

Looking Over the Wall—The Professionalization of the Field of Prevention

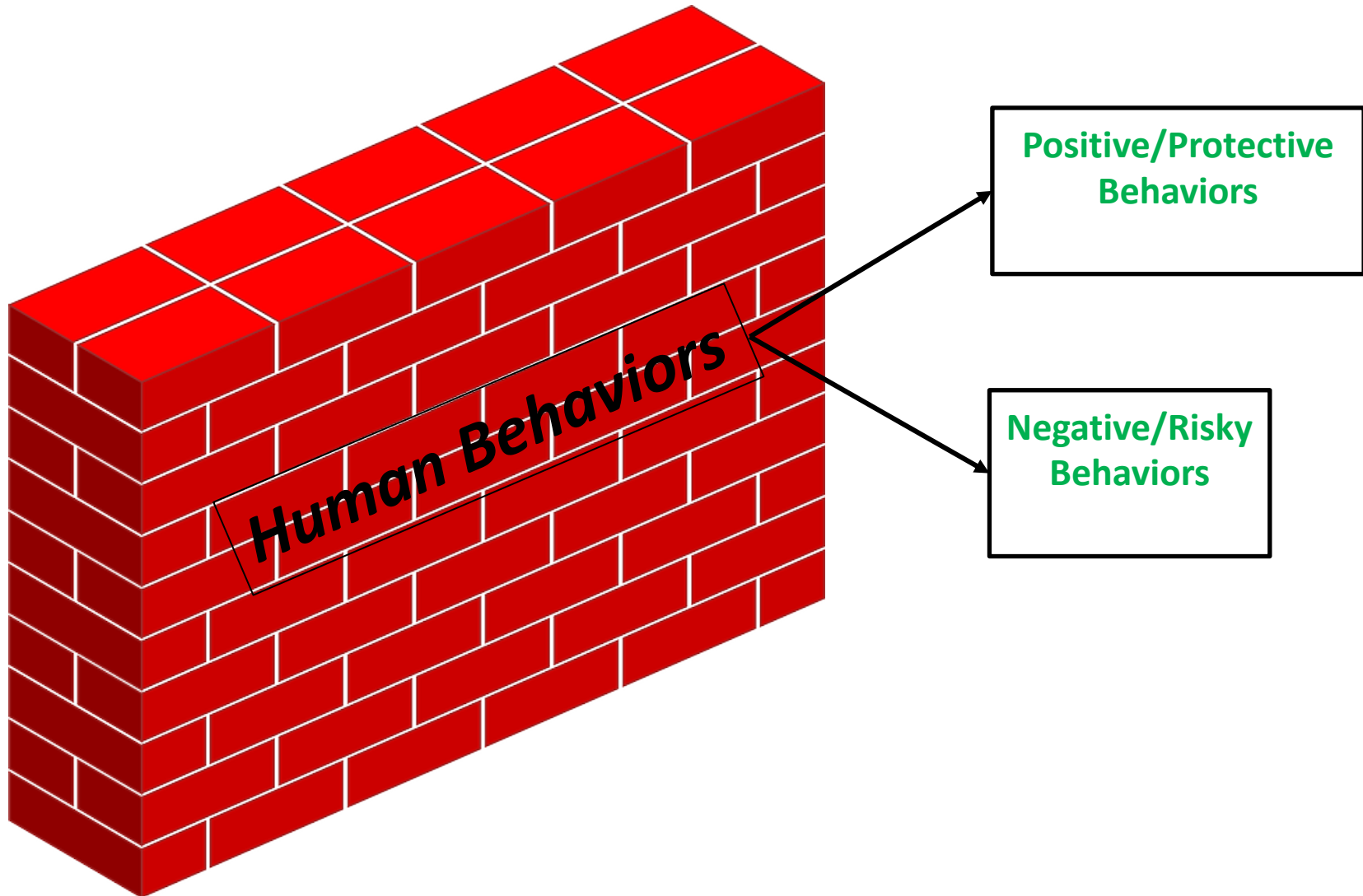
Zili Sloboda, Sc.D., President
Applied Prevention Science International
Prevention Science and Methodology Group
January 19, 2021

Defining Prevention Science

- Prevention science identifies:
 - the determinants of behaviors that protect or put at risk the social, emotional, and physical health of individuals, families, communities;
 - the processes as to how these determinants operate; and,
 - the strategies that effectively intervene when trajectories are negative and reinforce those trajectories that are positive.

