Supporting sustainable implementation of research evidence in child welfare

Allison Metz, Ph.D.
Director and Senior Scientist

Tate Talk

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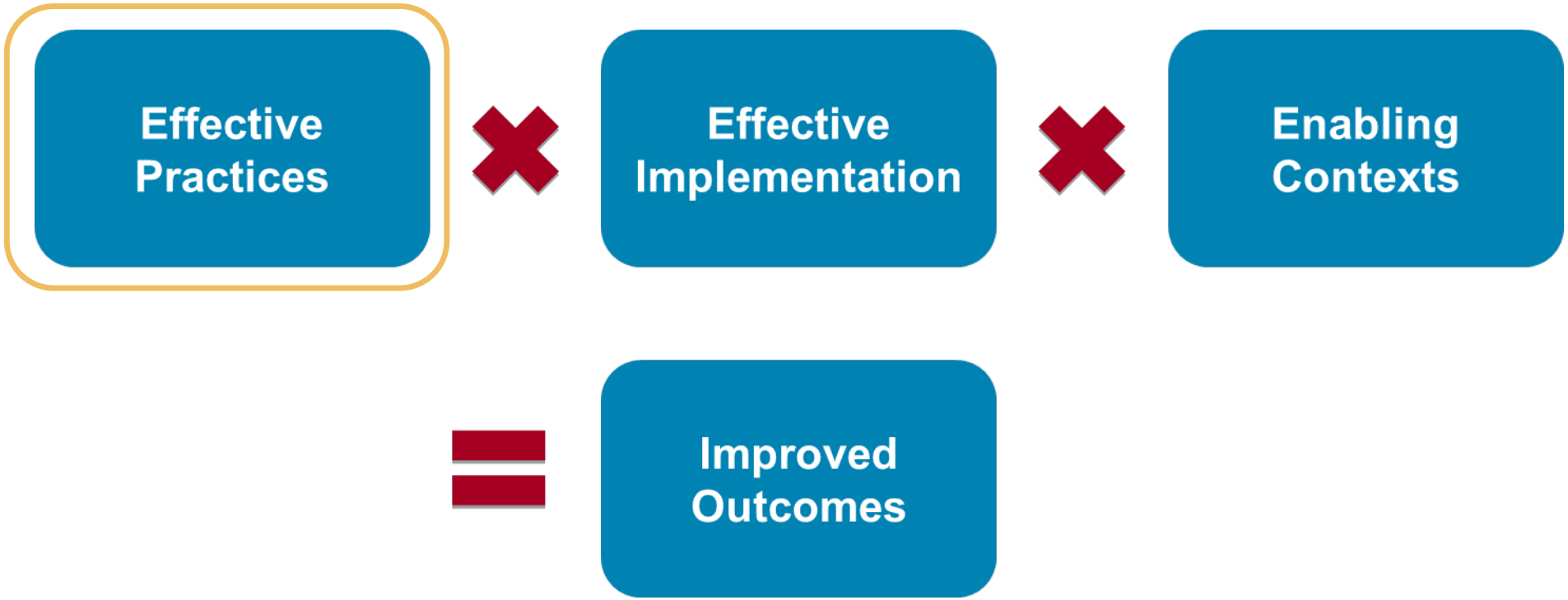
nirn National Implementation Research Network

Objectives

- Active Implementation Constructs
- Co-creation Strategy
- Application in Child Welfare

Active Implementation Formula



- What works, for whom, why, and in what circumstances?

- Whose practice are we supporting?

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Contextual fit is the match between the strategies, procedures, or elements of an intervention and the values, needs, skills and resources of those who implement and experience the intervention.

