

Selection & Implementation of Evidence Based Practices

Clinical Worldviews in the Care of Torture Survivors

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Old Stereotypes

Clinical reports often begin with this kind of statement:

“Mrs. T. is a 48 year old Cambodian widow who survived the Pol Pot genocide.

Her chief complaint is _____”

This passage quotes “a certain Chinese encyclopedia” in which it is written that “animals are divided into: (a) belonging to the Emperor, (b) embalmed, (c) tame, (d) suckling pigs, (e) sirens, (f) fabulous, (g) innumerable, (h) drawn with a very fine camelhair brush, (j) *et cetera* (k) that from a long way off look like flies.” In the wonderment of this taxonomy, the thing we apprehend in one great leap, the thing that, by means of the fable, is demonstrated as the exotic charm of another system of thought, is the limitation of our own, the stark impossibility of thinking *that*.

SOURCE: Foucault, M. *The Order of Things: an Archaeology of the Human Sciences*.

Basic Disease Concepts

- Essentialism [Paracelsus]
Diseases are entities usually due to invading agents which cause specific diseases.
- Nominalism [Hippocrates]
The sick person determines the nature and root causes of the disease
- Universalism [Modern view]
Diseases involve genetic, physiologic, psychological and social processes.

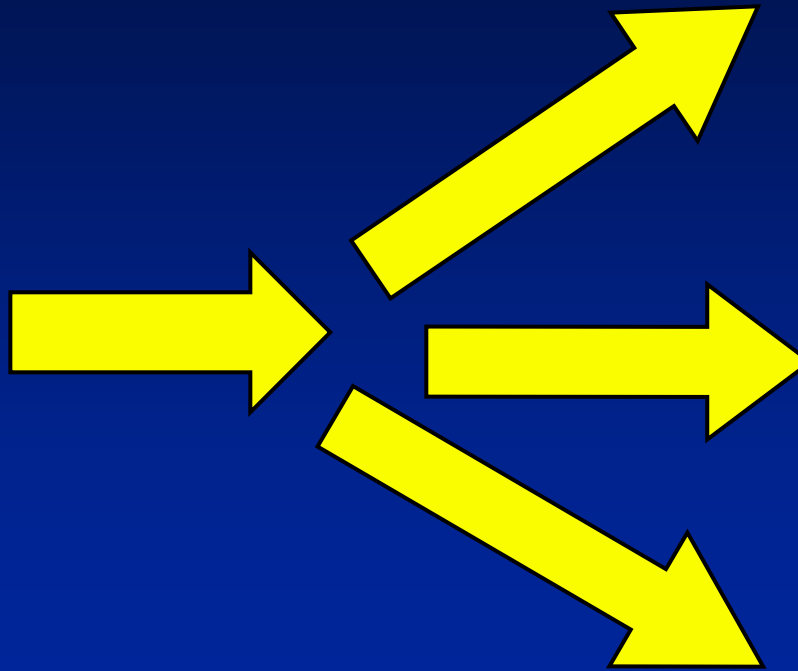
TORTURE

ILLNESS

**PROBLEMS
OF LIVING**

**ENHANCED
RESILIENCY**

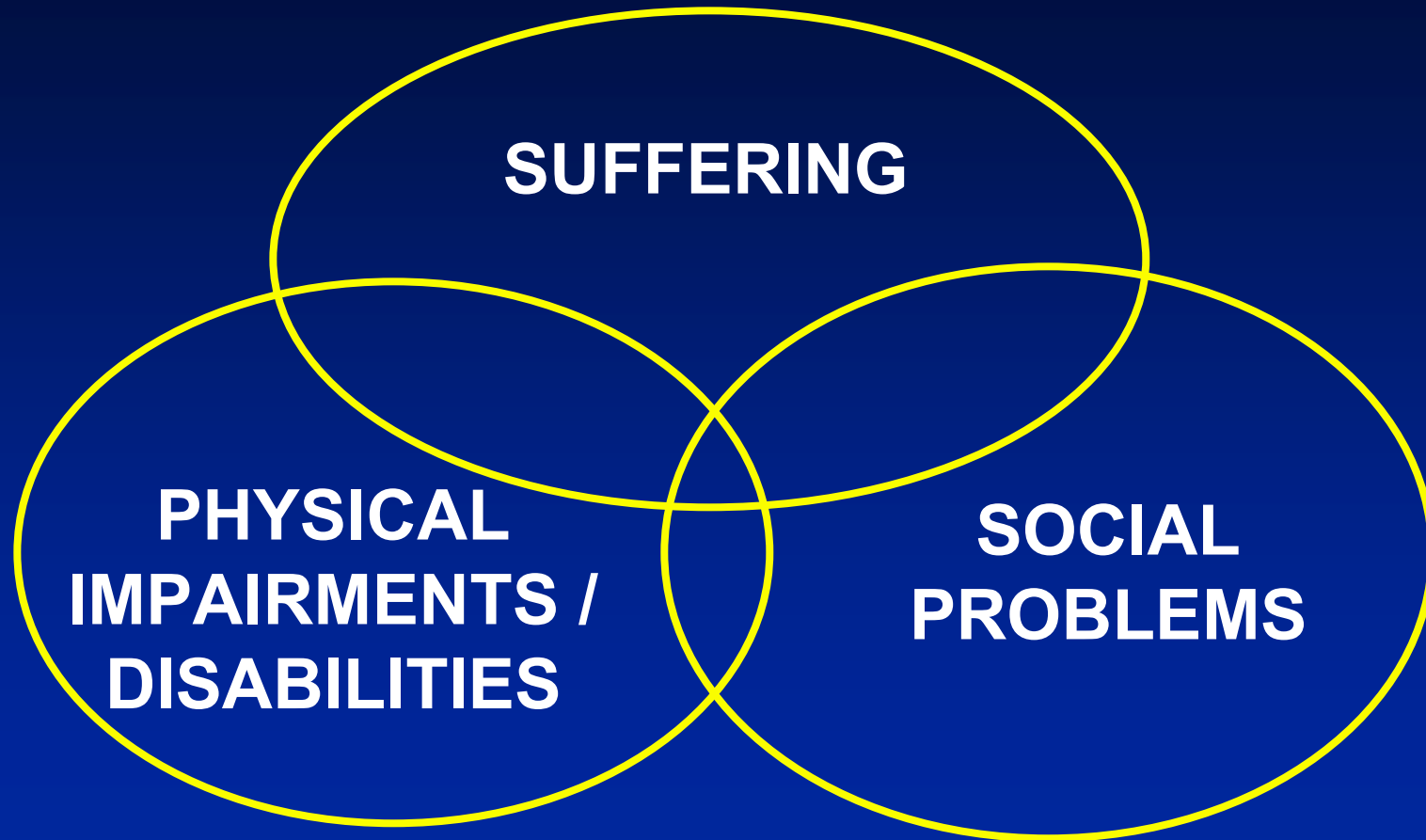
**Torture
(Agent)**



ILLNESS

- The subjective feelings of not being well and/or normal because of discomfort, pain, alterations in body functions or physical movements and/or disturbances in thinking.

