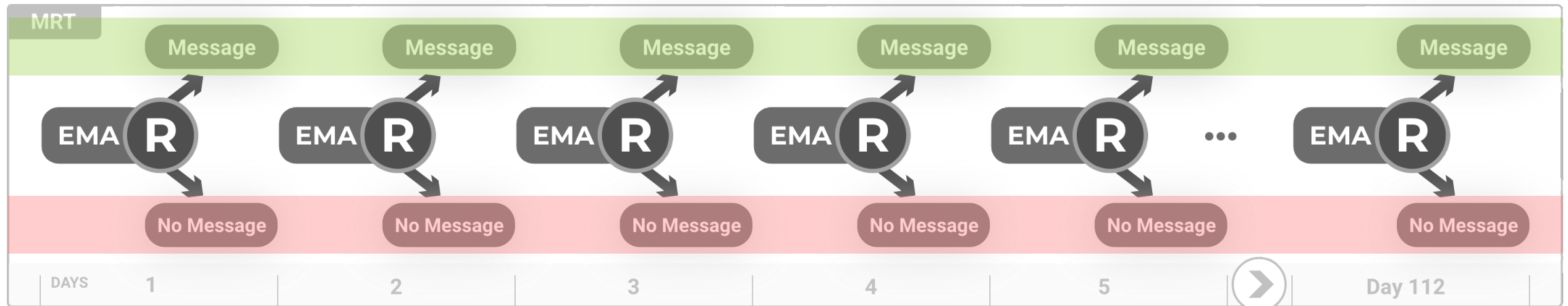
# Micro-Randomized Trial (MRT)

- How to answer scientific questions about JITAI development?



# Micro-Randomized Trial (MRT)

- Is it beneficial to deliver a message in terms of reducing next-day substance use?
- Under what conditions would delivering a message be beneficial?



Next day substance use across all days in which a message was delivered.

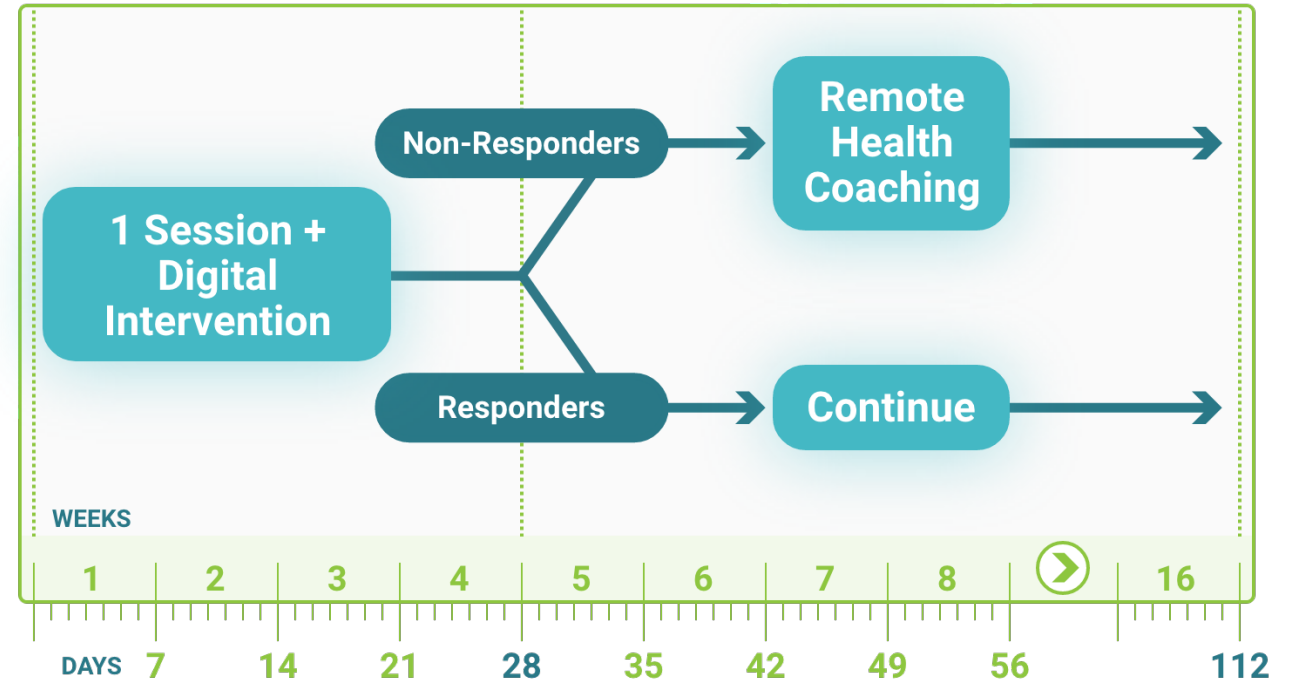
Next day substance use across all days in which a message was not delivered.

# What tools do we have?

Components	Time Scale for Adaptation	Intervention Framework	Experimental Design
Human-delivered	<i>Slow</i>	Adaptive Interventions	SMART
Digital	<i>Fast</i>	Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions	MRT
Human-delivered & Digital	<i>Multiple Time Scales</i>	Multimodal Adaptive Interventions	HED

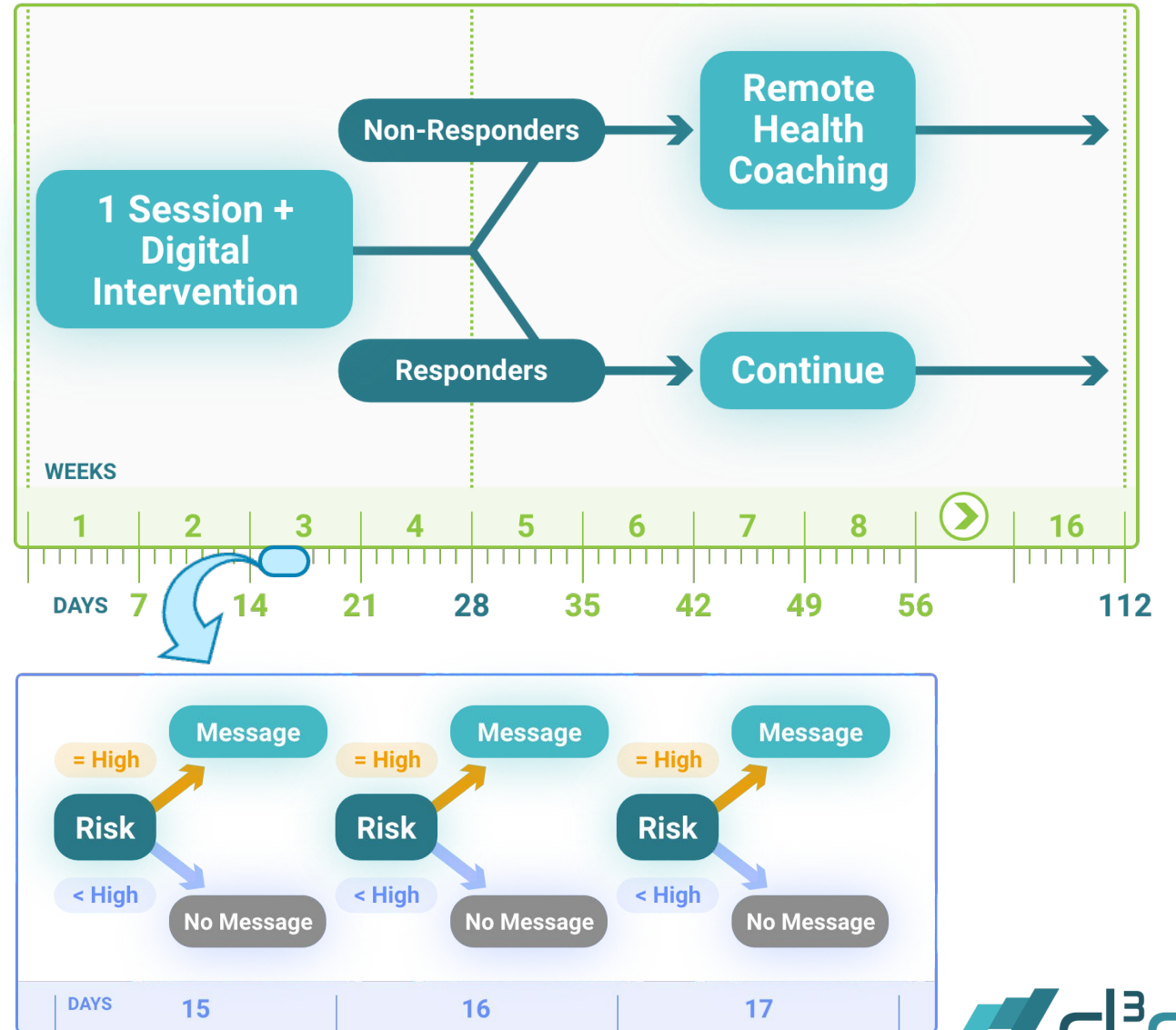
# Multimodal Adaptive Intervention (MADI)

(MADI)



# Multimodal Adaptive Intervention (MADI)

(MADI)



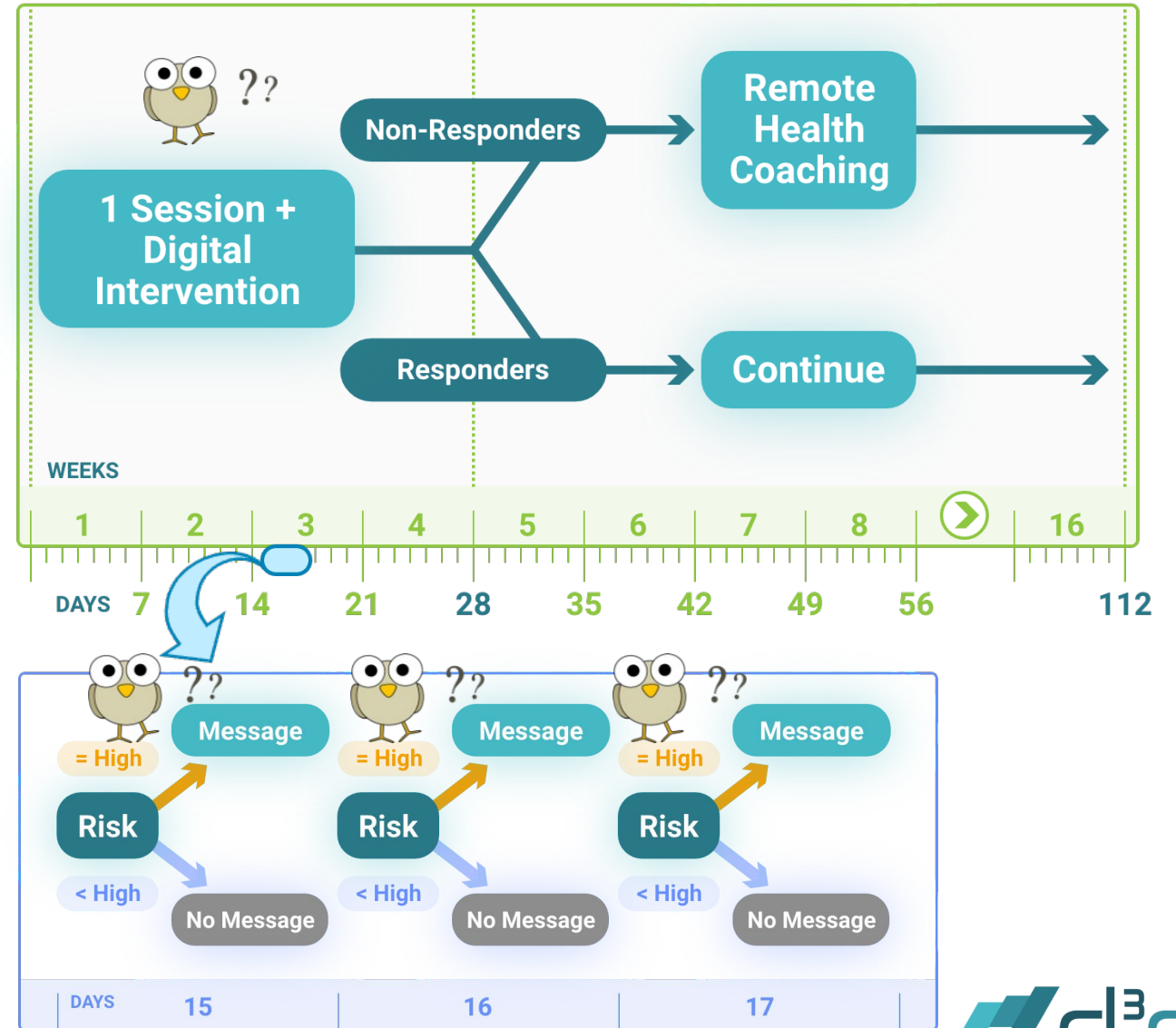
# Multimodal Adaptive Intervention (MADI)

- Intervention delivery framework
- Both human-delivered and digital components are sequenced and adapted over time, at different time scales
- Can be operationalized as the integration between an adaptive intervention and a JITAI



# Multimodal Adaptive Intervention

(MADI)





# Hybrid Experimental Design (HED)

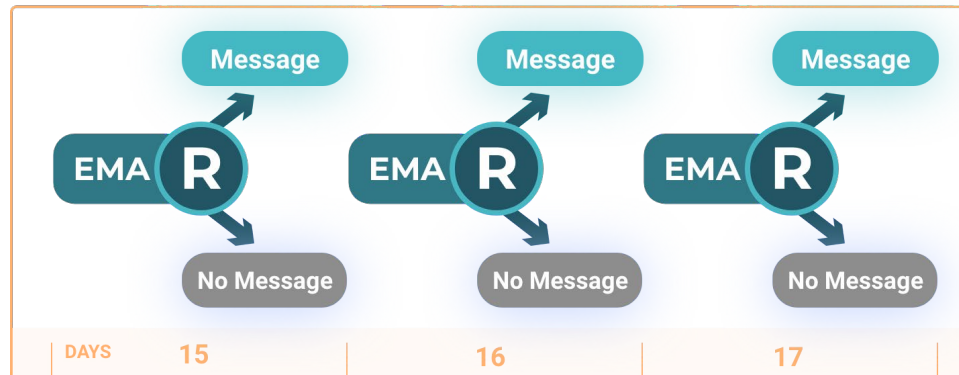
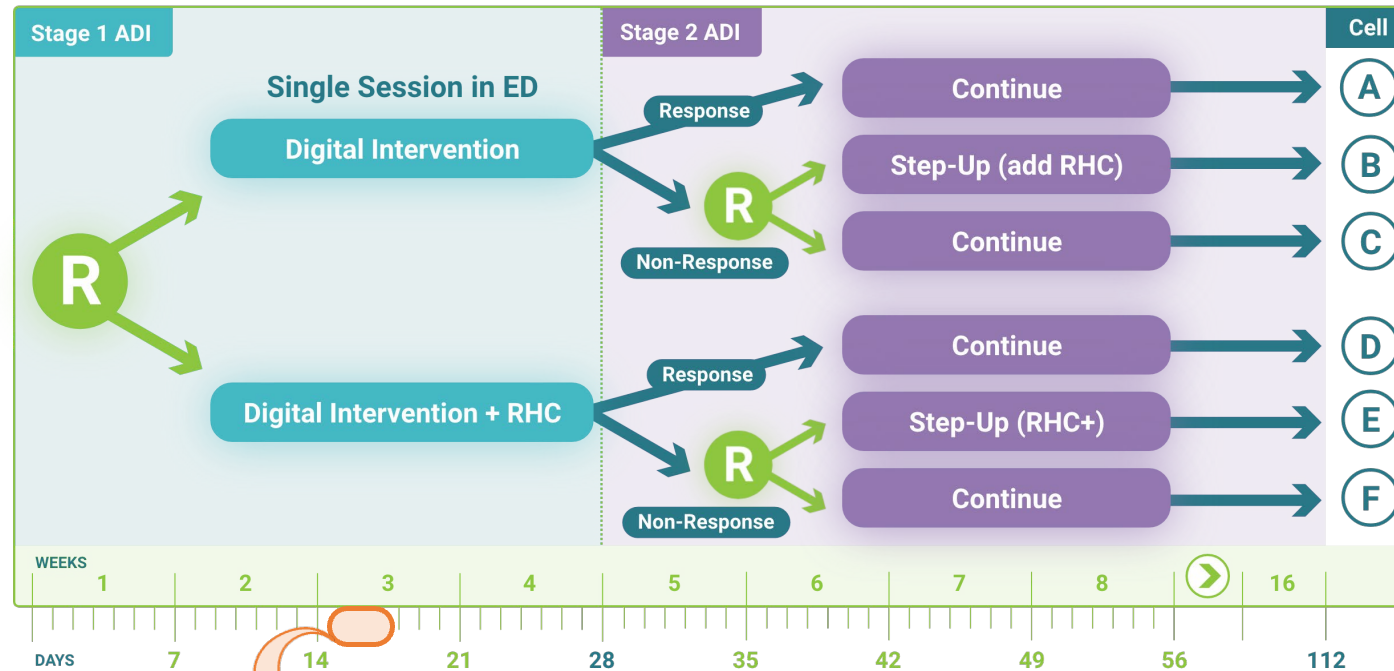
- Randomized Trial
  - Sequential randomizations
  - At multiple time scales

Nahum-Shani, I., Dziak, J. J., Walton, M. A., & Dempsey, W. (2022). Hybrid Experimental Designs for Intervention Development: What, Why and How. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 5(3), 1–15.