(Horner, Blitz & Ross, 2014)

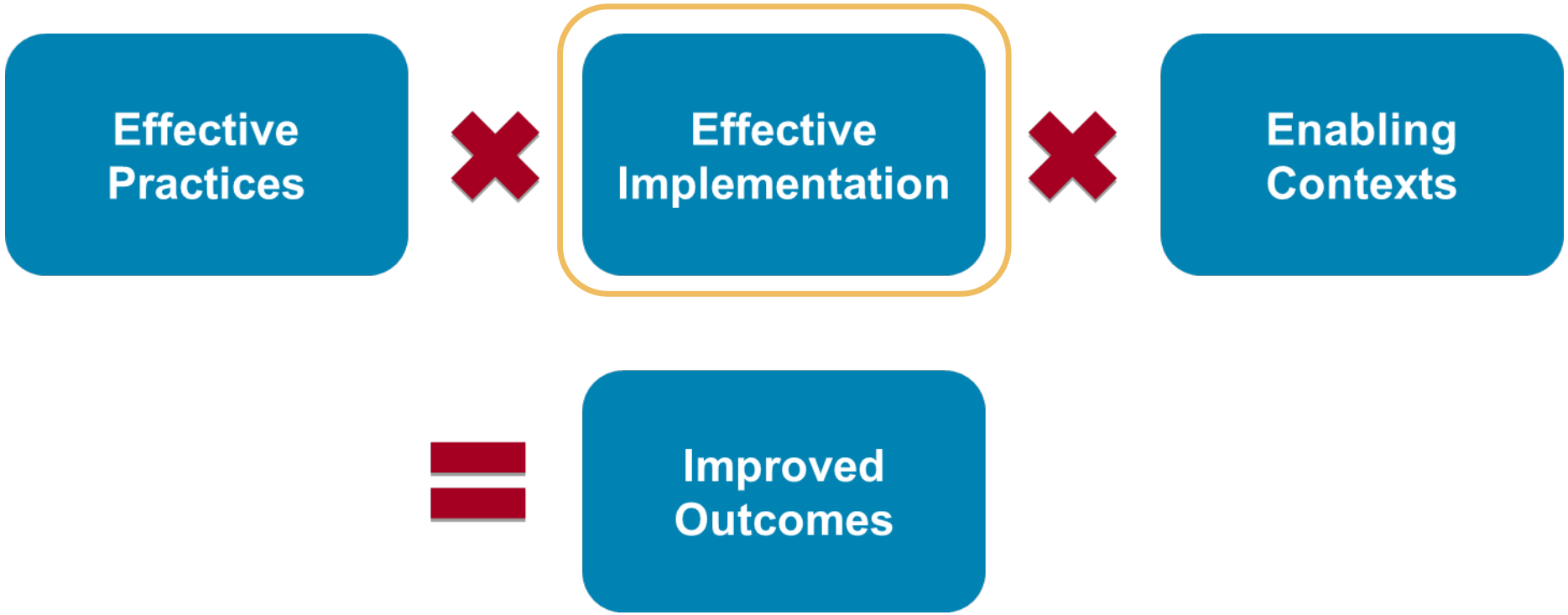
Effective Practices

- What works, for whom, why, and in what circumstances?

- Whose practice are we supporting?

- Aligning child welfare practices with implementation of evidence-based practices
- Developing understanding of the theoretical underpinnings for change
- Training and coaching within and across systems

Active Implementation



Strategies and Supports

Effective Implementation

- Developing visible supports
- Transitioning supports

Effective Implementation

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Supports throughout the system and for multiple programs

- Competency Supports
- Organizational Supports
- Leadership Supports

- **Competency Supports**
- **Organizational Supports**
- **Leadership Supports**