ILLNESS

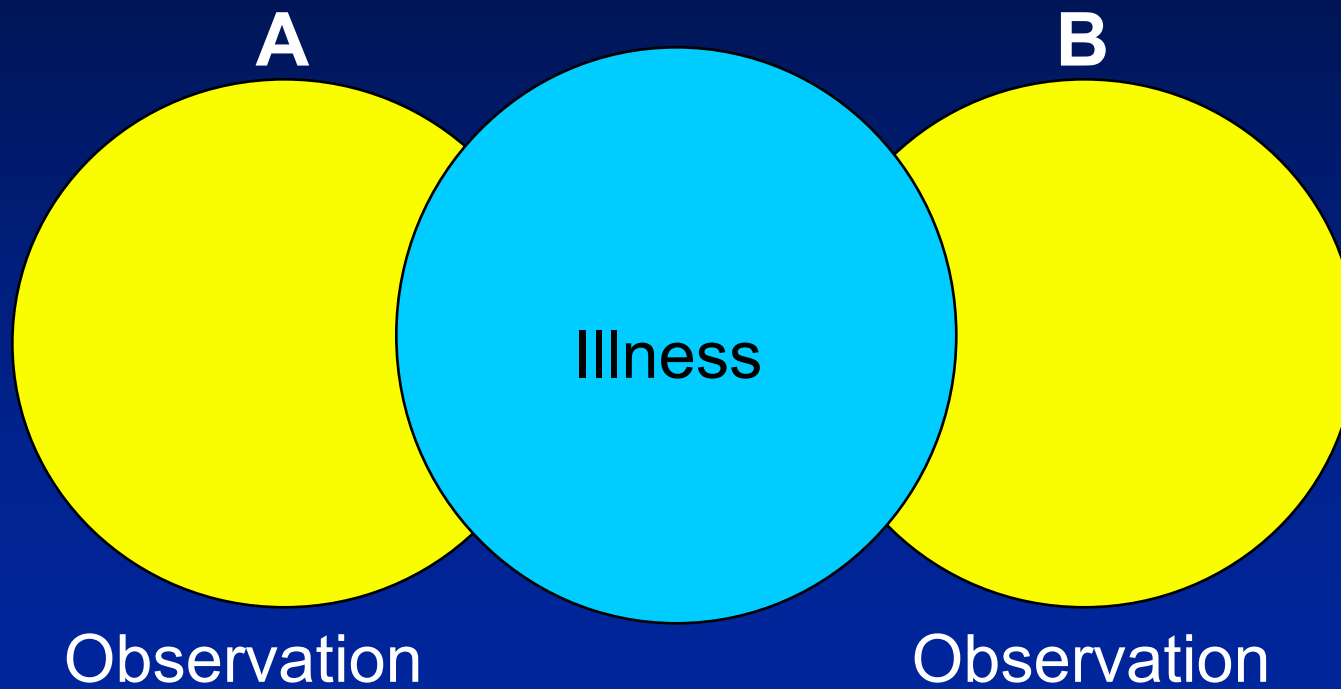


SUFFERING

**PHYSICAL
IMPAIRMENTS /
DISABILITIES**

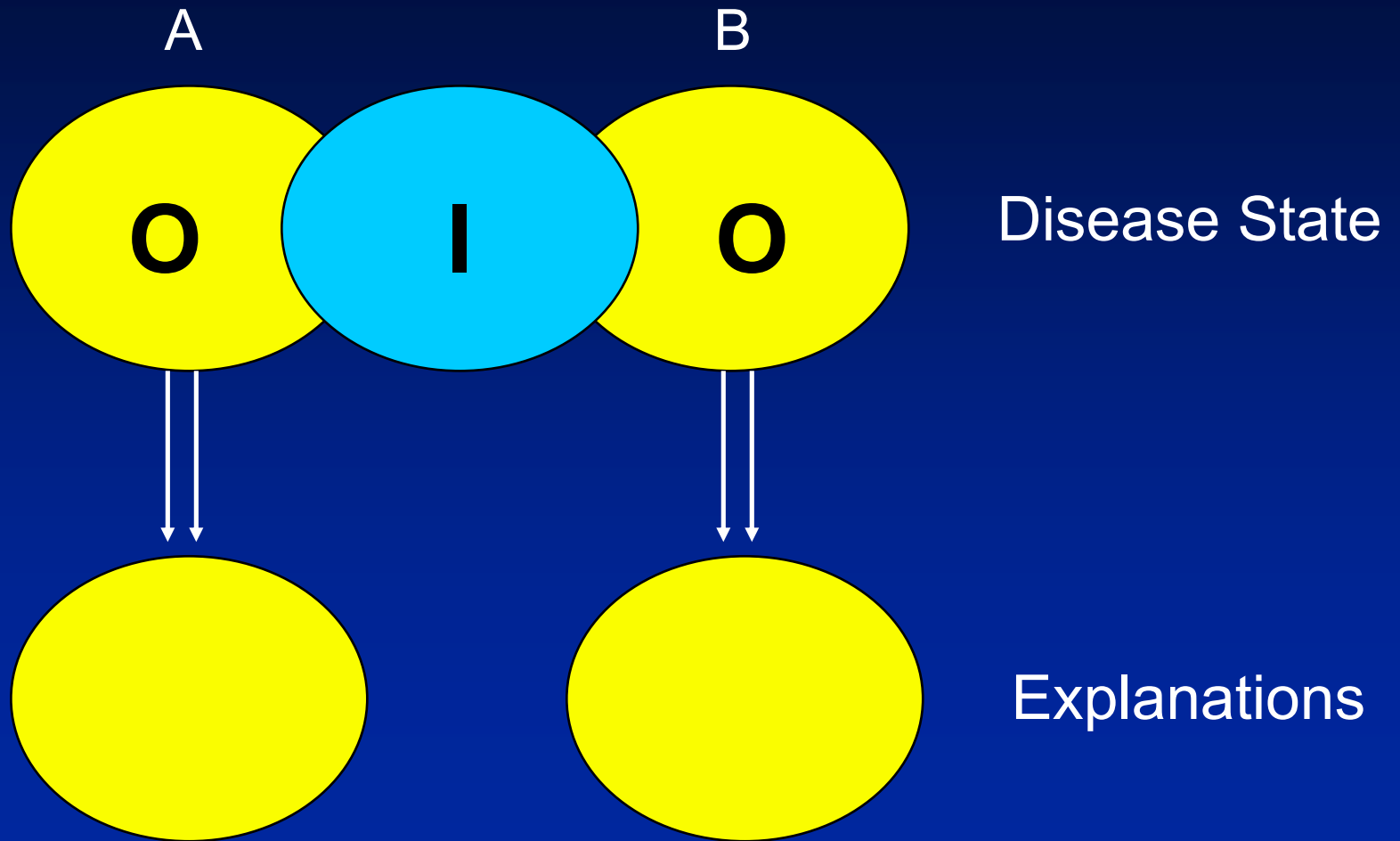
**SOCIAL
PROBLEMS**

Disease State = Illness + Observations



**Disease = Disease State +
Explanations**

Disease



CLINICAL WORLDVIEWS

Medical

Signs and Symptoms



Root Causes



