

Epidemiology of Drug Abuse

Yonette F. Thomas, Ph.D.
Chief, Epidemiology Research Branch
Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research
National Institute on Drug Abuse

Association of American Geographers
Boston

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Biology/Genes

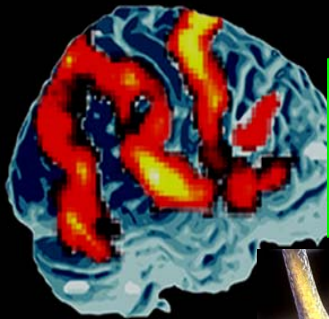
Environment

DRUG

Neurobiology

Behavior

Addiction



NIDA's Role In Assessing Drug Abuse In Populations

1. Support Surveys and Studies
2. Support Individual Investigators –
emerging; established
3. Focus on specific populations

Priority Areas for NIDA

- Prevention Research
 - Children and Adolescents
 - Genetics
 - Comorbidity
 - Development

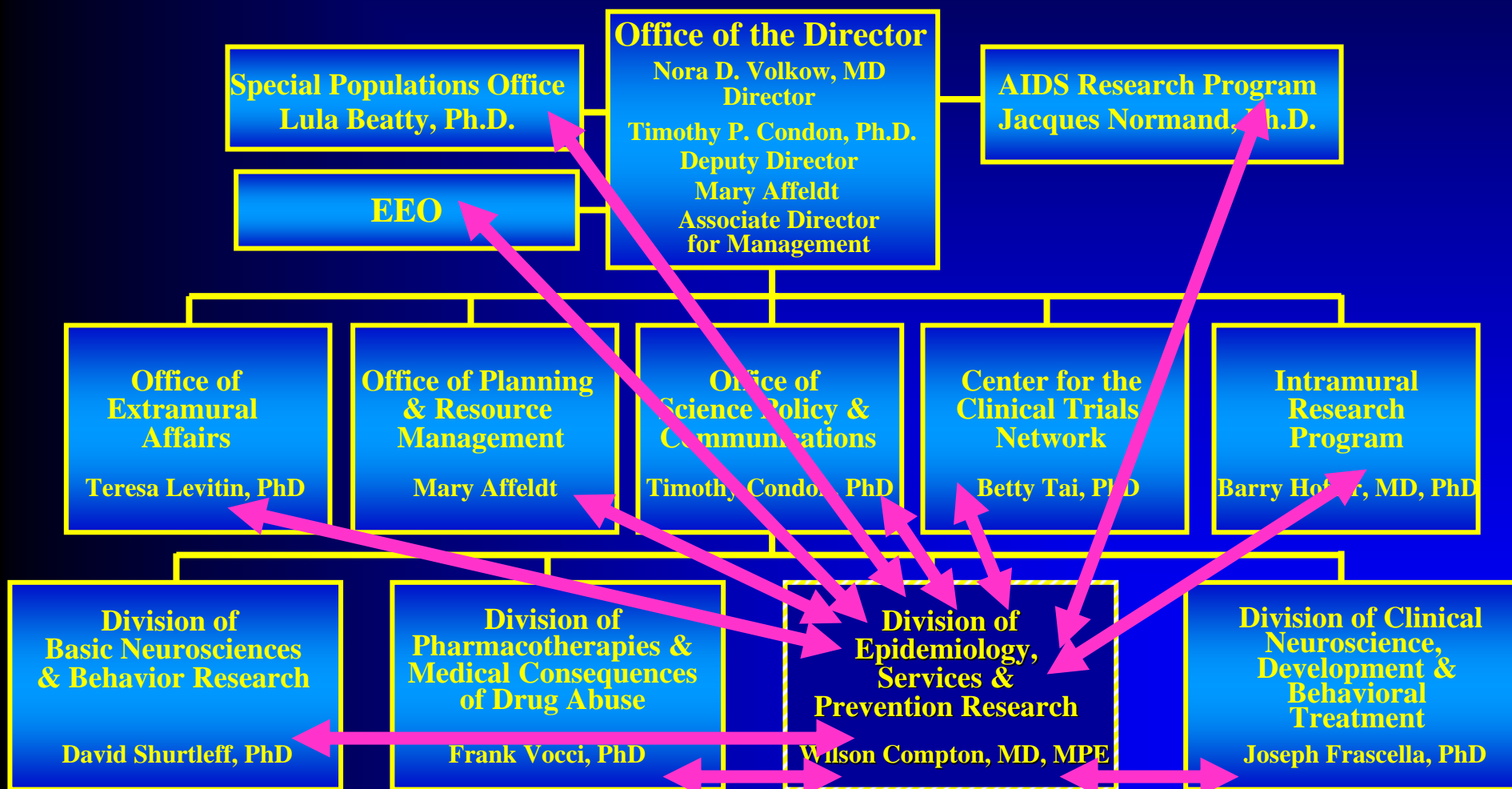
- Treatment Interventions
(New Targets & New Strategies)