Nahum-Shani, I., Dziak, J.J., Venera, H., Pfammatte, A.F., Spring, B., & Dempsey, W. (2023). Design of Experiments with Sequential Randomizations on Multiple Timescales: The Hybrid Experimental Design. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.09046>

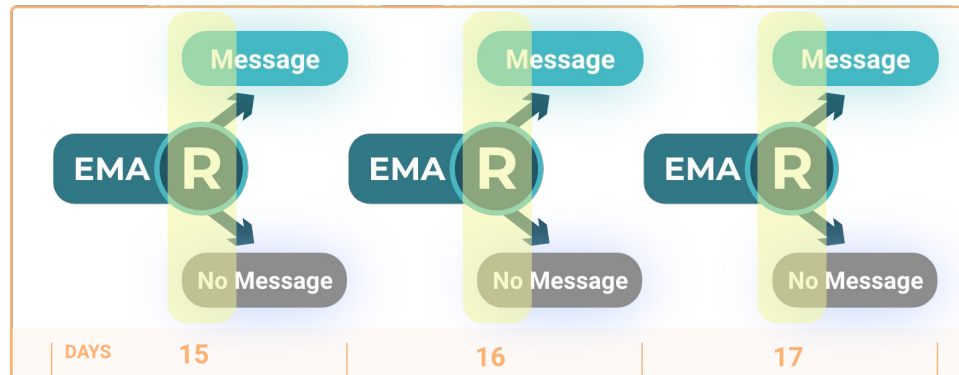
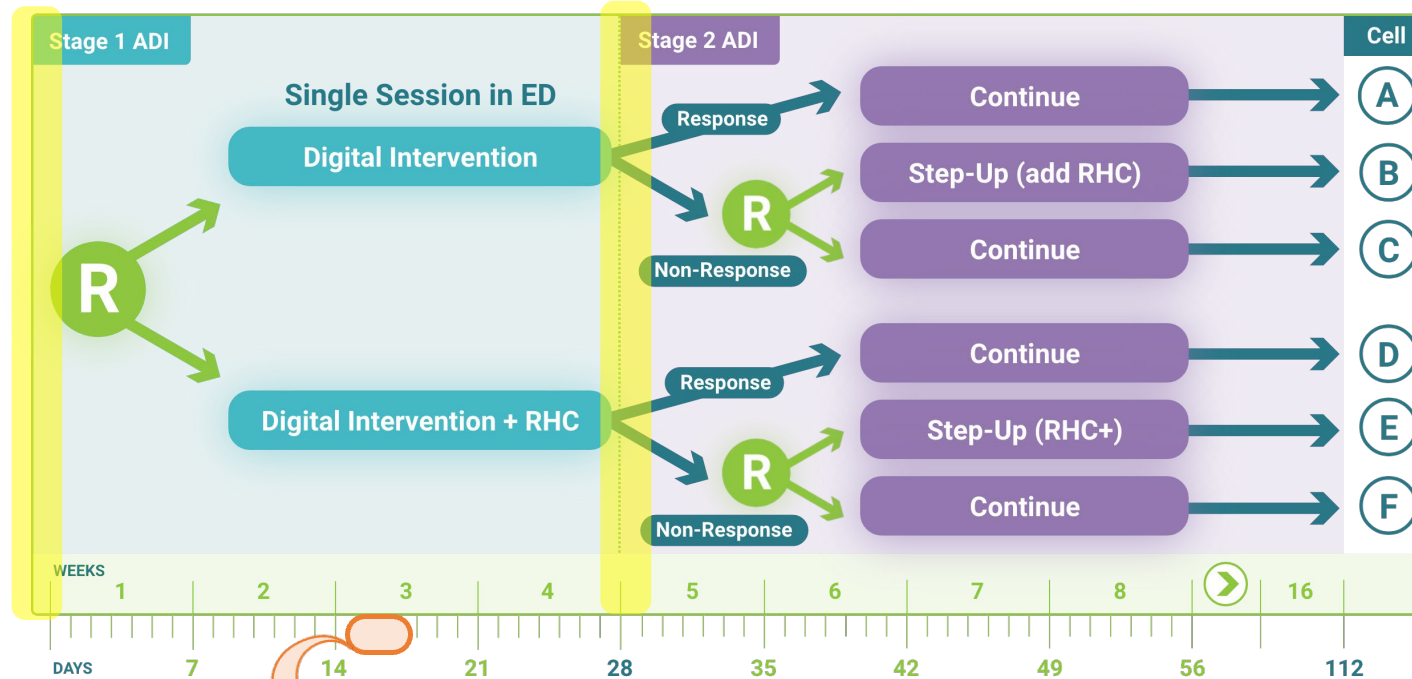
# Hybrid Experimental Design

(HED)

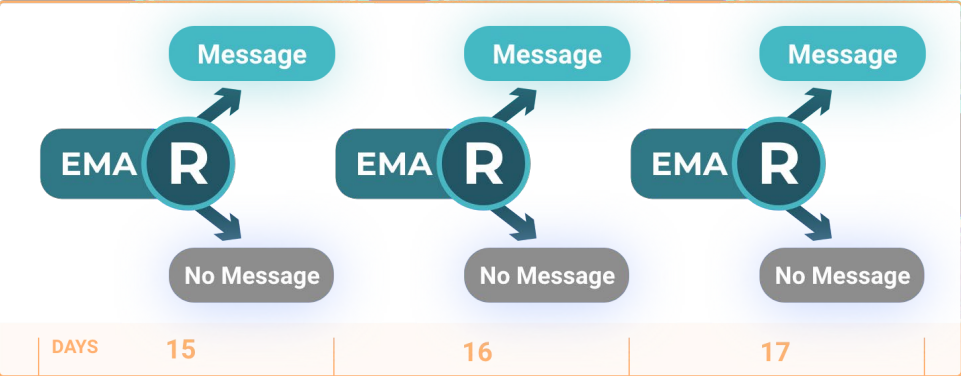
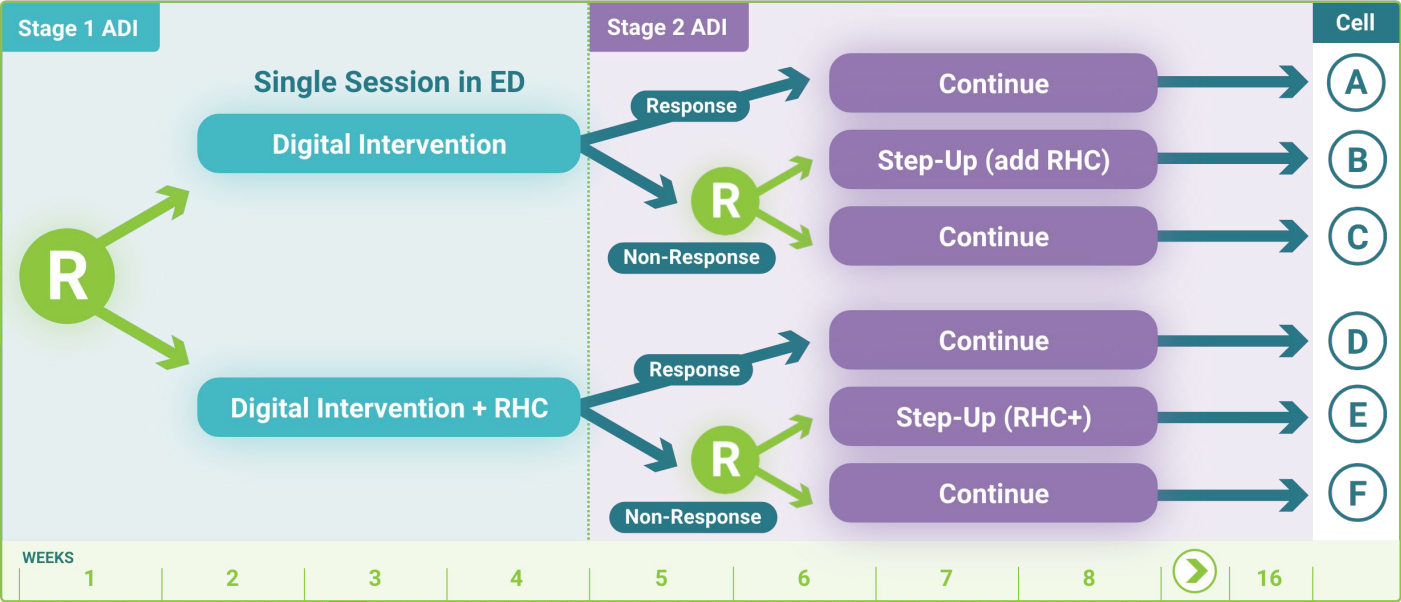


# Hybrid Experimental Design

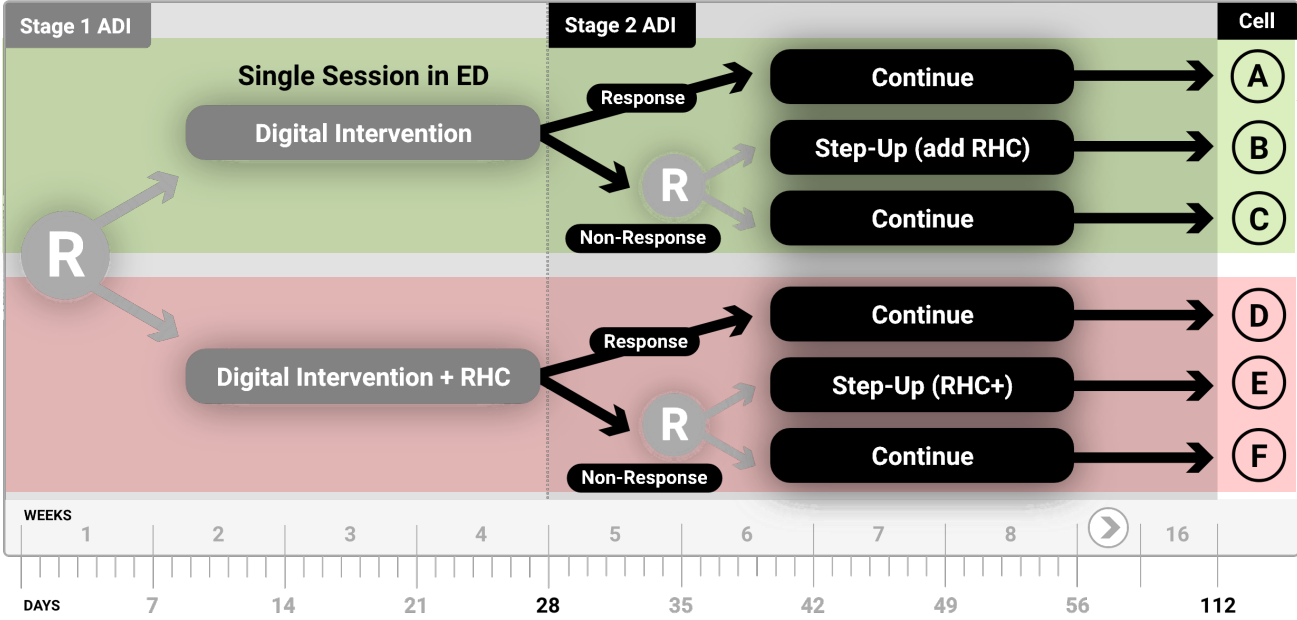
(HED)



# How to use this design to answer scientific questions about MADIs?



# Does the proximal effect of delivering (vs. not delivering) a daily message on next day substance use vary by whether coaching was delivered initially?



# Hybrid Experimental Design (HED)

1. Nahum-Shani, I., Dziak, J. J., Walton, M. A., & Dempsey, W. (2022). Hybrid Experimental Designs for Intervention Development: What, Why and How. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, 5(3), 1–15.