Medical Treatment

Traditional Healing

Signs and Symptoms



Root Causes

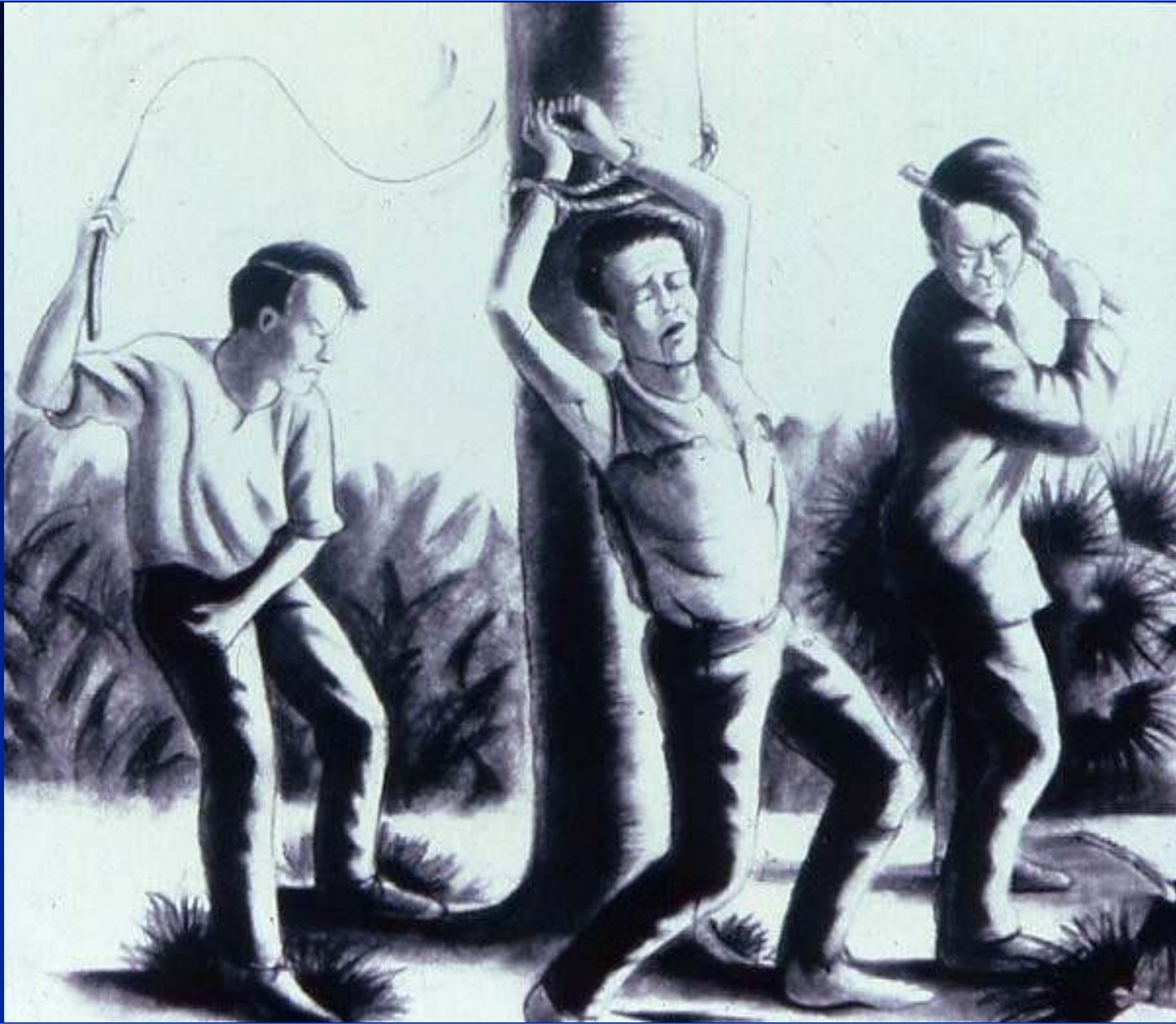


Folk Healing

Diagnosis

Explanation

Treatment



ACUTE

HOST



**Torture
(Agent)**



**TORTURE
SEQUELAE
(TS)**



ENVIRONMENT

LONG-TERM

HOST



TS



**CHRONIC
ILLNESS**

DISABILITY

MORTALITY

ENVIRONMENT

Clinical Worldviews

Data	Medical	Traditional Healing
Chief Complaint	++	++++
History of Present Illness	++++	+
Physical Exam	++++	0
Mental Status Exam	++++	0
Laboratory Tests	++++	0
Traditional Exam	0	++++

Root Causes

Biological

Medical

++++

Traditional Healing

0

Psychological

+++

+

Social (Economic)