Sources: Standards of Knowledge for the Science of Prevention, Society for Prevention Research, 2011; APSI, 2019; National Prevention Science Coalition, 2019.

The Wall-The Target



Looking Over the Wall



- Basic Sciences
- Epidemiology
 - Psychology
 - Sociology
 - Neuroscience
 - Mathematics
 - Genetics
 - Economics
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - ETC.

- Applied Sciences
- Social Work
 - Clinical Psychology
 - Biostatistics
 - Public Health
 - Medicine
 - Health Education
 - ETC.

Research

Practice





Research

Practice

Is multi-disciplinary including the epidemiological, social, psychological, behavioral, medical, statistical, and neurobiological sciences

Requires a **TRANSDISCIPLINARY TEAM**

Prevention Science in Infancy



- U.S. Society for Prevention Research--1991
- Science of Prevention first noted in a journal article—Coie et al., American Psychologist, 1993 but not defined until 2019
- Standards of Knowledge for the Science of Prevention-U.S. Society for Prevention Research—2011
- EU Society for Prevention Research—2010
- New Groups in Australia, Brazil, Others?--2000→

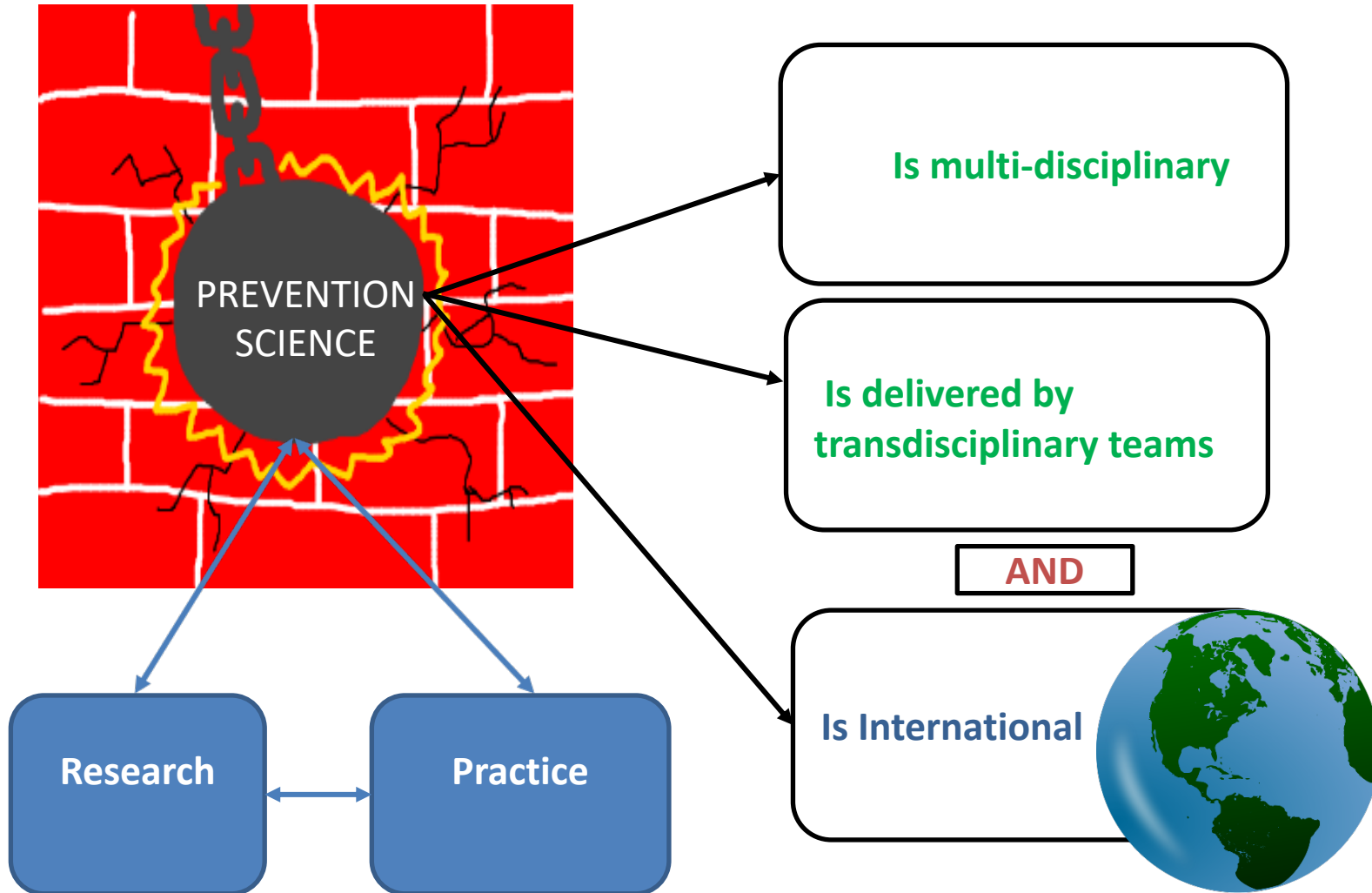
Prevention Science Growing Up





Applied Prevention Science International

To Achieve “Adulthood” as a Field Prevention Science Must Be Accepted Internationally



Next Steps



The Establishment of a Profession

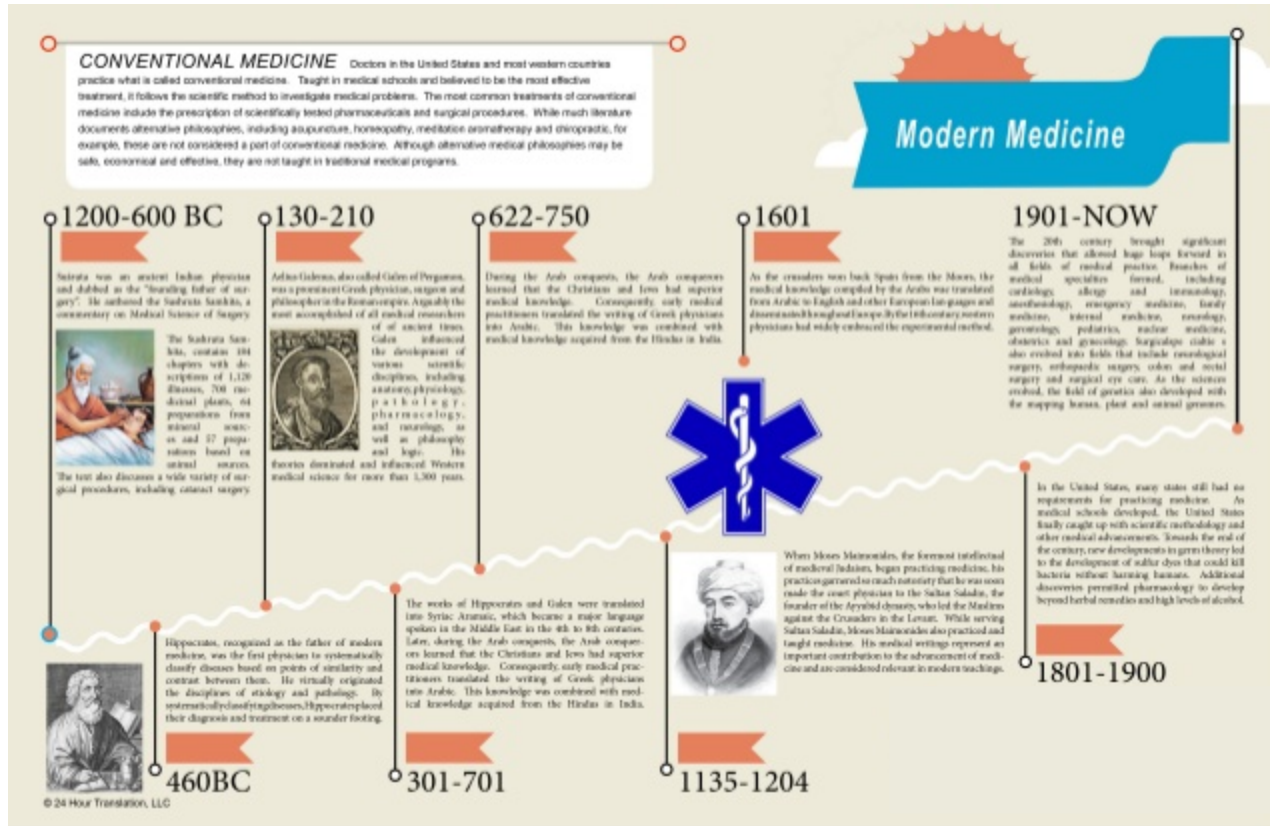
- Systematic body of theory, knowledge, skills, and competencies
- Authority to define problems and their treatment;
- Community sanctions to admit and train its members;
- Ethical codes that stress an ideal of service to others;
- A culture that includes the institutions necessary to carry out its functions.