- Appendix A: Models for Analyzing Data from a HED
- Appendix B: Sample Size Simulations
- Appendix C: Power Calculation for HEDs: A User Guide for MC Simulations
- Appendix D: Annotated Analysis Code for Example HED

2. Nahum-Shani, I., Dziak, J.J., Venera, H., Pfammatte, A.F., Spring, B., & Dempsey, W. (2023). Design of Experiments with Sequential Randomizations on Multiple Timescales: The Hybrid Experimental Design. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.09046>

# Multilevel Adaptive Interventions

Daniel Almirall and many colleagues · University of Michigan and beyond

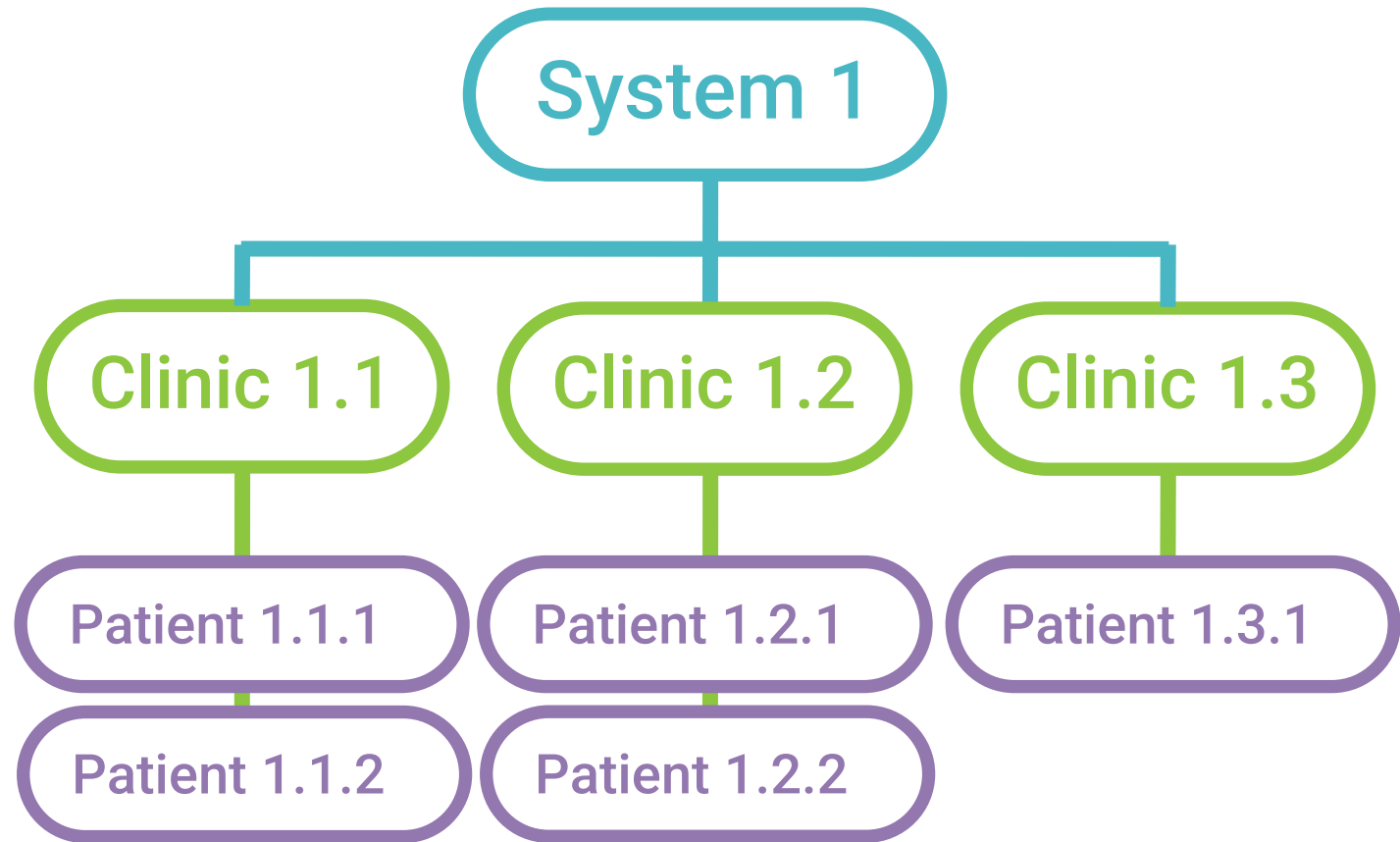


# Another Gap

Some interventions have components at multiple levels.

Implementation strategies are a prototypical example.

But we don't know how best to sequence and adapt interventions at multiple levels.



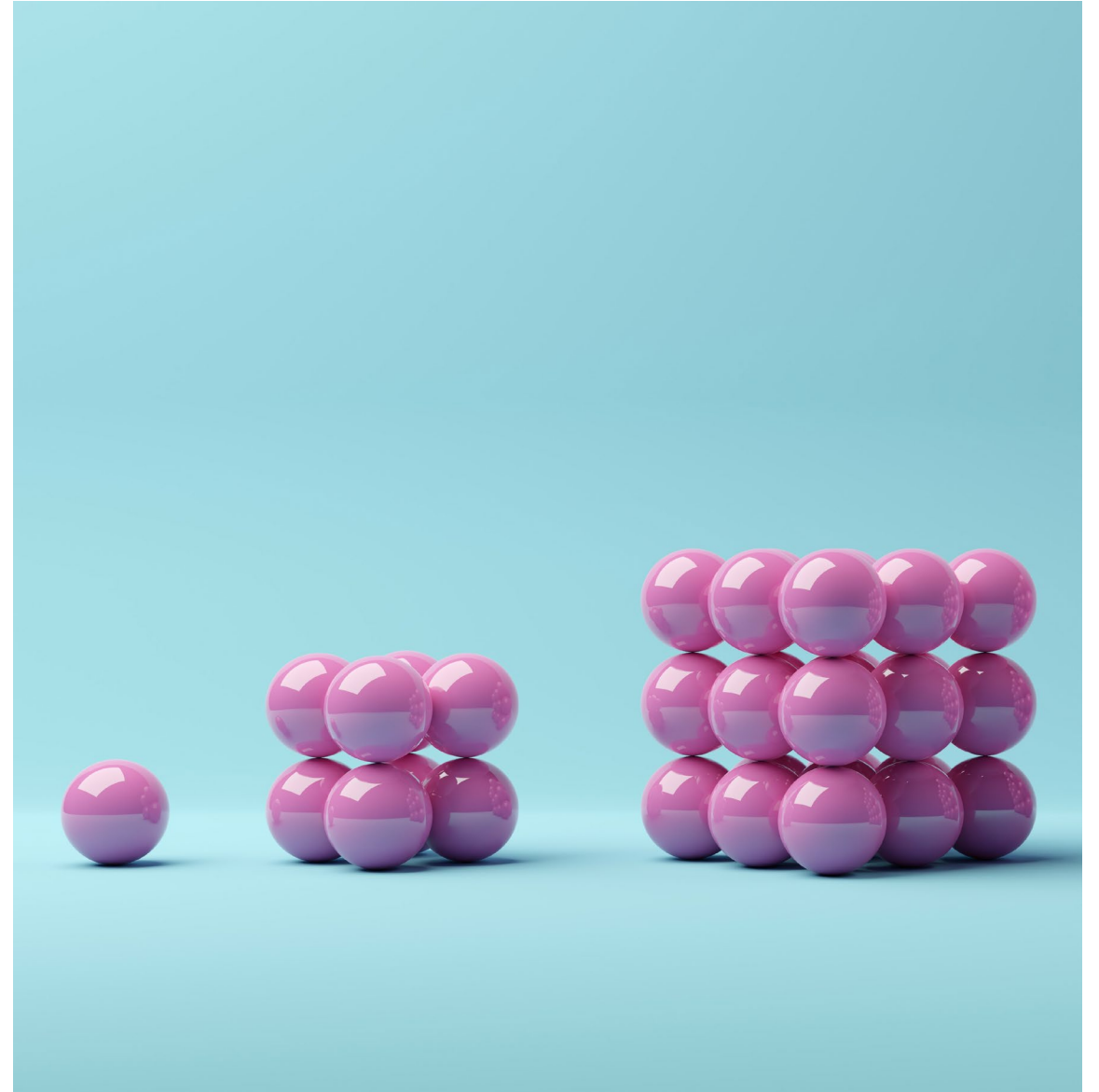


# Outline

**Multilevel Adaptive  
Interventions**

Some optimization questions

Randomized trial design to  
answer the questions



# Outline

Multilevel Adaptive Interventions

Some optimization questions

Randomized trial design to answer the questions

**What is the intervention design? And where will it live?**



**What is (are) the scientific question(s)?**



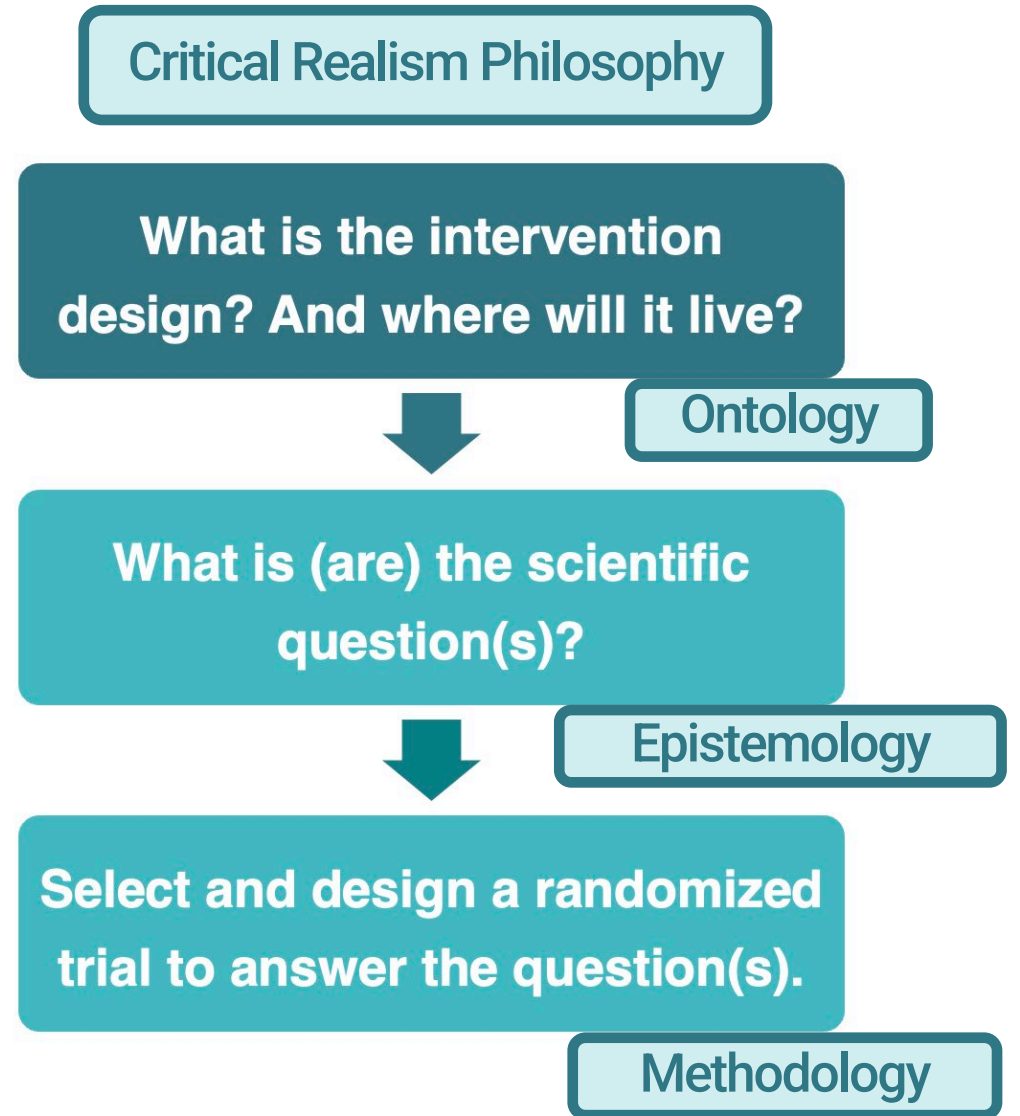
**Select and design a randomized trial to answer the question(s).**

# Outline

Multilevel Adaptive Interventions

Some optimization questions

Randomized trial design to answer the questions



# Outline

## Multilevel Adaptive Interventions

Some optimization questions

Randomized trial design to answer the questions

So put on your  
clinician or  
implementer hats.

# What is a Multilevel Adaptive Intervention?

# Multilevel Adaptive Intervention

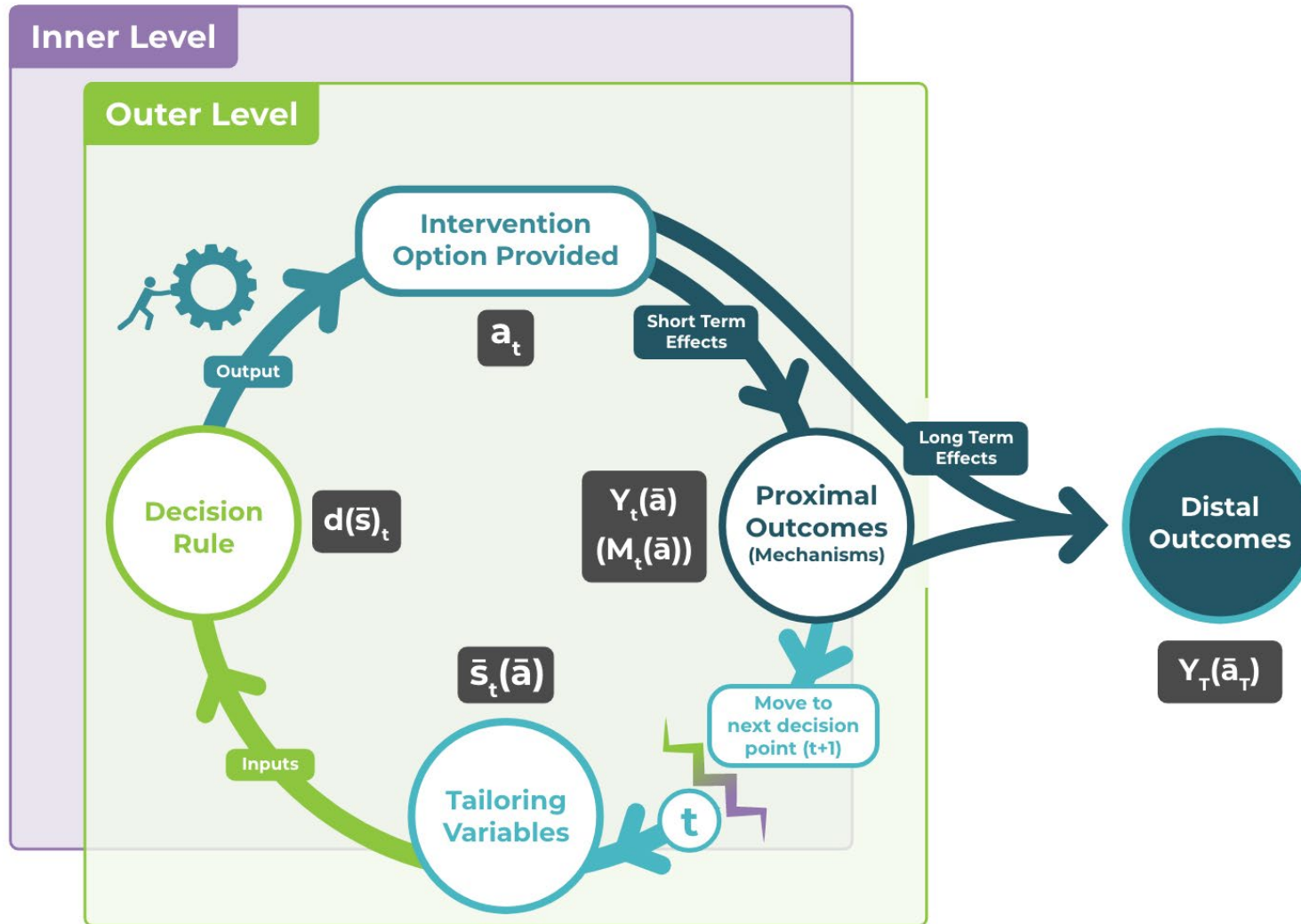
A sequence of decision rules used to guide how best to adapt the provision of intervention...

At **critical decision points**

Across **multiple levels**

Based on both **baseline** + **ongoing / changing** status of targets within the different levels of intervention

# Multilevel Adaptive Intervention



# Examples will be Drawn from Implementation Science

Adaptive implementation strategy at the clinic-level

+

Adaptive implementation strategy at the clinician-level

=

Multilevel Adaptive Implementation Strategy (MAISY)

A MAISY is a specific type of multilevel adaptive intervention.