- HIV/AIDS Research





National Institute on Drug Abuse



DESPR's Organization and Mission

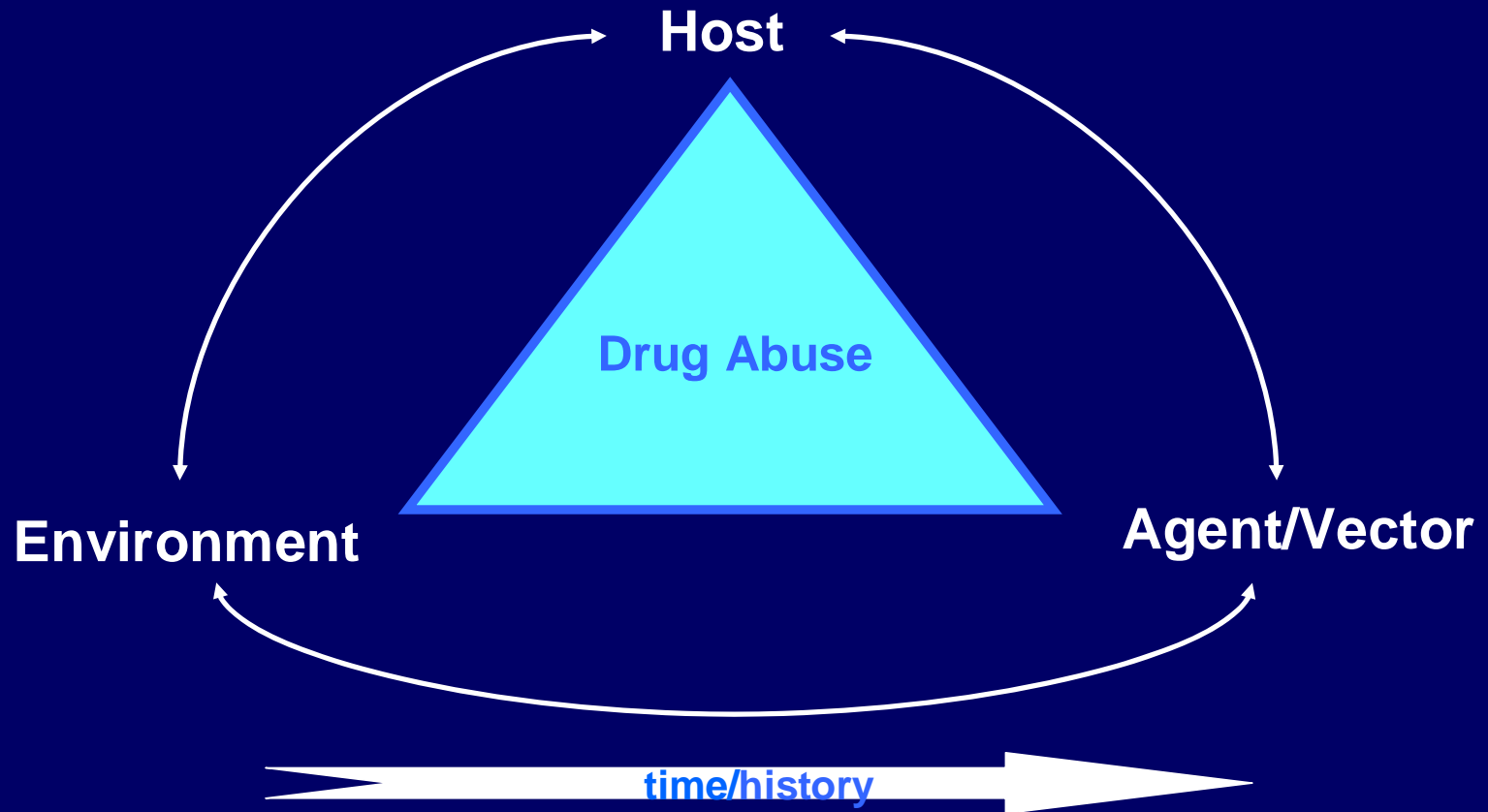


DESPR's Major Research Themes

- 1. THEORIES.** What new theoretical approaches can inform our research?
- 2. INTERACTIONS.** What intrapersonal and environmental factors interact with each other and with genetic factors across development?
- 3. BLENDING.** How can we blend science and services to measurably impact public health outcomes?