Fidelity Assessment

Systems Intervention

Coaching Process

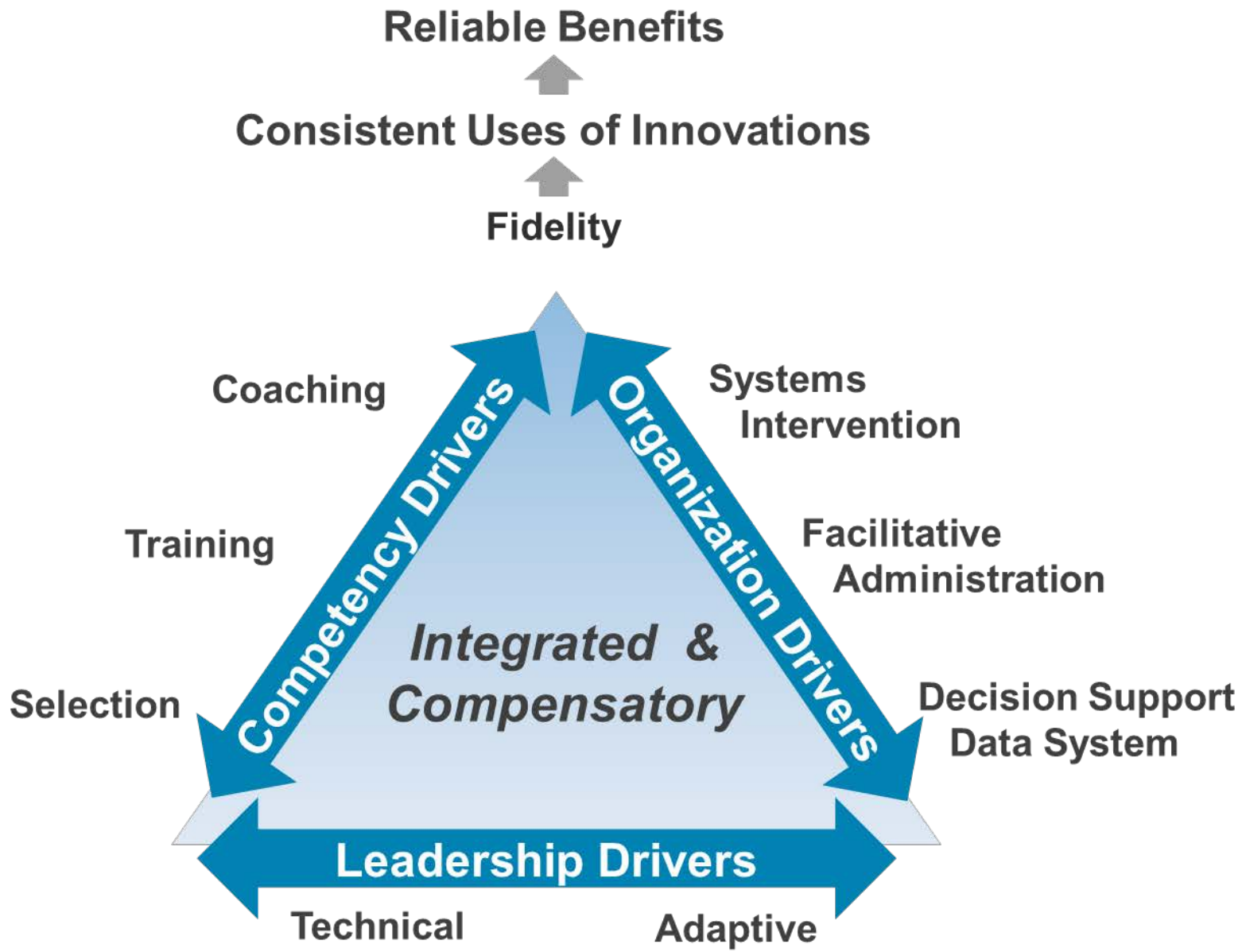
Facilitative Administration

Training Process

Decision Support Data Systems

Selection Process

Implementation Drivers



Effective Implementation

- Developing visible supports

- **Transitioning supports**

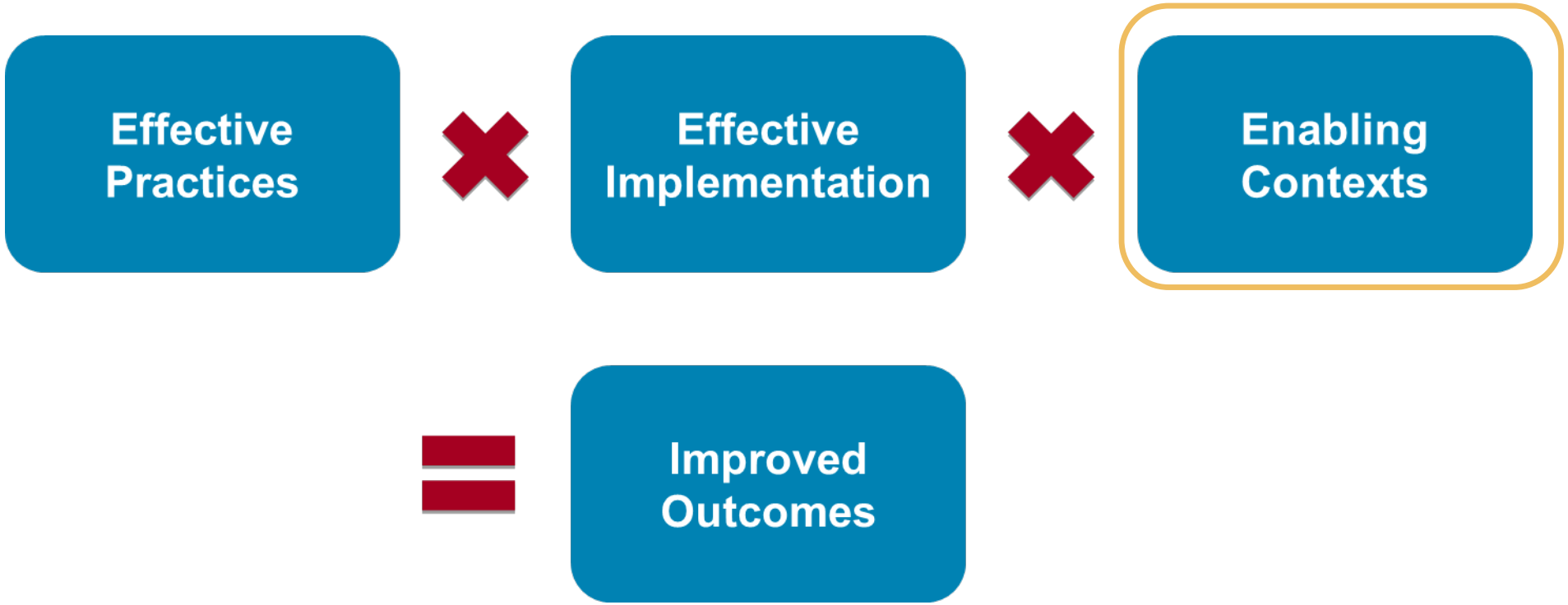
Transitioning Supports

Common Implementation Dilemmas

- Program developer or purveyor supports diminish
  (e.g., Coaching, fidelity assessments transition to local jurisdiction)
- Research and evaluation funding ends
  (e.g., Decision-support data systems are no longer funded)
- "Special" accommodations end
  (e.g., Planning periods end; integration of new services into overall service system takes place)

Active Implementation focuses on "Getting Started" and "Getting Better" -
Scaling Programs, Sustaining Programs, Improving Programs, Integrating Program Data
The goal is to actively develop more proximate implementation capacity (e.g., regional or local)
that is effective, efficient, integrated and sustained.