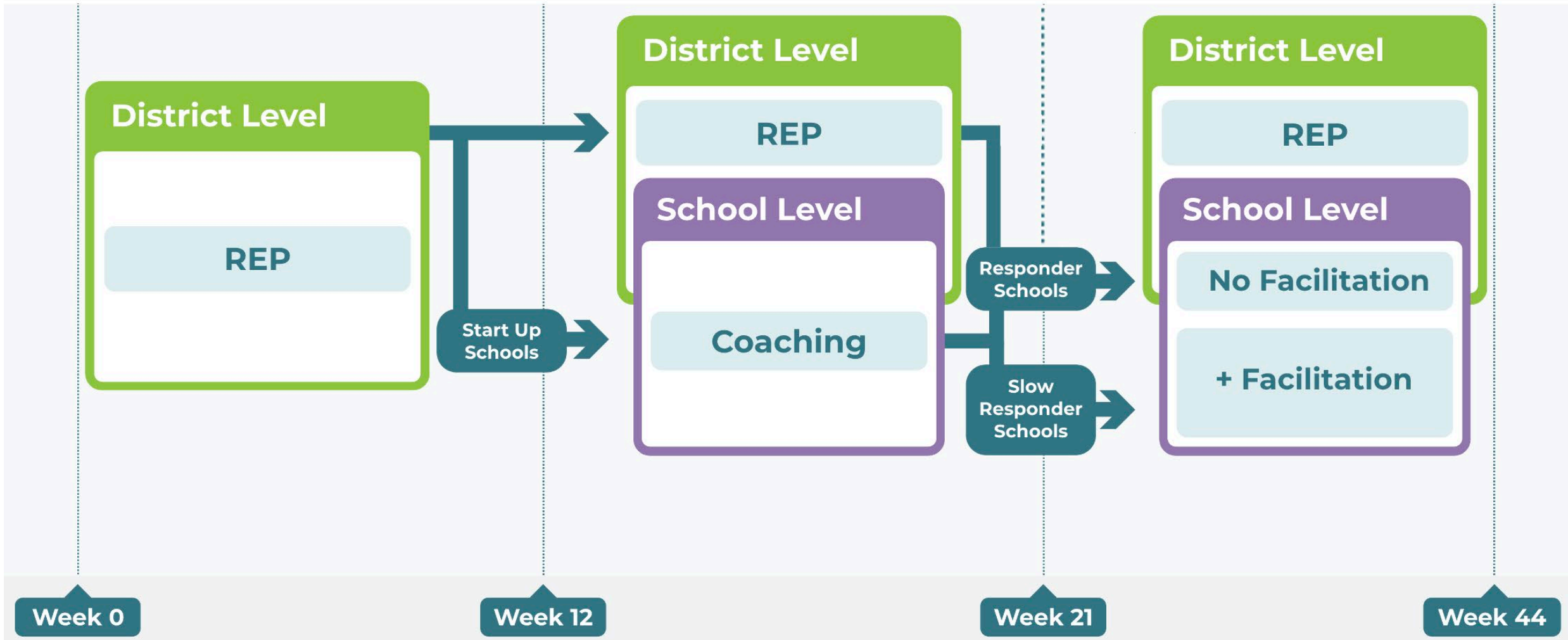


# MAISY Example 1

Principal Investigator: Amy Kilbourne

## Adaptive School-Based Implementation of CBT (ASIC)

EBP: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Michigan Schools

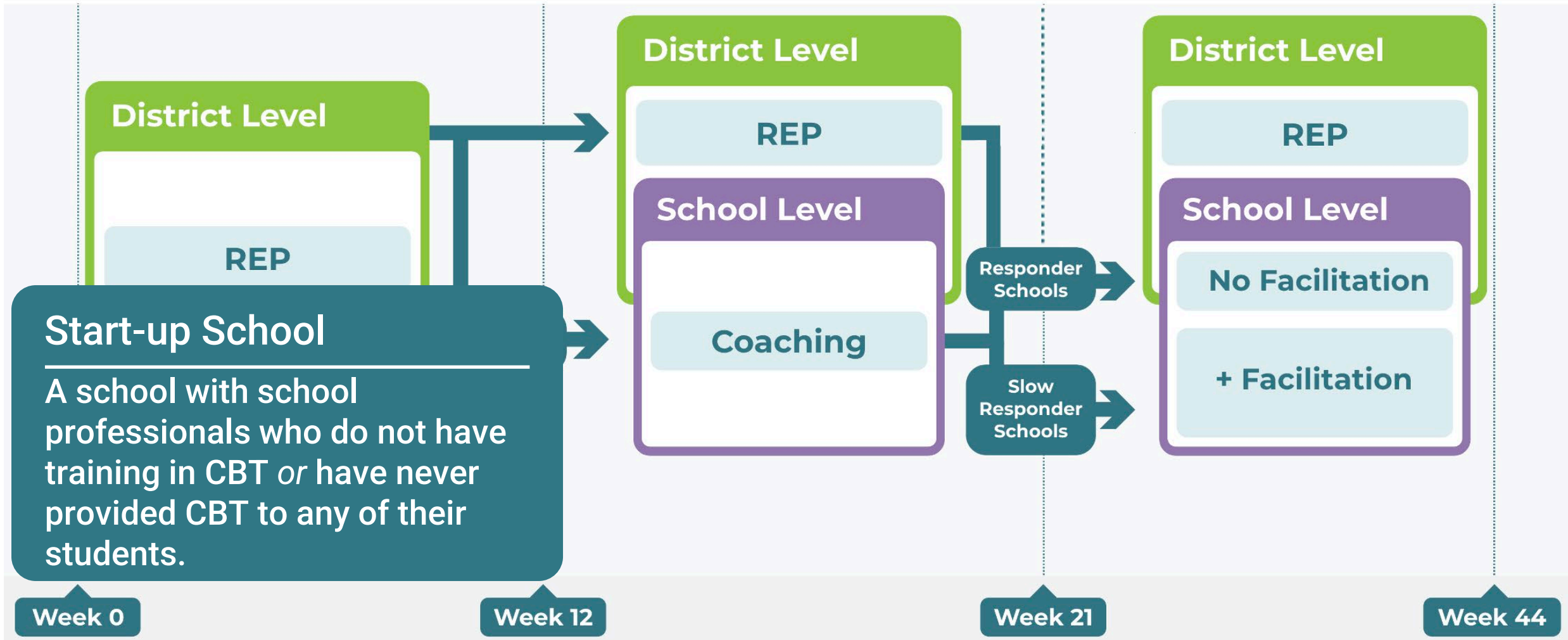


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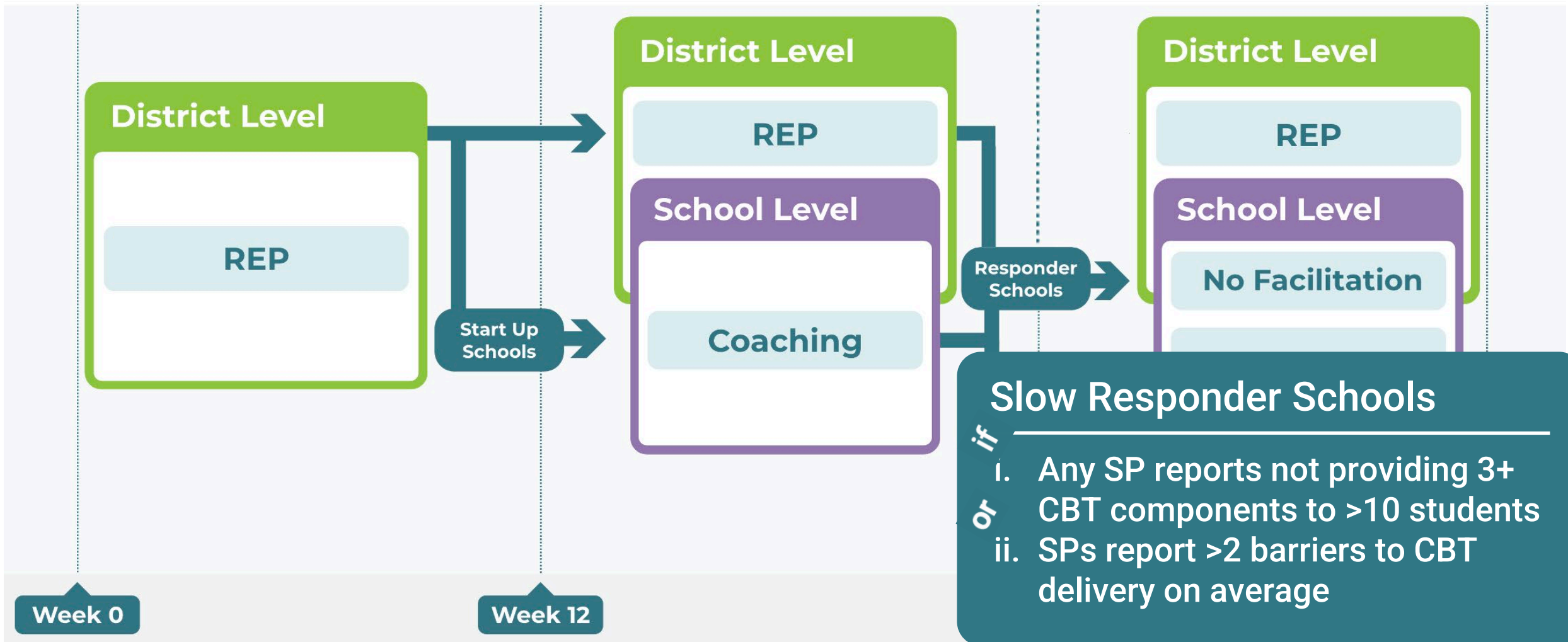


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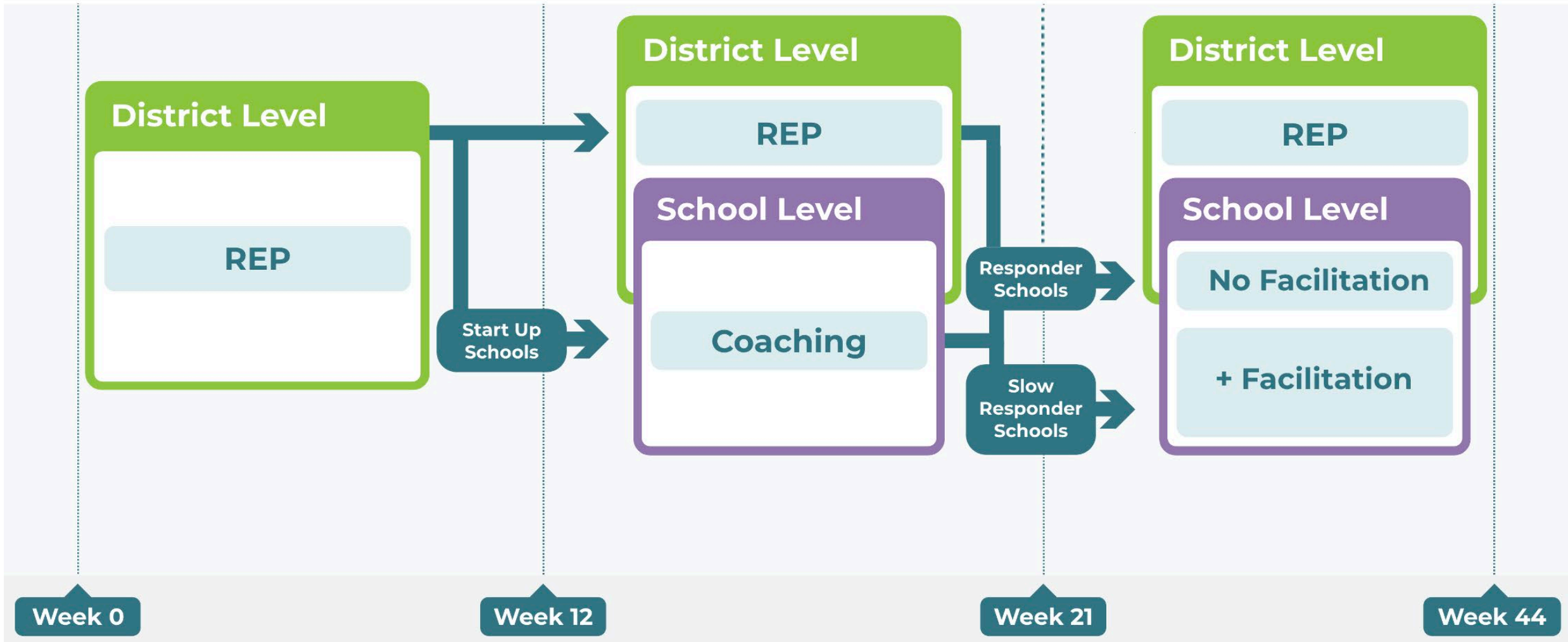


# MAISY Example 1

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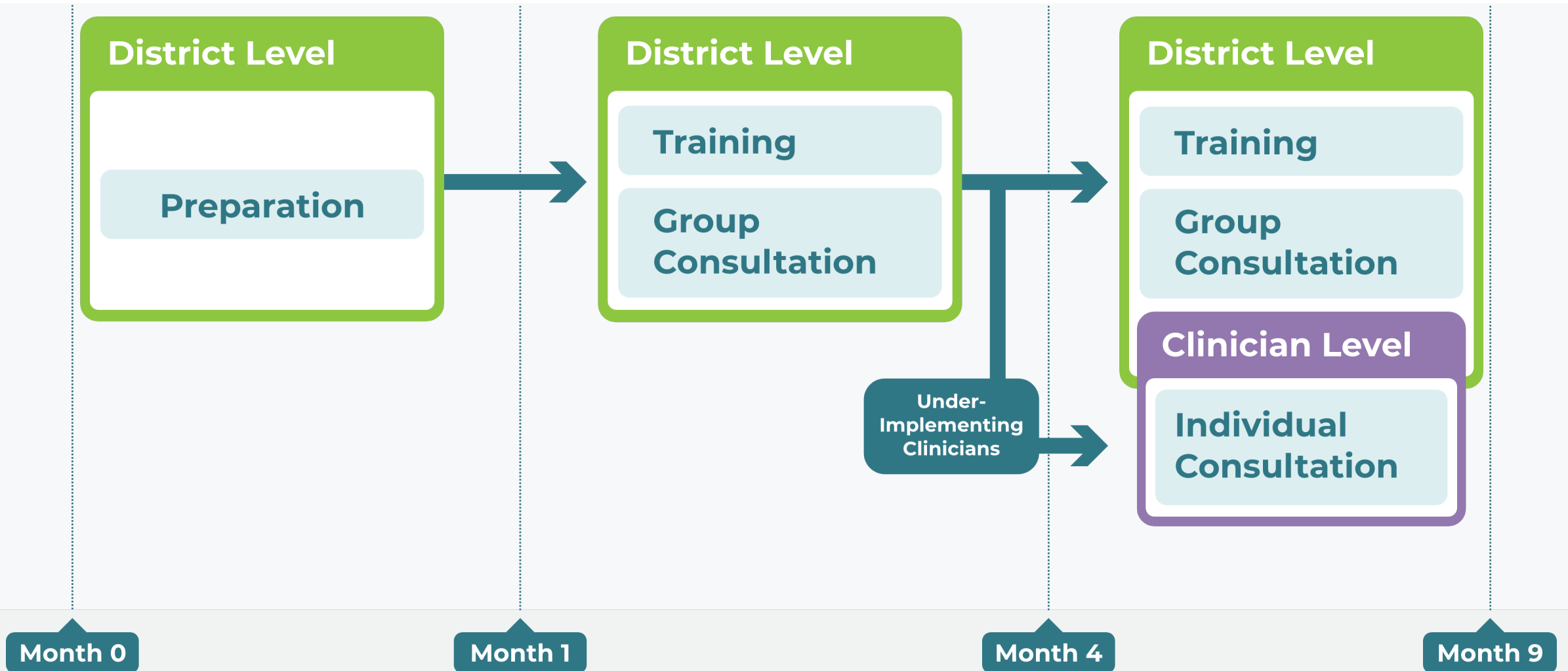