Epidemiologic Triangle



Broader Conceptualizations of Differences Across Groups...

- A multivariate causal framework is essential to understand disparities, considering differences between groups, different drugs, and differential potential for drug-related harm
- More explicit explanatory models that explain differential prevalence of drug use and its consequences, focusing on underlying social and economic circumstances
- Interventions that target population specific issues

Epidemiology Research Program Areas

Emergent & Current Drug Abuse Trends

Genetic Liability & Phenotypic Heterogeneity

Psychopathology: Vulnerability & Co-morbidity

Adolescence & Transition to Adulthood

Family Process & Early Risk

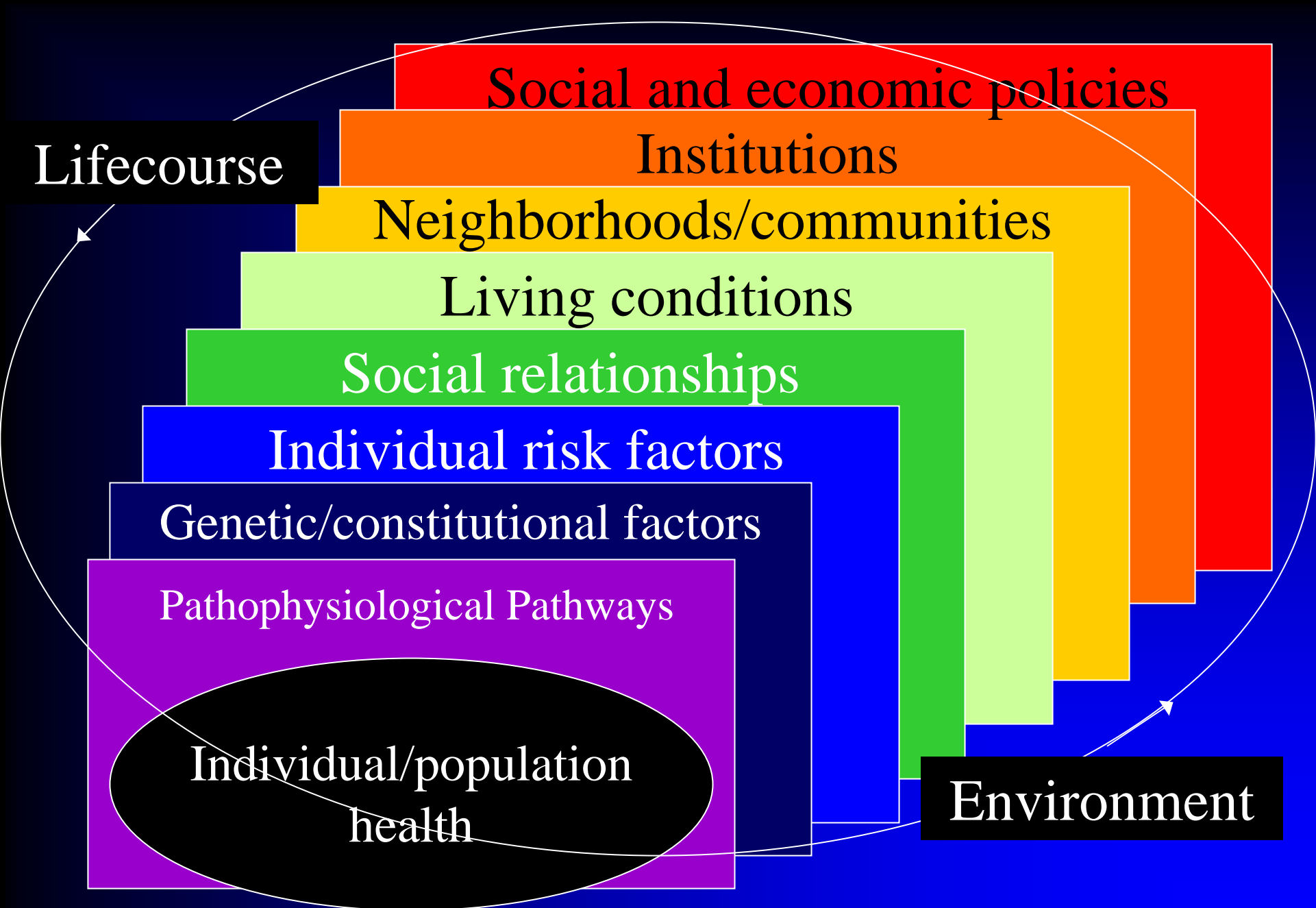
Health & Medical Consequences

Drug Markets and Behavior Economics

Social & Behavioral Consequences of Street Drugs

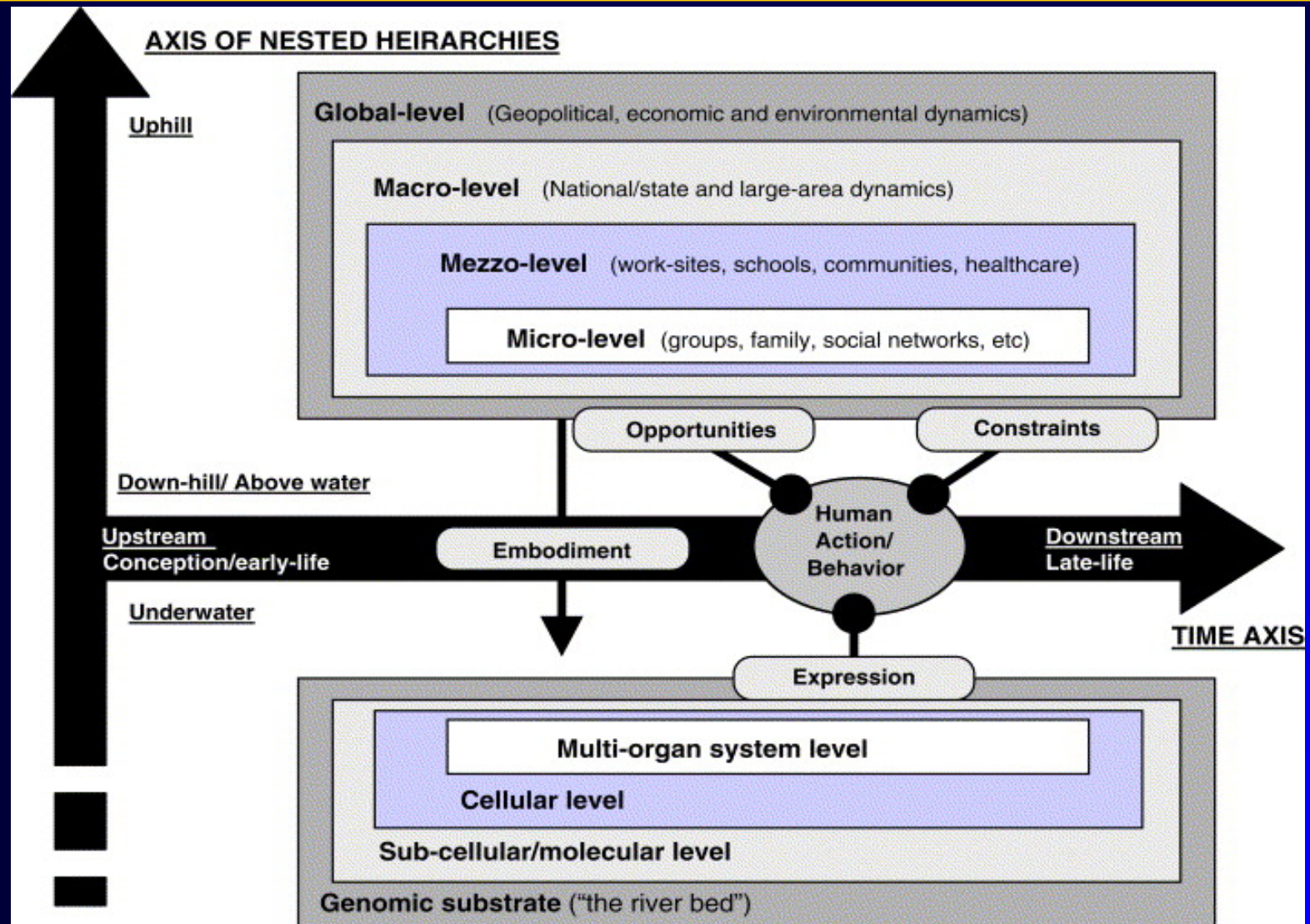
Social Epidemiology





Adapted from Kaplan et al., 2000

Theory: Society-Behavior-Biology Nexus



There is ample motivation for studying the role of the social environment

- Evidence
 - Range of exposures at the community level may be important
- Theory
 - Understanding community level exposures may suggest different approaches to intervention