History of Medicine as a Framework

- Anatomy
- Biochemistry
- Biomechanics
- Biophysics
- Biostatistics
- Cytology
- Endocrinology
- Epidemiology
- ETC....



**Modern
Medicine**



From 460 BC till the 19th and 20th Centuries (over 2000 years)

Modern Medicine

- 19th century and explosion of science
- 20th century reliable prescription drugs
 - separation from church and the medical field
 - penicillin used to curb sickness
 - modern surgery was coming of age
 - medical curricula and medical schools established
 - modern medicine became an international profession

CAN WE SPEED UP THE PROCESS FOR PREVENTION?

Prevention Profession—A Start

✓ **Systematic Body of Theory, Knowledge, Skills, and Competencies**

- U.S. and E.U. Societies for Prevention Research
- European Drug Prevention Quality Standards
- International Standards on Drug Use Prevention-United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime-World Health Organization
- International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
- APSI-Universal Prevention Curriculum

✓ Ethical Codes That Stress An Ideal of Service To Others

- Prevention Think Tank (IC&RC)
- European Drug Prevention Quality Standards

? Authority To Define Problems And Their Treatment (1/2)

- Definition of prevention-no universally accepted definition
 - SAMHSA-Strategic Planning
 - European Drug Prevention Quality Standards
 - Most embraced is from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

“Prevention is the application of prevention science to address the health and **safety of individuals** through improving socialization processes to **enhance** self-realization and **participation in society.**”

? Authority To Define Problems And Their Treatment (2/2)

- Evidence-based Prevention Interventions and Policies-no universally accepted guidance
 - Registries (BluePrints, EMCDDA Portal)
 - UNODC International Standards for Drug Prevention

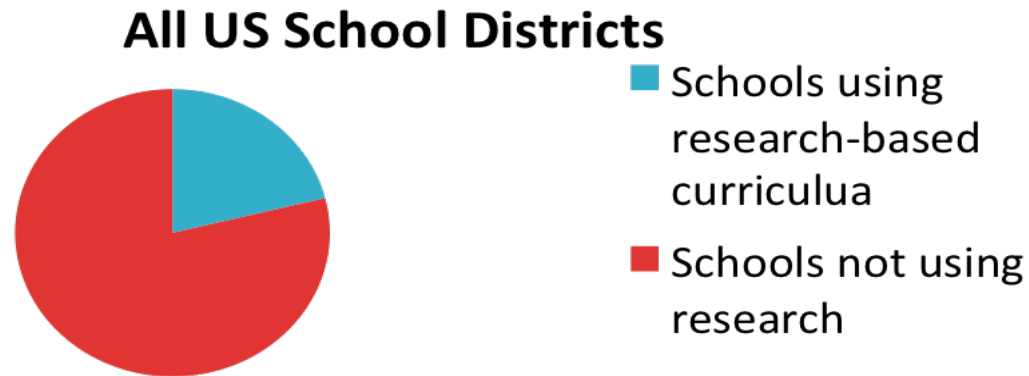
Evidence of Limited EBI Implementation



What Do We Know About The Delivery of Evidence-Based Prevention?