# MAISY Example 2

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Connors

## Feedback & Outcomes for Clinically Useful Student Services (FOCUSS)

EBP: Measurement-Based Care in Connecticut Schools

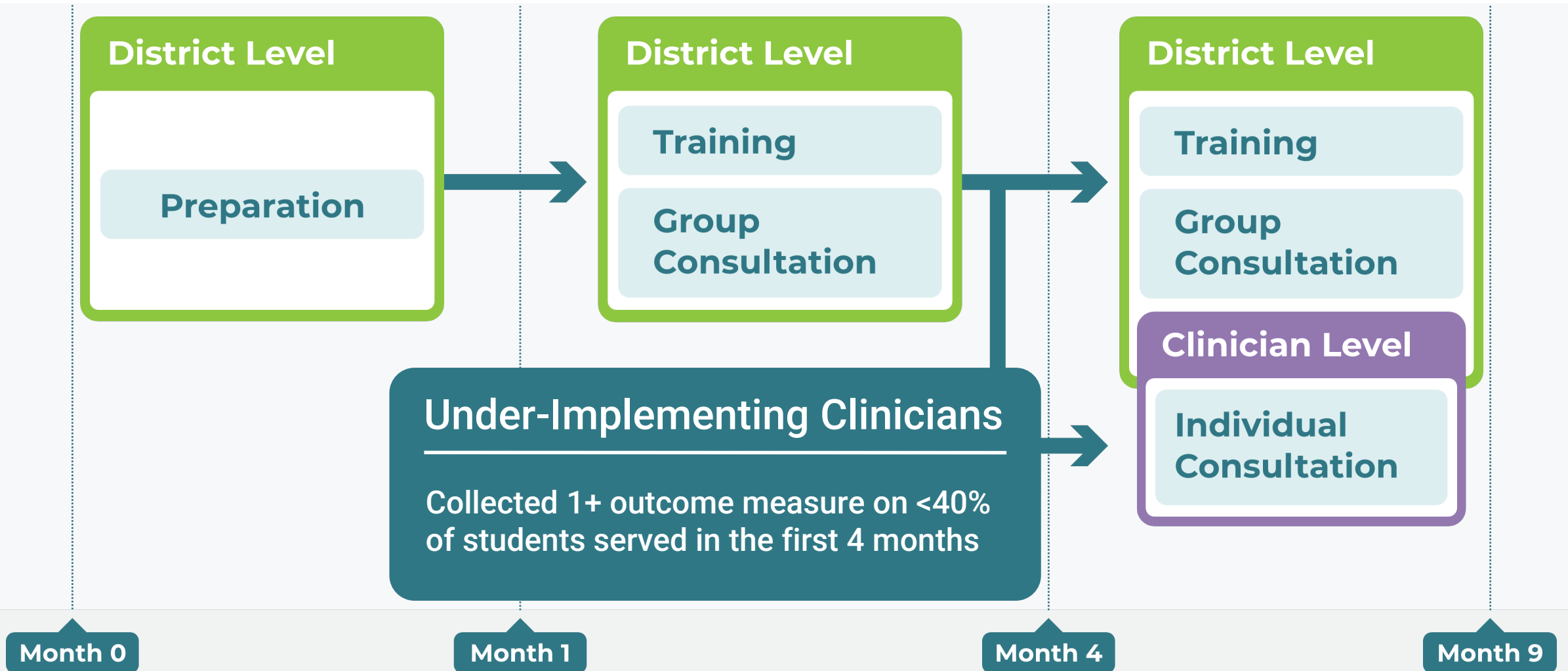


# MAISY Example 2

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Connors

## Feedback & Outcomes for Clinically Useful Student Services (FOCUSS)

EBP: Measurement-Based Care in Connecticut Schools

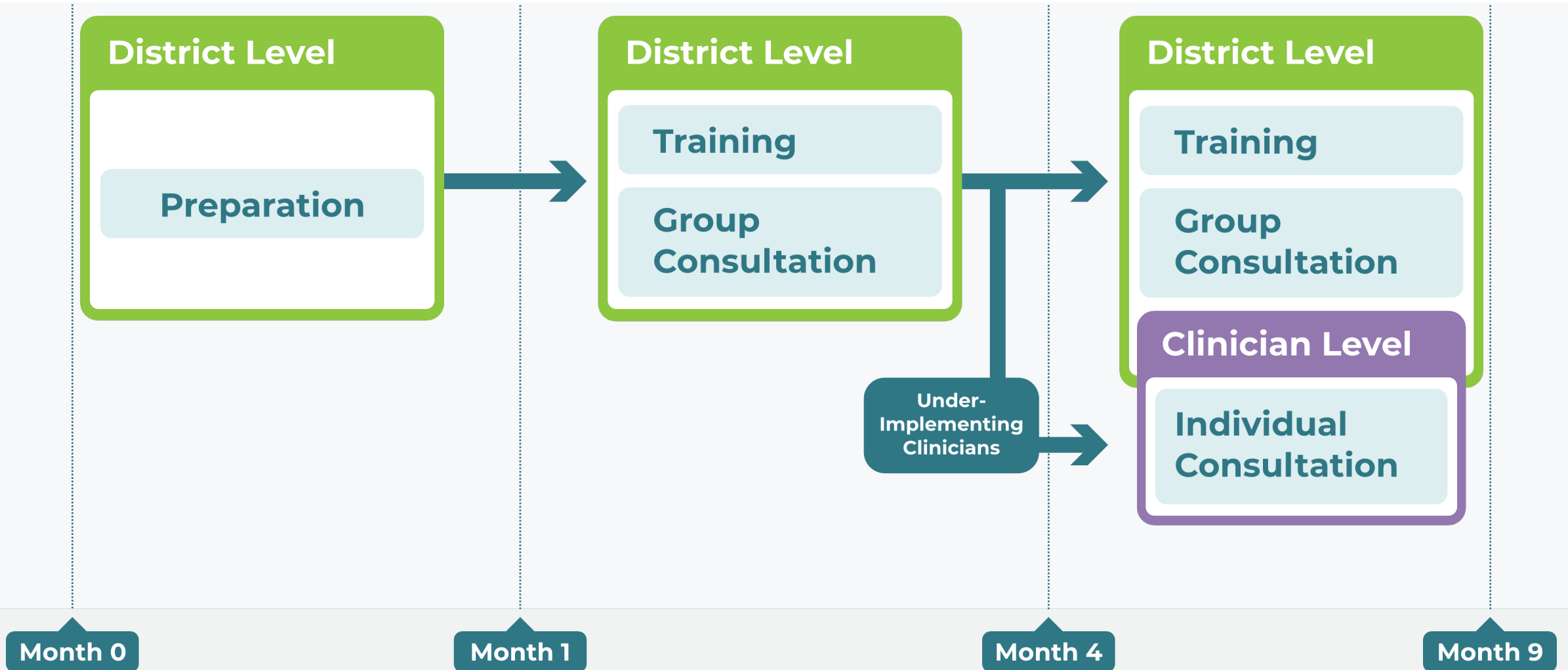


# MAISY Example 2

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Connors

## Feedback & Outcomes for Clinically Useful Student Services (FOCUSS)

EBP: Measurement-Based Care in Connecticut Schools



# Why do we need Multilevel Adaptive Interventions?

Timing is important

Speed of adoption varies across levels.  
Not all targets are ready to take on more.

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Strategic sequencing

Lay a strong foundation for subsequent strategies, if needed

Health equity

Can be part of operationalizing vertical health equity principles at different levels





# Why do we need Multilevel Adaptive Interventions?

Engagement is critical

One level might focus primarily on engagement effect; another primarily on therapeutic effect

Often more is not better

Kitchen sink strategies can be suboptimal, especially when there are multiple levels

Resource/Cost Efficiency

Step-up for targets that need it; step-down for targets doing well; but this may differ across levels

# A Multilevel Adaptive Intervention is not a Research Method

**Not an experimental design**

There are no randomizations in a MAISY!

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**Not an approach to conducting pilot studies**

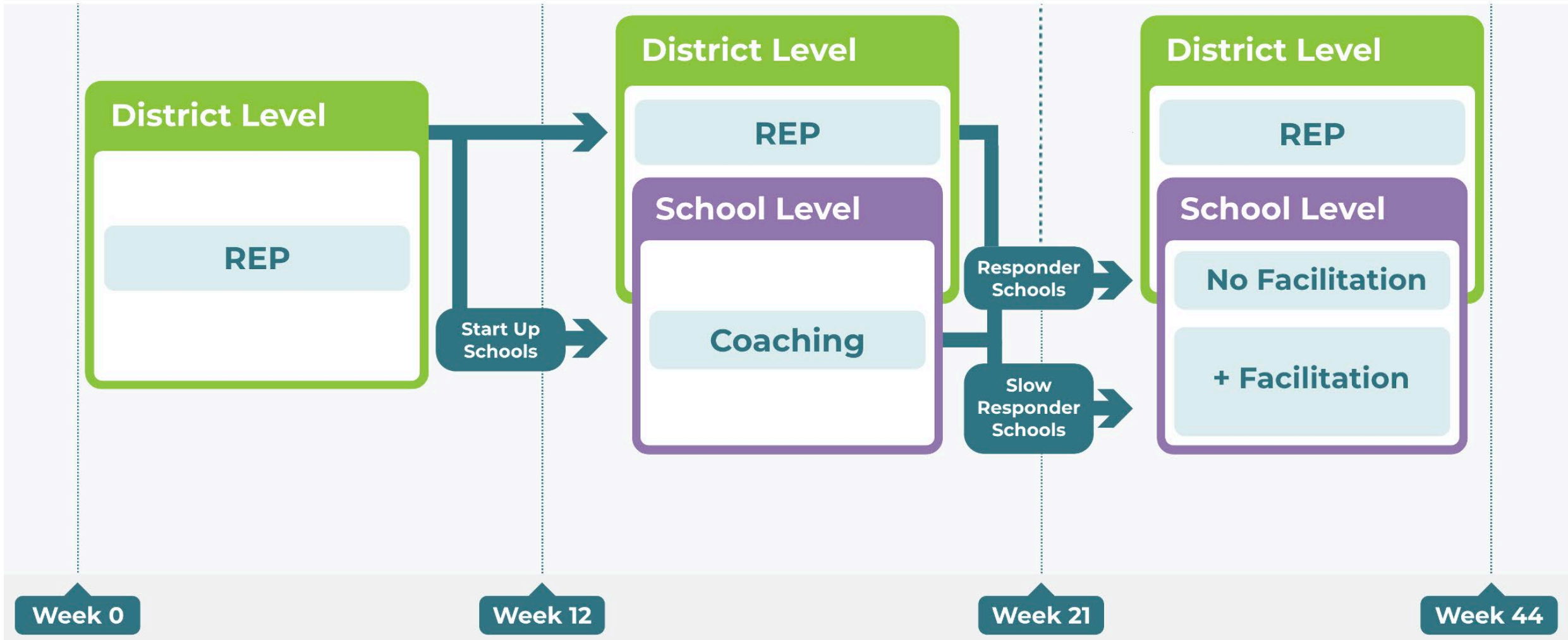
**Not an approach to data analysis**

**Not an adaptive trial design**



# Recall MAISY Example 1

## Adaptive School-Based Implementation of CBT (ASIC)



# Other Considerations

Pre-specified (i.e., pre-planned) decisions

Mechanisms can be tailoring variables

The tailoring variables are part of the  
multilevel adaptive intervention

# Outline

Multilevel Adaptive  
Interventions: What? Why?  
Who?

**Using randomization to  
develop an optimized  
multilevel adaptive  
intervention**

**Now put your  
researcher hats back  
on!**

# Optimization Questions

Basic, but important!

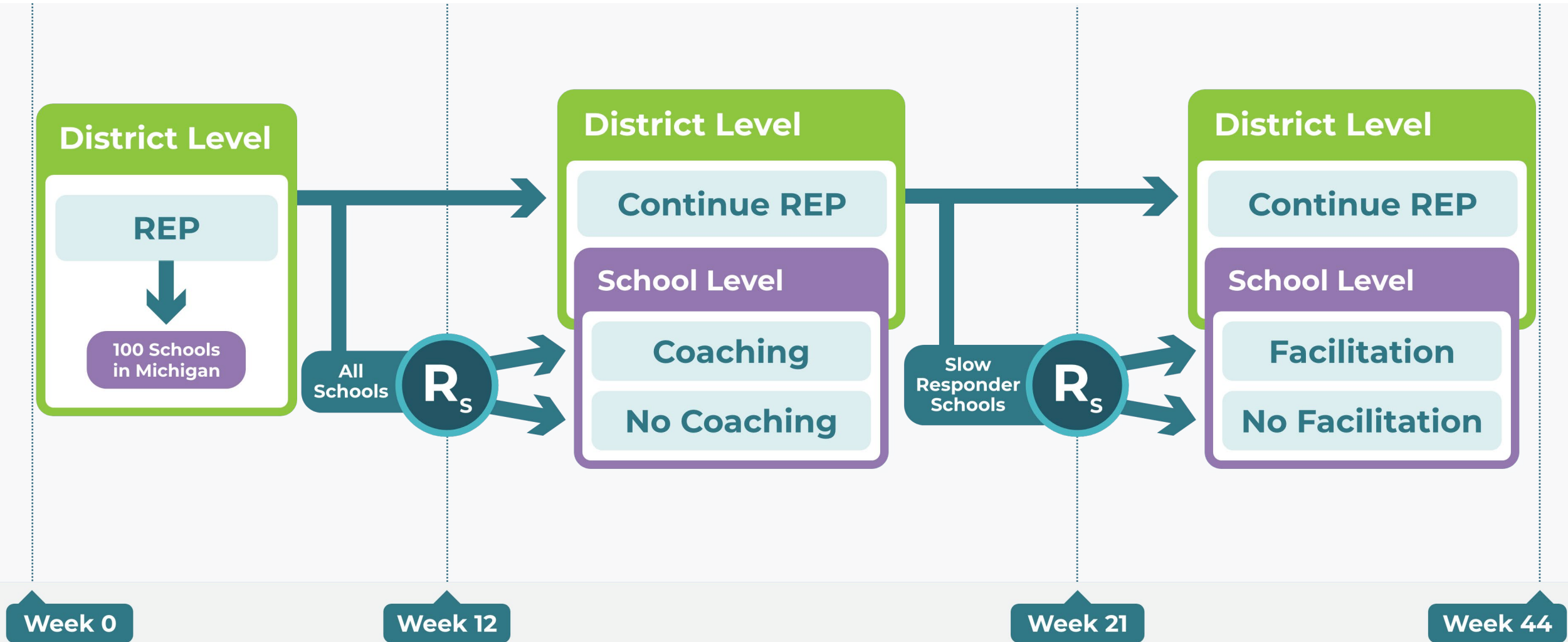
	Type	In the context of ASIC
1	First-Stage Strategies	What is the effectiveness of Coaching?
2	Later-Phase Strategies	What is the effect of Facilitation among schools that are slower responders?
3	Interaction	Do Coaching and Facilitation interact to produce beneficial outcomes?
4	Adaptive vs. Not Adaptive	What is the effect of the MAISY shown earlier vs. only Coaching (not adaptive)?