Epidemiology Research Branch Presents

Mapping the Social Environment



November 1-2, 2006

Bethesda Marriott
5151 Pooks Hill Road • Bethesda, MD

Program Book

Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research



November 2006 Meeting Objectives

1. Definition of the social environment;
2. Best measures or different elements of the social environment;
3. Methodological challenges, and
4. Leading constructs for drug abuse research.

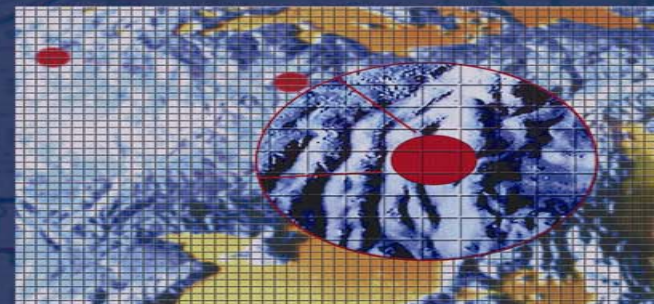
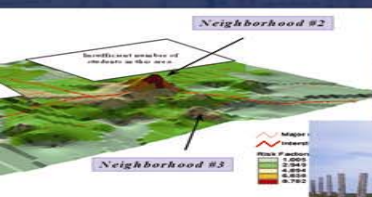
Exciting New Methodologies

- Spatial Epidemiology
- GIS
- Geomapping
- GIS
- Linking Geography and Epidemiology in DA Research: Geography and Drug Addiction



Symposium on Geography and Drug Addiction

March 8, 2006
Palmer House Hotel
Chicago, IL



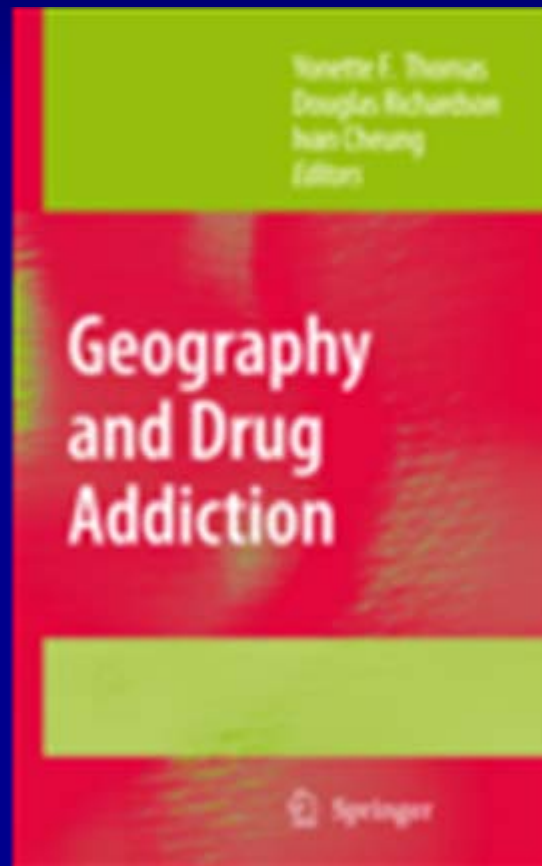
Geography and Drug Addiction

- Spatial patterns of drug use and addiction
- Locational analyses of drug addiction treatment and service delivery facilities
- Neighborhood studies of geographic factors (including the built environment) and their interaction with drug addiction treatment or prevention

Geography and Drug Addiction

- Use of GIS in better understanding and responding to drug addiction
- Interaction of other spatially dependent variables with drug addiction, prevention and treatment strategies

Geography and Drug Addiction



THANK YOU!

yt38e@nih.gov

yfthomas@verizon.net

Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research



*Promoting Extraordinary Public Health
Research to Eradicate Drug Abuse*