Limited Implementation of EBIs — US Surveys (1/3)

- In 2002, **only 19% of school districts** were implementing a “research-based” curriculum with fidelity



Limited Implementation of EBIs — US Surveys (2/3)

- In 2005, 42.6% of middle schools (grades 5-8; ages 11-14) used an evidence-based program; up 8% from 34.4% in 1999
- From 2001 through 2006, 36.5% of schools offered a “named” EBI in the 7th grade

Limited Implementation of EBIs — US Surveys (3/3)

- In 2005, 10.3% of high schools (grades 9-12; ages 15-18) used evidence-based programs
- Many non-EBI activities were made available to students in class lessons, assemblies, and group activities
 - 49.2% of schools offered these activities in 7th grade
 - Increases to 80% with 11th grade students

Challenges to Getting Evidence-Based Prevention to Those Who Need Them

- Knowledge gaps
- Stigma
- Access to care
- Workforce shortages

- Quality of care and variation in practice
- Fiscal performance
- Payment landscape
- Cultural competency, language, social competency, and related issues

Community Sanctions To Admit And Train Its Members-not Systematic

- No standardized training
- No central credentialing and licensing organization
 - IC&RC
 - U.S. States
 - Other Countries-varies

Challenges-Who are the Workers on the Ground?

- Those who self-identify as prevention professionals
 - Diverse educational levels and focus
 - Diverse prevention experiences
- Those who do not self-identify as prevention professionals but are doing prevention-related work
 - Direct service professionals-social workers, psychologists, teachers, family workers, health workers, law enforcement officers, etc.

Substance Use Prevention—A Start

- ✓ Systematic body of theory
 - AND with the knowledge, skills, and competencies
 - European Drug Prevention Quality Standards
 - APSI-Universal Prevention Curriculum
 - Authority to define problems and their treatment
 - Community sanctions to admit and train its members-not systematic
- ✓ Ethical codes that stress an ideal of service to others
 - Prevention Think Tank (IC&RC)
 - European Drug Prevention Quality Standards
- ! A culture that includes the institutions necessary to carry out all of its functions
 - International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction

Reaching Out and Being Inclusive--Formation of an International Workgroup

- The Societies for Prevention Research-U.S. and EU and Others
- The International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction
- Other related organizations-Public Health Associations, societies on related fields such as sociology, social work, psychology, criminology, violence, sexually transmitted diseases, suicide,

**International Consortium of Universities
for Drug Demand Reduction
Kimberly Johnson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
ICUDDR**

ICUDDR Goals and Purpose

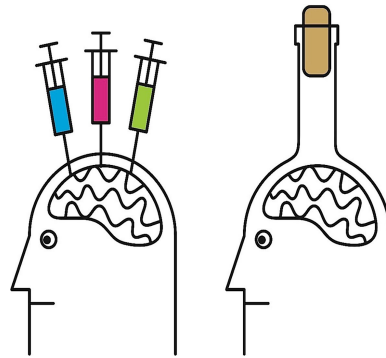
1. Network Development: Develop a network of universities that are engaged in the design and implementation of academic curricula and programs in addiction prevention and treatment studies.
2. Education: Engage students and addiction professionals in academic programs of addiction studies and continuing education, promoting opportunities in prevention and treatment.



ICUDDR Goals and Purpose

3. Research: Advance applied research in addiction prevention and treatment.

4. University-Community Outreach: Enhance partnerships among university programs in addiction studies, addiction professionals, and the addiction science research and practice communities.



ICUDDR Goals and Purpose

5. Advocacy:

- Provide advocacy within universities for the development of academic programs in addiction studies.
- Advocate for policy change to support the development of academic programs in addiction studies, and to enhance addiction prevention and treatment services.
- Develop and advocate for guidelines and standards for academic programs in addiction studies.



Thank you!!

zili.sloboda@apsintl.com

johnsonk@icuddr.org

Next Steps-Discussion