Active Implementation



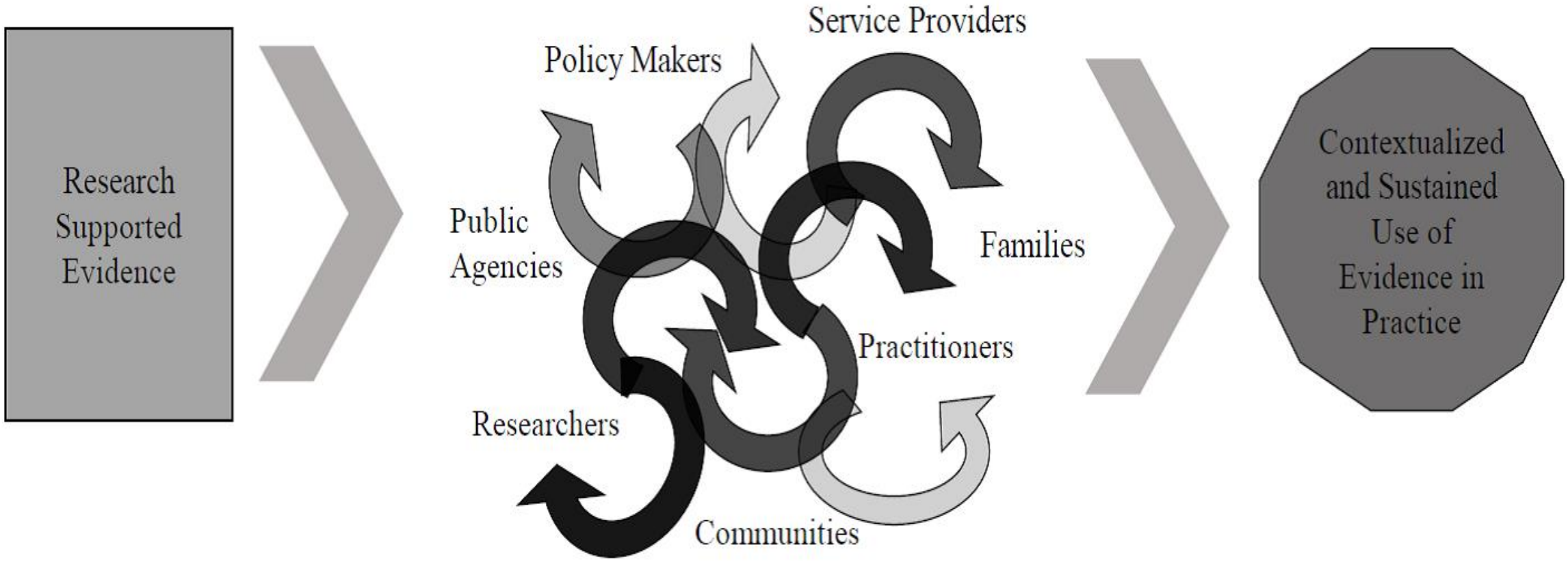
Enabling Contexts

VALUE: Implementation is a *collaborative* act

Collaboration leads to:

- Knowledge and evidence that is more implementable
- Infrastructure that brings research evidence and implementation closer together
- Attention to local needs and increased relevance and impact of implementation activity
- Enhance the capacity and capability of implementation