++

++++

Spiritual

0

++++

Treatment

Western Medication

++++

+

Counseling

+++

0

Patient Education

++

+

Referral

+

0

Advice

+

+++

Traditional Healing

0

++++

Traditional Herbs

+

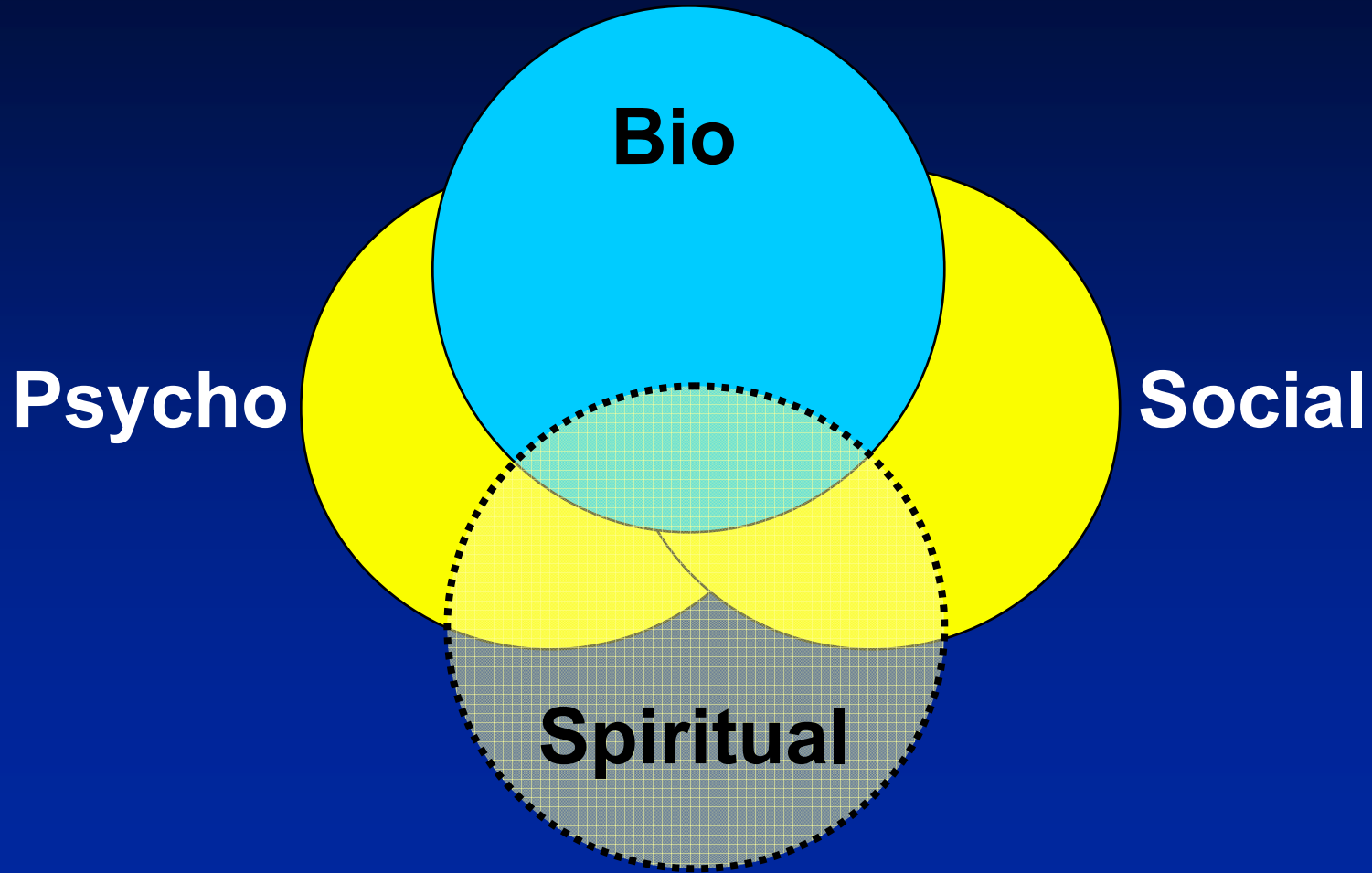
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Spiritual Healing

0

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MODERN CLINICAL WORLDVIEW



For more information, please visit:

<http://www.hpirt-cambridge.org>

Blog (Please comment)

<http://healinginvisiblewounds.typepad.com>