# SMART Example

Principal Investigator: Amy Kilbourne

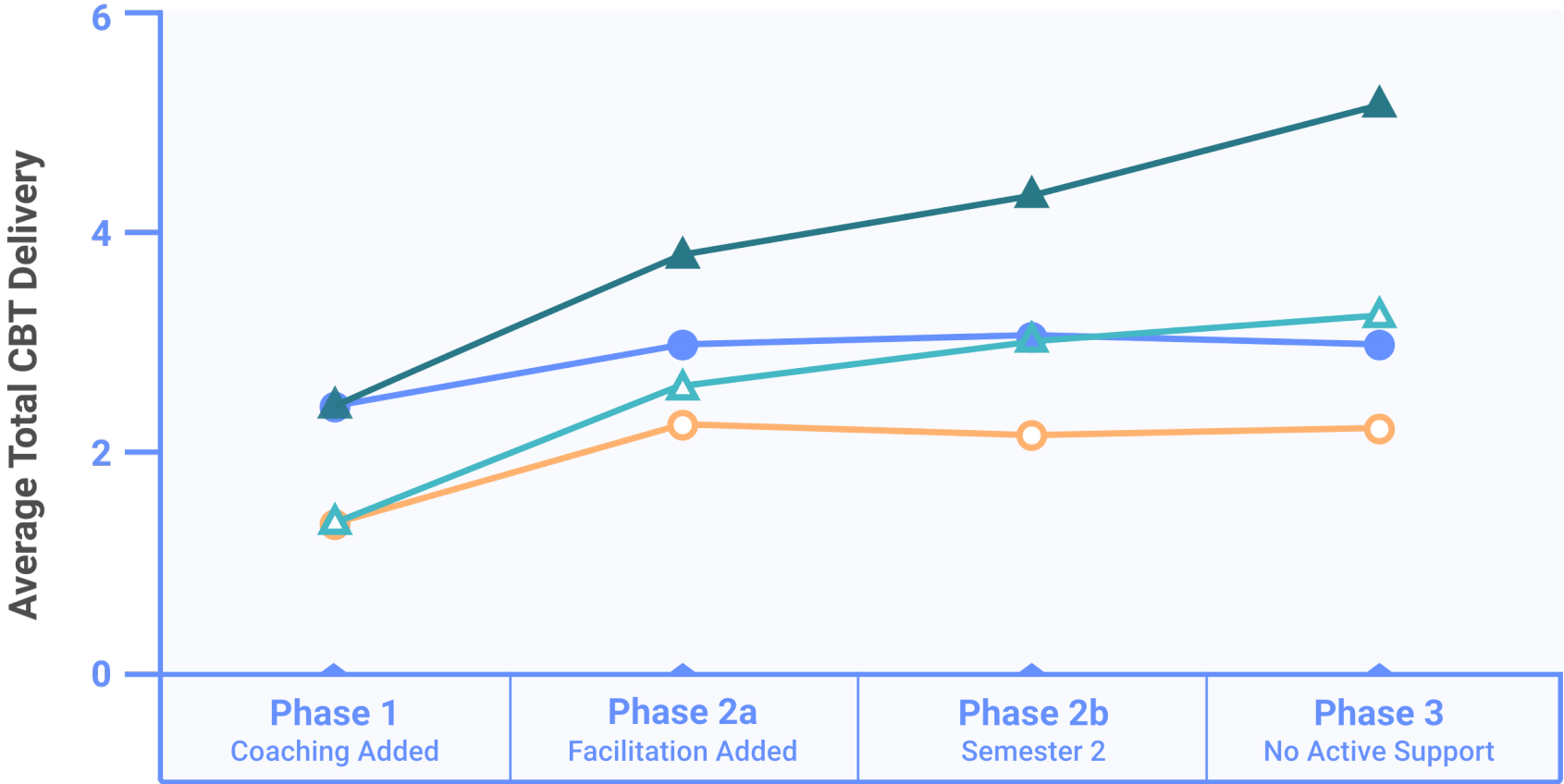
## The ASIC Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trial

EBP: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Michigan Schools



# Sneak Peek at Surprising Results

ASIC



<b>REP</b>	<b>REP + Fac</b>	<b>Complete Results</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/3im78sg">bit.ly/3im78sg</a>
<b>REP + Coaching</b>	<b>REP + Coaching + Fac</b>	





# Optimization Questions

All About Tailoring

	Type	In the context of ASIC
5	Better Way to Define Non-Response?	Should we use a more lenient definition (a lower cut-off) for “Responding School”?
6	Other Baseline Tailoring Variables?	Perhaps only start-up schools require Coaching?
7	Other Ongoing Tailoring Variables?	Perhaps Facilitation should only be offered to sub-optimally responding schools that did not engage in Coaching?

# Optimization Questions

More About Tailoring

	Type	In the context of ASIC
8	Other Multilevel Tailoring Variables?	Perhaps Facilitation should only be offered to sub-optimally responding schools within the lowest-resourced school districts?
9	Does the putative mechanism aide in decision making?	Is Facilitation necessary in sub-optimally responding schools delivering higher-quality CBT as a result of Coaching?

# Optimization Questions

Some Novel Ones

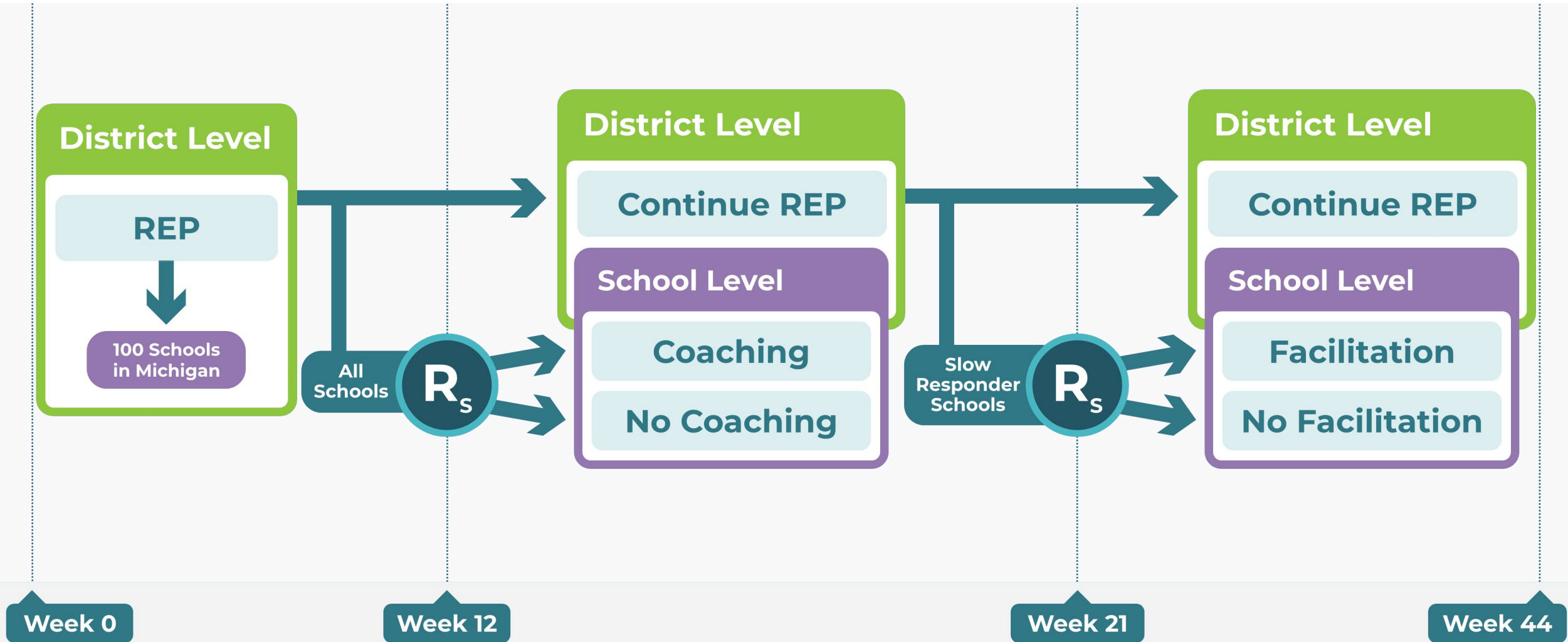
	Type	In the context of ASIC
10	Sleeper effects of prior stage strategies?	Is it possible that first-stage strategies have no effect in the short-run but have beneficial effects in the long-run when followed by a particular second-stage strategy?
11	Prescriptive effects?	Did we learn something from Coaching that can help decide whether to do Facilitation?

# SMART Example

Principal Investigator: Amy Kilbourne

## The ASIC Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trial

EBP: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Michigan Schools

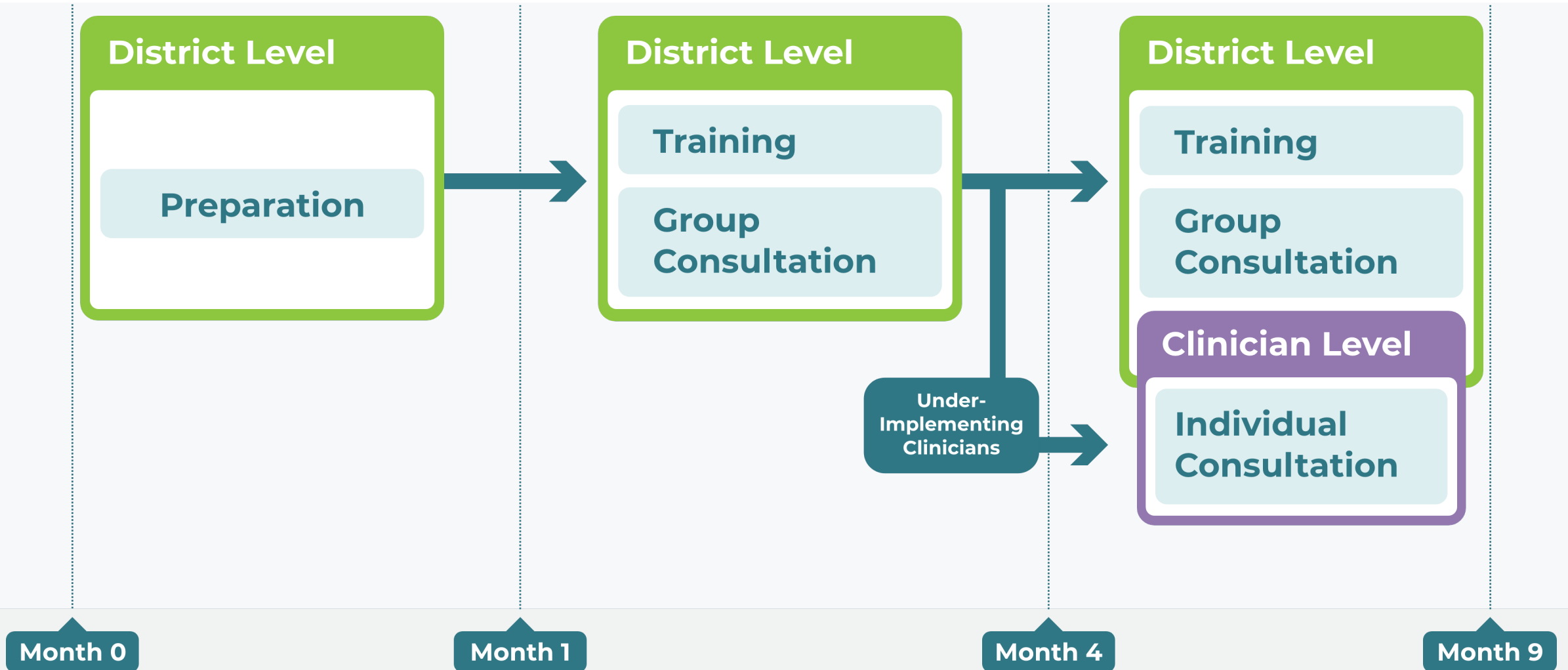


# MAISY Example 2

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Connors

## Feedback & Outcomes for Clinically Useful Student Services (FOCUSS)

EBP: Measurement-Based Care in Connecticut Schools



# Optimization Questions

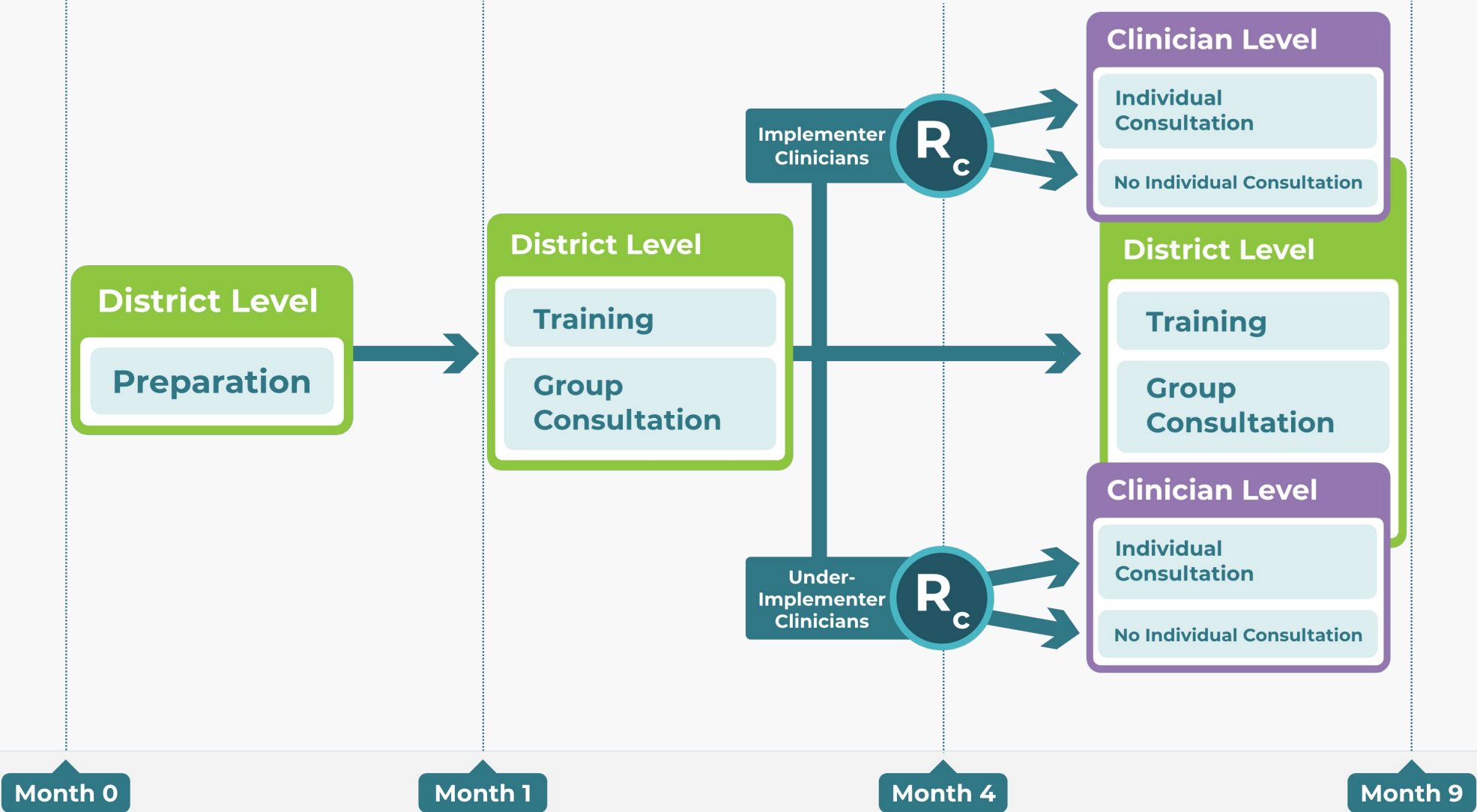
Back to Questions 2 & 7

	Type	In the context of FOCUS
2	Later-Phase Strategies	What is the average effect of clinician-level Individual Consultation?
7	Ongoing Tailoring Variables	How do we define “under-implementing clinician”?