Co-Creation Strategy



Major, Minor and Absent Communication

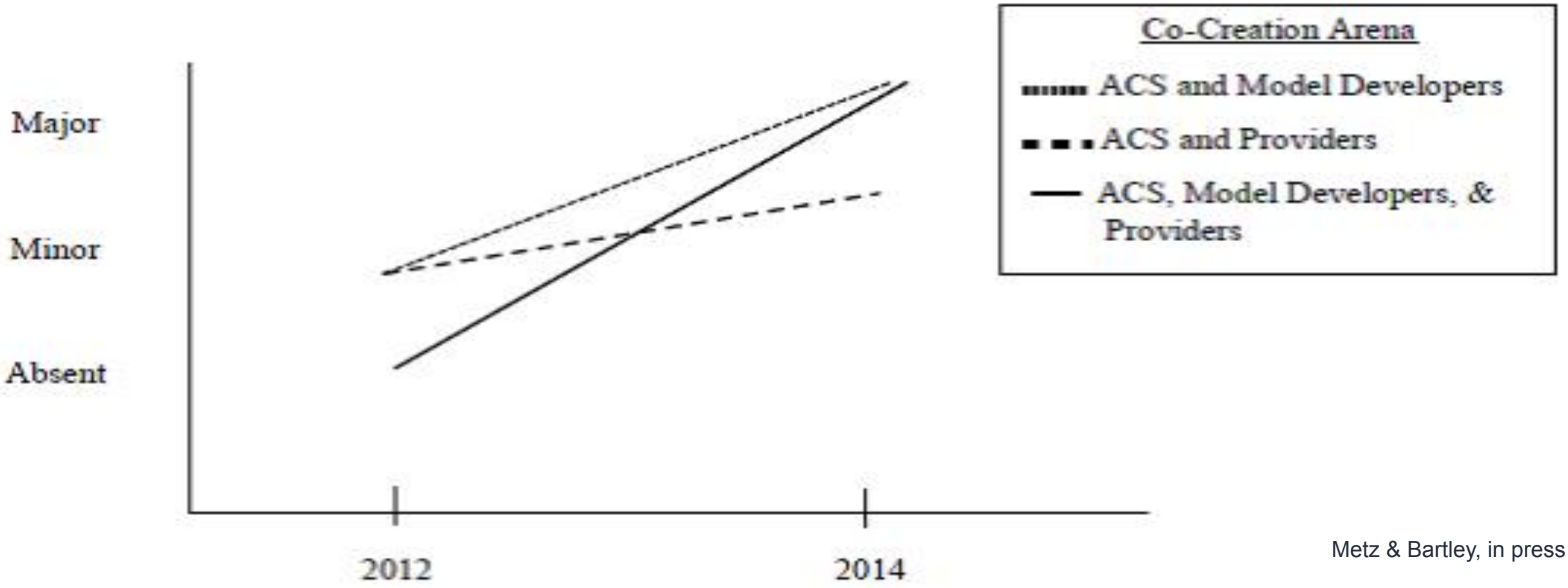
Metz & Bartley, in press

Mutual Consultation

Major **Two-way communication**	**Minor** **One-way communication**	**Absent** **Lack of communication**
• joint activities • common understanding • communication, negotiation and mutual understanding • Co-development and use of products and processes	• one-way communication • lack of common understanding • convincing one another of perspective	• disagreement • mutual misapprehension • interactions take the form a priori excluding certain values and perspectives • no formal products, processes or procedures

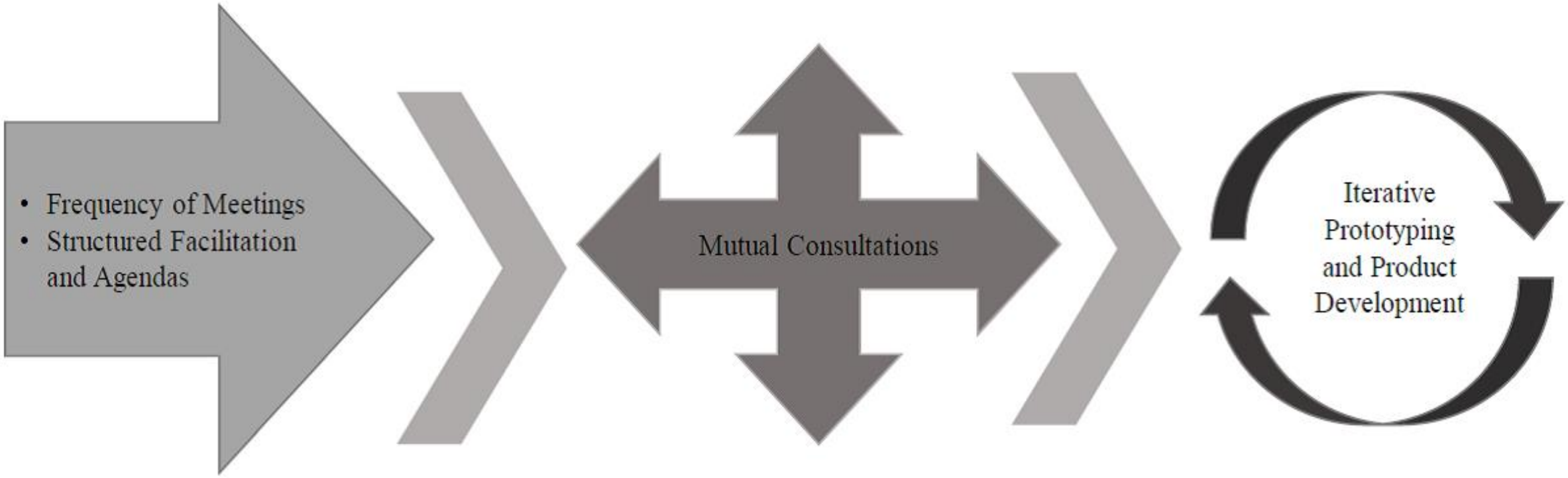
Metz & Bartley, in press

Mutual Consultation



Metz & Bartley, in press

Co-Creation Strategy



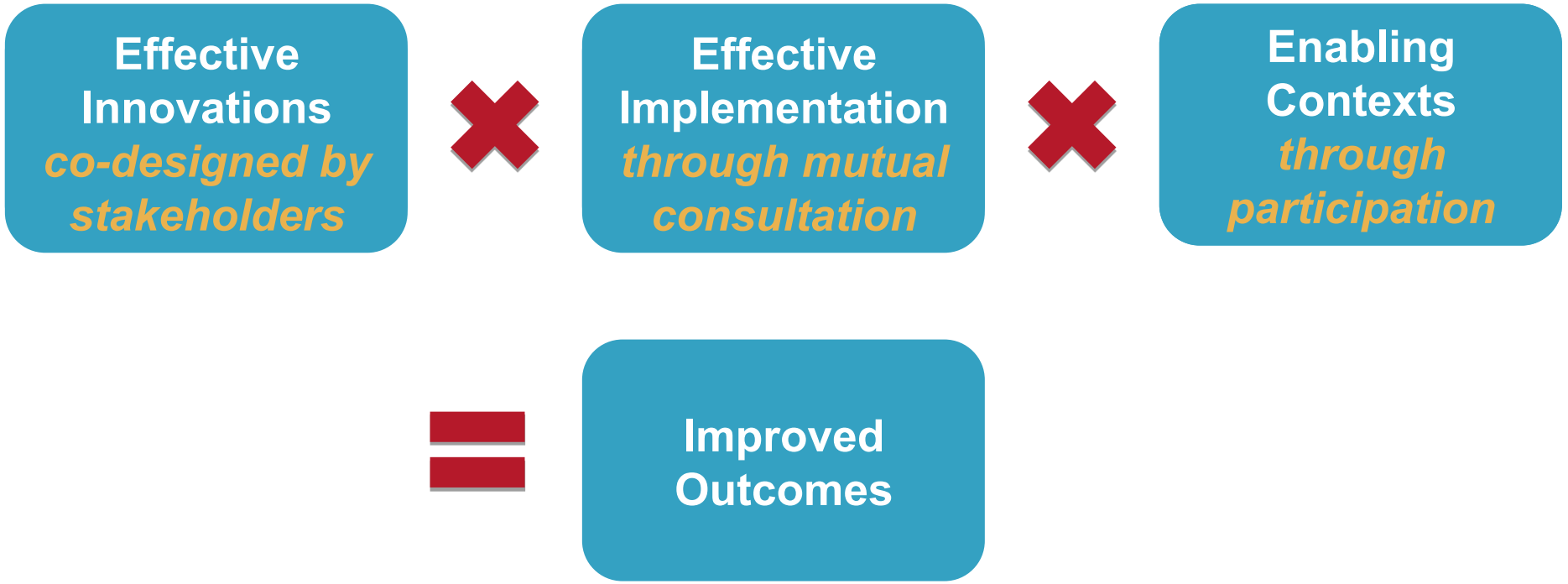
Metz & Bartley, in press

Enabling Contexts

Co-Creation and Implementation Science

- The problem with the “gap” theory – there is not an empty space; stakeholders’ knowledge populates the gap
- Co-creation for public services refers to the active involvement of stakeholders in all stages of the production process resulting in a shared body of usable knowledge across scientific, governance, and local practice boundaries

Implementation Science and Co-Creation



Valuing Co-Creation

Challenges to Top Down Approaches to Evidence Use:

- Urgent challenges contribute to leaders moving too quickly
- Evidence and data are used to inform, not empower
- Lack of community engagement, trust and relationship building leads to lack of sustainability
- Need to emphasize capacity building for evidence selection, use and improvement

As policymakers, elected officials, philanthropists, and nonprofit leaders shift resources to data-driven programs, they must ensure that community engagement becomes a critical element in that shift. Without such engagement, even the best programs – even programs backed by the most robust data – will not yield positive results, let alone lasting change.

(Barnes & Schmitz, 2016)

Summary

Improved outcomes requires focusing implementation effort on:

- Effective Practices
- and Effective Implementation
- and Enabling Contexts

This includes…

- Developing supports throughout the system, and for multiple programs
- Transitioning those supports from *innovation* to *new way of work*
  (keywords: scaling, sustaining, improving, integrating data)
- Valuing and actively facilitating and collaboration/co-creation

For More Information

Allison Metz

Allison.metz@unc.edu

202-714-4576

Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

University of North Carolina

Chapel Hill, NC

http://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/

www.scalingup.org

www.implementationconference.org

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email: nirn@unc.edu
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