# The FOCUSS Study

## Two-arm Optimization Randomized Trial

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Connors



# Optimization Questions

Concerning Spillover

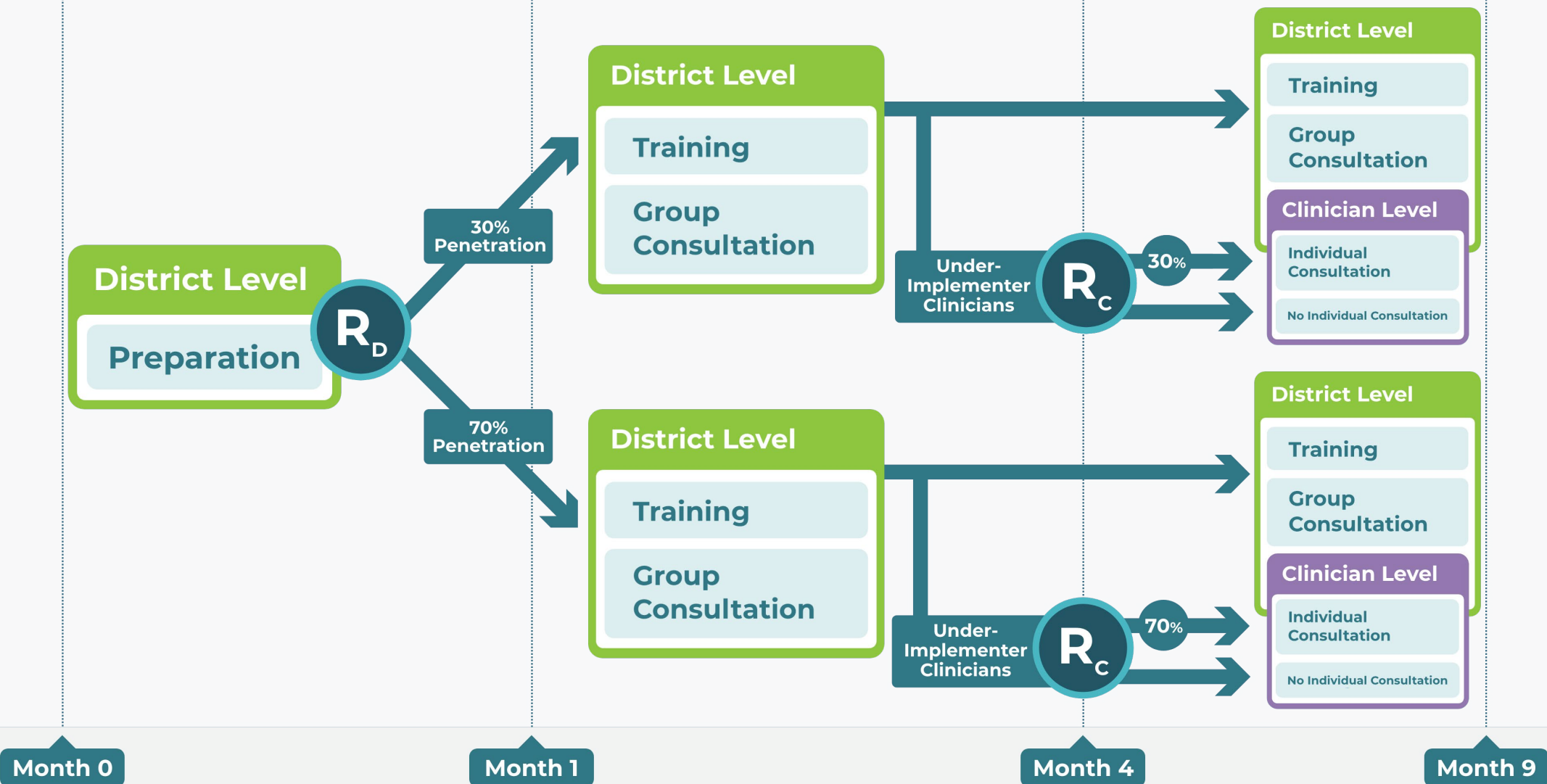
	Type	In the context of FOCUS
2	Optimal tipping point effect?	Effect of providing Individual Consultation to 30% vs. 70% of under-implementers in a district?
7	Outer-level strategies that engender beneficial spillover?	Target a random 1/2 of under-implementing clinicians vs. up to 1/2 on a first-come first-serve basis?



# Illustrated Using FOCUSS

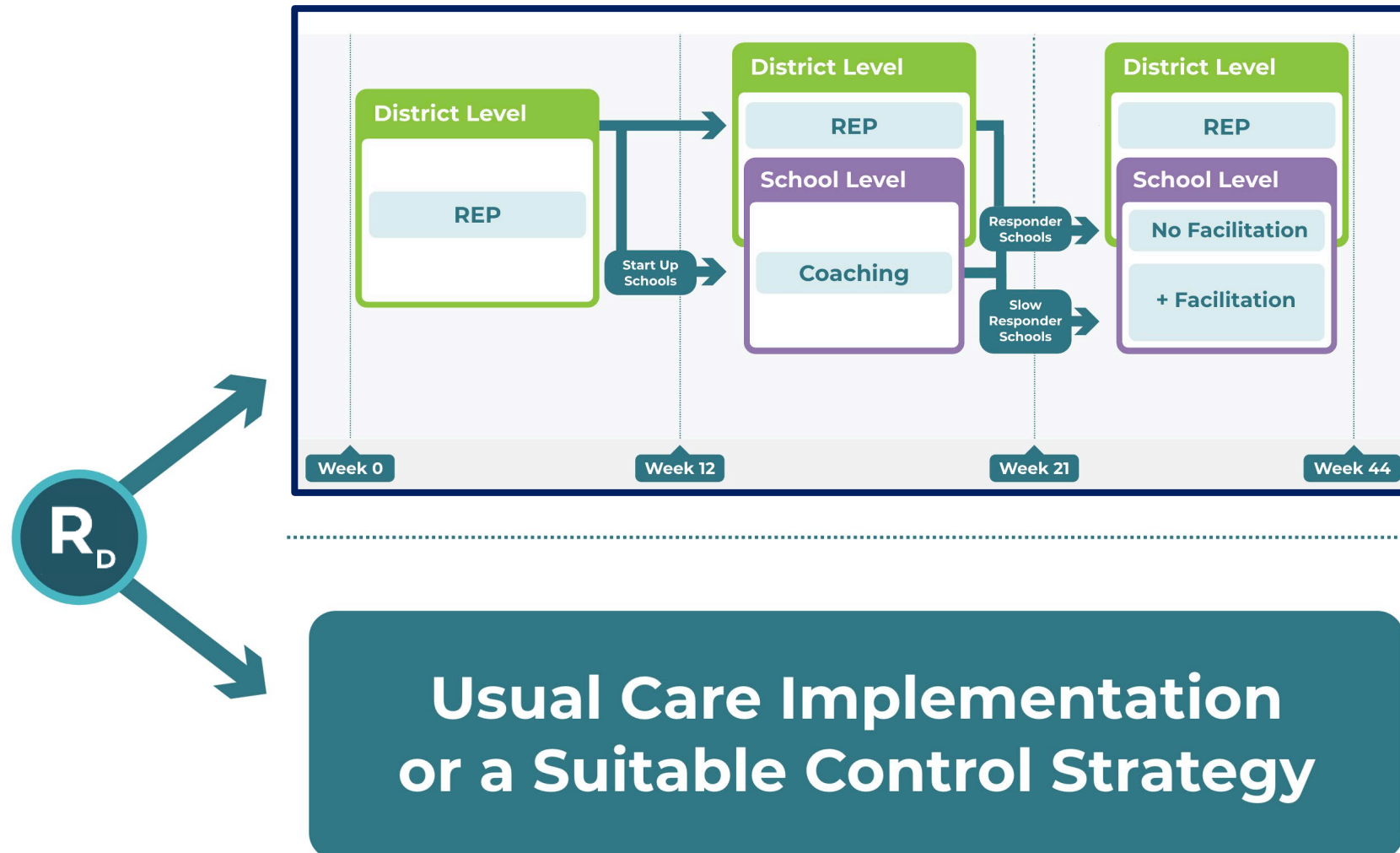
## A Hypothetical, Multilevel SMART

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Connors



# Evaluation and optimization questions are different.

An evaluation randomized trial looks like this.

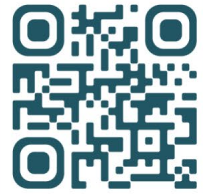


# Browse our online resources.

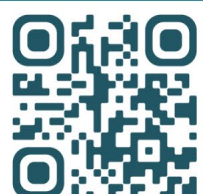


Resources on  
adaptive interventions.

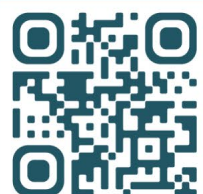
Browse learning resources.



Sign up for our newsletter.



Search open-source software.



Resources on  
intervention optimization.

Browse learning resources.



Sign up for our newsletter.



Register for webinars.

Wednesdays from 1-2 pm Eastern





# Break

REFRESHMENTS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF MEETING ROOM

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PLEASE RETURN BY 3:05PM

**ROYBAL**

Center For  
Translational  
Research



# Innovative Strategies to Enhance Retention in Clinical Trials

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MICHAELA KIERNAN, PHD



# General Discussion

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FACILITATED BY KARINA DAVIDSON, PHD, MASC  
ROYBAL COORDINATING CENTER PI  
NORTHWELL HEALTH

# We welcome you to join us for an evening reception!

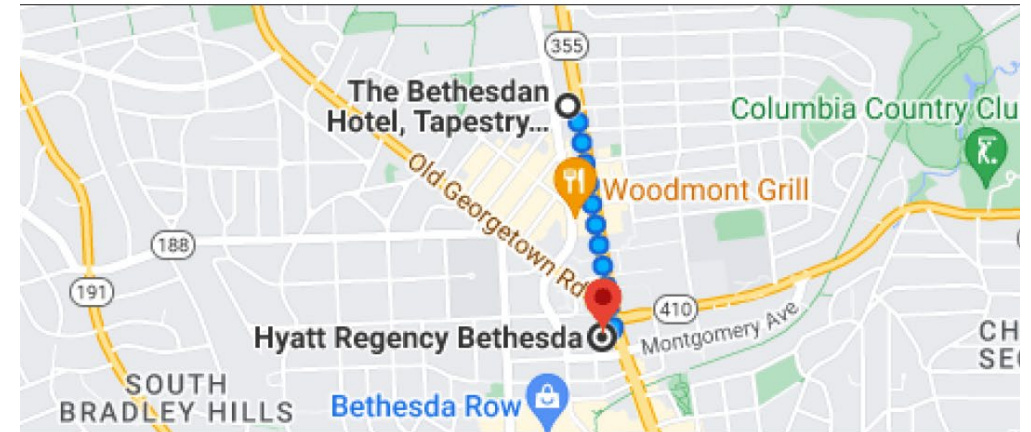
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## Morton's Steakhouse

Hyatt Regency Hotel  
7400 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda, MD

**Cocktail Reception**  
**Seated Dinner**

**6pm-7pm**  
**7pm-9pm**



*Located within walking distance from The Besthesdan Hotel*



# Day 1 Adjourn

ENJOY THE EVENING!

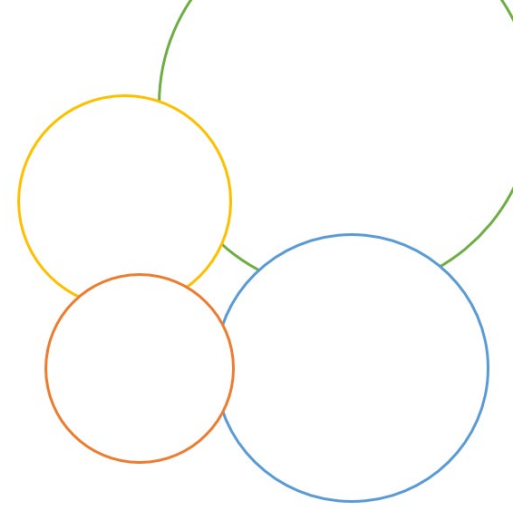
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WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU FOR DAY 2!



**ROYBAL**

Center For  
Translational  
Research



# Welcome to the 2023 Annual Meeting








Edward R. Roybal Centers for Translational Research in  
the Behavioral and Social Sciences of Aging

March 14-15, 2023  
Day 2



# Day 2 Agenda

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- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  8:30am-9:45am   | <b>BREAKFAST</b>   |
|  10:00am-10:55am | <b><u>Panel Discussion:</u> Lessons Learned from the Conduct of Clinical Trials</b>  |
|  11:00am-11:50am | <b><u>Panel Discussion:</u> Best Practices for Mentoring Investigators Conducting Clinical Trials and Behavioral Interventions</b> |
|  11:50am-12:10pm | <b>BREAK</b>   |
|  12:10pm-1:00pm  | <b>Improving Representation in Clinical Trials: Recommendations from the 2022 NASEM Report</b>                                     |
|  1:00pm-1:15pm  | <b>Closing Remarks</b>   |
|  1:30pm        | <b>Adjourn</b><br><i>Boxed lunch available</i>   |

# Housekeeping Reminders

---



## **BE FULLY PRESENT**

TURN OFF CELL PHONES, CLOSE YOUR  
EMAIL, ETC.



## **DON'T BE LATE**

PLEASE RETURN FROM LUNCH AND  
BREAKS ON TIME

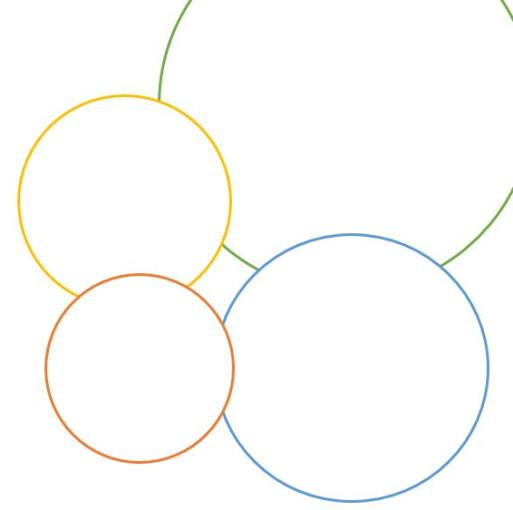


## **SPEAK OFTEN AND LOUDLY**

PLEASE BE SURE TO SPEAK INTO THE  
MICROPHONES LOCATED AT EACH TABLE

**ROYBAL**

Center For  
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Research



Panel Discussion:  
Lessons Learned from the Conduct  
of Clinical Trials

## MODERATOR

## PANELISTS



### **NITEESH CHOUDHRY, MD, PHD**

Professor, Harvard Medical School  
Professor, Department of Health Policy & Management  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health  
Director, Roybal Center for Therapeutic Optimization using Behavioral Science  
Brigham and Women's Hospital



### **MARY BUTLER, PHD, MBA**

Associate Professor,  
School of Public Health Division of  
Health Policy and Management  
University of Minnesota



### **MINA SEDRAK, MD, MS**

Associate Professor, Medical Oncology  
Deputy Director, Center for Cancer and Aging  
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center



### **JASMIN TIRO, PHD**

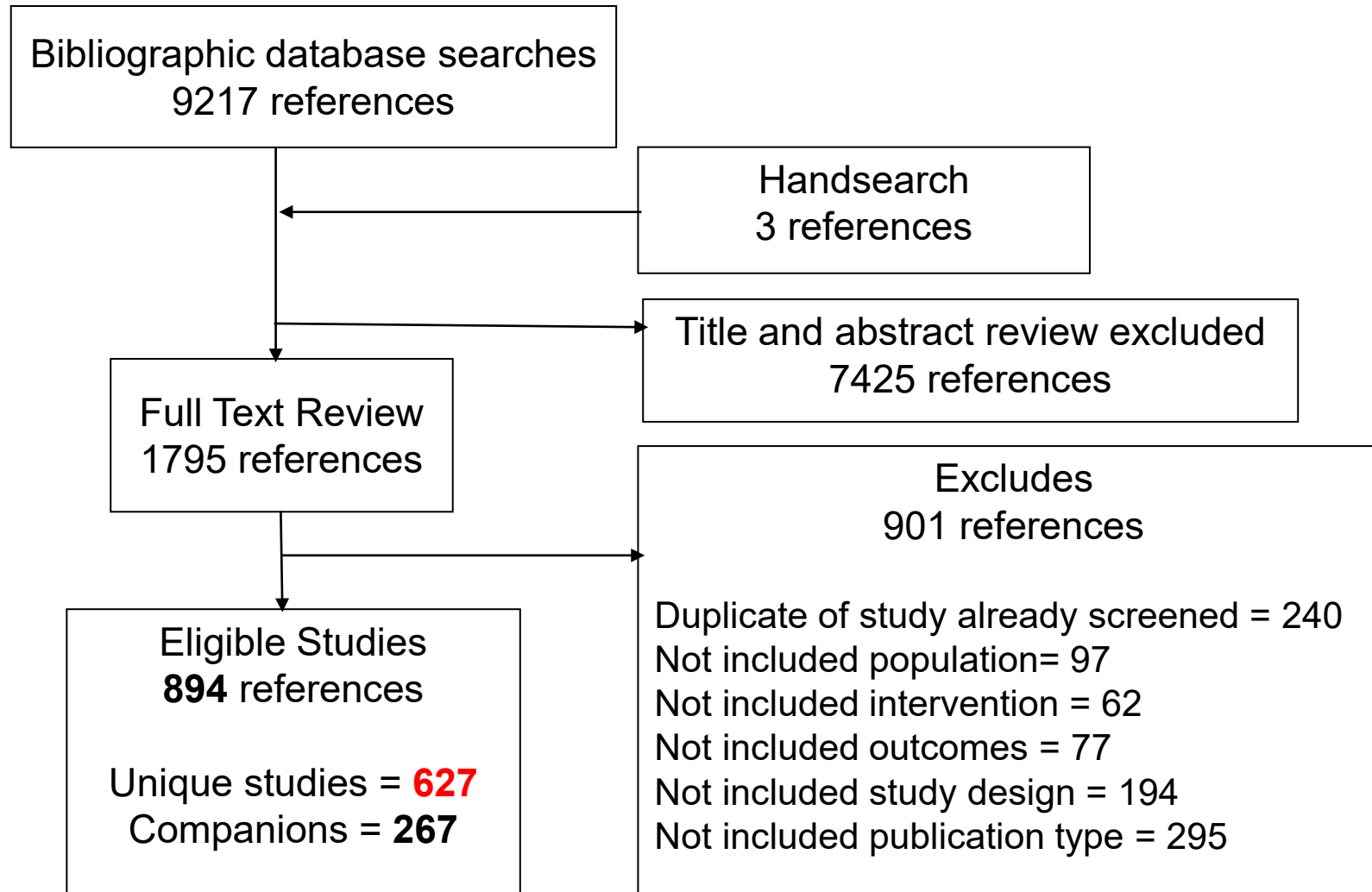
Professor  
Division of Biological Sciences  
Associate Director, Cancer Prevention and Population Science  
The University of Chicago

# The Report's Objective

To assess the evidence for care interventions for people living with dementia (PLWD) and their informal and formal caregivers for potential broad dissemination and implementation.

But systematic reviews like this are also the basis for evidence-based research.

# Results - Eligible Studies (March 2020)



# Results - Eligible Studies (continued)

- **100** studies in the **analytic set**: the set of studies not judged to be pilots or have a high potential for bias that might have interfered with the ability of the study to answer its research question.
- **527** studies in the **evidence map**: the set of studies that did not undergo synthesis. Summarizes what has been studied and facilitates identifying future research needs.



# Implication of Analytic Set vs Evidence Map Set

Not using pilot, small sample, and high risk of bias studies in analysis allowed for a high-level assessment of the state of the science.

# Results

Despite a lot of work and often compelling rationales, the available evidence could not yet provide clear answers about which interventions (or interventions components) offer consistent benefits.

- Low-strength evidence for collaborative care models for select outcomes
- Low-strength evidence for REACH II for select outcomes
- Insufficient evidence for 191 comparisons for 36 other interventions

# Clarification

An assessment of insufficient evidence does not mean that the intervention is determined to be of no value. Rather, it means that due to the uncertainty of the evidence we could not draw meaningful conclusions at this time.

# Lessons Learned For Research

- Weaknesses of the evidence base can be addressed by attending to study design and conduct
  - Risk of inflated effect sizes
    - Small study bias is reduced or eliminated with larger studies (but opens door to finding significant differences that are not minimally important)
  - Risk of study bias largely due to problems with
    - Selection
    - Attrition
    - Fidelity

# Lessons Learned for Research

- Lack of consensus on intervention taxonomies and terms hampers aggregation – the basis of evidence-based research
- Fidelity to interventions is not commonly addressed adequately

How do we  
classify a  
spork?



# Lessons Learned for Research

- Quality of life still often lacking as outcome, as were harms (especially including unintended consequences of complex interventions)
- Many populations of interest, especially as related to health equity, were not represented in the literature

# Bigger Thoughts for Future Research

- Research questions related to dissemination and implementation at the outset of intervention design may help prepare dementia care and caregiver interventions for rapid implementation in real-world settings.
- Complex interventions for complex systems are hard to do. Initiatives to creatively redesign research processes in other fields may provide opportunities to learn from and experiment with other ways of doing this science.



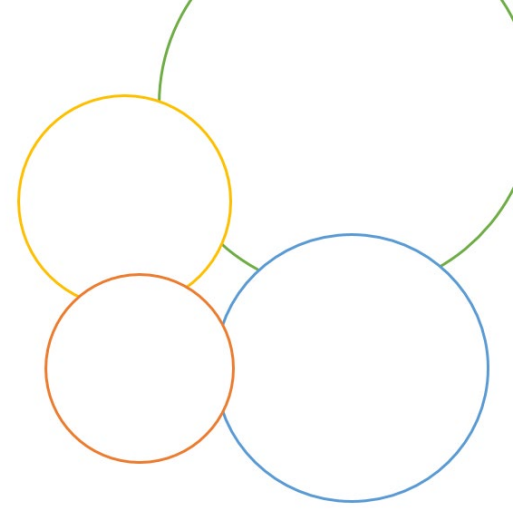
# Additions From Public Comments

“Many aspects of care interventions for PLWD and their caregivers need more thorough exploration. We hesitated to give an exhaustive list for fear of overwhelming the readers. **We are instead guided by peer and public comments on the draft version of this report to mention the following areas:** functional and health status limitations, access to care and intervention services and supports as well as accessibility, transportation, culture, racial/ethnic, and related factors.

Discussion, page 114

# Additions From Public Comment (cont.)

**People living with dementia urgently requested more research** on interventions that support personhood, purpose and meaning, social and peer supports, proactive approaches to living with a chronic, progressive illness, and lifestyle and spirituality interventions.”



## Panel Discussion:

# Best Practices for Mentoring Investigators Conducting Clinical Trials and Behavioral Interventions

## MODERATOR



### **KENNETH HEPBURN, PHD**

Professor, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing  
Emory University  
Co-Director, Emory Roybal Center

## PANELISTS



### **BONNIE SPRING, PHD**

Professor of Preventive Medicine, Psychology &  
Psychiatry, Director, Institute for Public Health and  
Medicine's Center for Behavior and Health  
Northwestern University



### **WENDY DEMARK- WAHNEFRIED, PHD, RD**

Professor & Webb Endowed Chair of Nutrition Sciences  
Associate Director, Cancer Prevention & Control  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

# Objective

Engage in a Conversation about Best Practices and Challenges in Mentoring Investigators

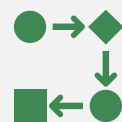
*(Roybal Pilot Investigators and Others)*



In the “idea stage” (pre-application)



*In Medias Res* – conducting the work



In taking the “next step:”

Moving along the Stage Model

Disseminating Findings





The Mentorship Education of Bonnie Spring, PhD  
Professor of Preventive Medicine  
Director, Institute for Public Health and Medicine – Center for Behavior and Health,  
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine







# 3 Lessons Learned



Defining **THE** scientific problem/question  
is a developmental process



“

You cannot transmit wisdom  
and insight to another  
person. The seed is already  
there. A good teacher  
touches the seed, allowing it  
to wake up, to sprout, and to  
grow.

THICH NHAT HANH

[www.dharmaquest.com](http://www.dharmaquest.com)



# Failure is Part of the Process of Getting to Success



Sea of white umbrellas with one blue one in the crowd

“I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.”

Thomas A. Edison

Mentoring


Up

Down

and Sideways





Thank you. 

[bspring@northwestern.edu](mailto:bspring@northwestern.edu)





## Some Tips for Mentoring Investigators Conducting Clinical Trials and Behavioral Interventions

Wendy Demark-Wahnefried, PhD, RD  
Professor and Webb Endowed Chair of Nutrition Sciences  
University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)  
Associate Director of Cancer Prevention and Control  
O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB





"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

*Winston Churchill*

Being a mentor is fiercely rewarding and  
when it goes right...it's great!

...but, when it goes wrong...it stinks!

## Simple Formulaic Advice: 3 A's of Mentoring

- **Availability**
- **Active listening, and**
- **Analysis** (encouragement, feedback, and advice)

...but, it's a heck of a more complicated than that.

- One part matchmaking
- One part behavioral theory (Expectation Management)
- Iterative use of proven tools (IDPs)
- Patience and forgiveness

# Honest Appraisals are Critical

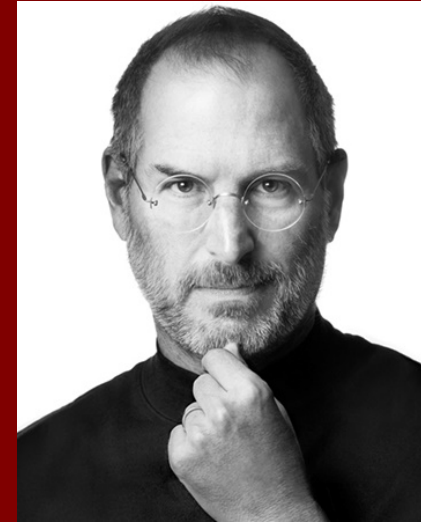
## Mentor(s)



"Advice is like snow; the softer it falls, the longer it dwells, and the deeper it sinks "  
Samuel Taylor



## Mentee



*"My job is not to be easy on people. My job is to take the great people we have and push them to make them even better."*

# Individual Development Plan (IDP)

Adapt it and Use it As a Working Document



## Mentor Role

Is relationship working?  
Replace - Add

Point-out/Provide Opportunities

- Set Incremental Goals
- Regulatory Approvals/Protocols
  - Recruitment
- Sample/Data Processing
  - Data Analysis
- Abstracts, Manuscripts, New Grants

Set Project Timeline and Meeting Schedule

Review Progress (What's working - what's not)  
Revise strategies to overcome obstacles

## Mentee Role

Is relationship working?  
Unmet Needs?

Seek-out Opportunities  
Obtain Mentor Input



*"My mistakes have been my greatest mentors"* - Steve Maraboli

## Case Study:

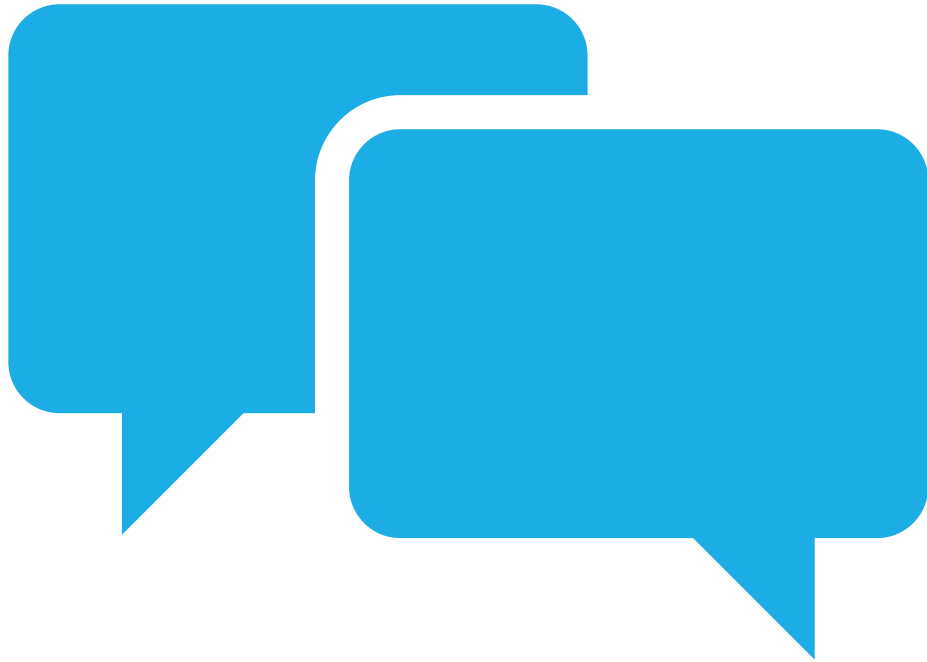
- Dr. X interviews for an entry level faculty position (great cv, bad interview)
- Department willing to offer post-doc appt

- Professor W just awarded a pilot project
- Resonates with background of candidate
- Sees opportunity to help – potential benefit

- Dr. X comes on as a post-doc
- Weekly meetings transpire
- Professor W shares survey study – attempts to offer guidance
- Dr X unreceptive to guidance
- Survey study fails – requires rescue
- Heated exchange occurs

- Dr. X files grievance
- Is paired with another mentor

- Professor W feels unjustly accused, embarrassed and generally awful
- Professor W makes sure that outcome expectations are managed from the start



# Open Discussion

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**KENNETH HEPBURN, PHD**

**BONNIE SPRING, PHD**

**WENDY DEMARK-WAHNEFRIED, PHD, RD**



# Break

REFRESHMENTS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF MEETING ROOM

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PLEASE RETURN BY 12:05PM

**ROYBAL**

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# Increasing representation in clinical trials: Findings and Recommendations from the 2022 NASEM Report

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CARLOS DEL RIO, MD

**ROYBAL**  
Center For  
Translational  
Research



# Closing Remarks

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KARINA DAVIDSON, PHD, MASC

ROYBAL COORDINATING CENTER PI

NORTHWELL HEALTH

# Acknowledgments

---

## PRESENTERS

Kenneth Freedland

Linda Collins

Billie Nahum-Shani

Daniel Almirall

Michaela Kiernan

Niteesh Choudhry

Mary Butler

Jasmin Tiro

Mina Sedrak

Kenneth Hepburn

Bonnie Spring

Wendy Demark-  
Wahnefried

Carlos del Rio

## NIA PERSONNEL

Lis Nielsen

Lisa Onken

Partha Bhattacharyya

Ama Donkor

# Acknowledgments

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## **ROSE LI AND ASSOCIATES**

Stephanie Tiller

Sabira Mohamed

John Sarmiento

Damon Kane

Rebecca Lazeration

## **ROYBAL COORDINATING CENTER**

Nicole Donoghue

June Marro



# Day 2 Adjourn

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SAFE TRAVELS!

*Boxed lunch available in the Wisconsin room*