

NIH SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT REVIEW BOARD
VALUE OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

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Public Health

“is what we, as a society, do
collectively to assure conditions
in which people can be healthy...”

Institute of Medicine, 1987



Public Health

Focus in on health of populations.

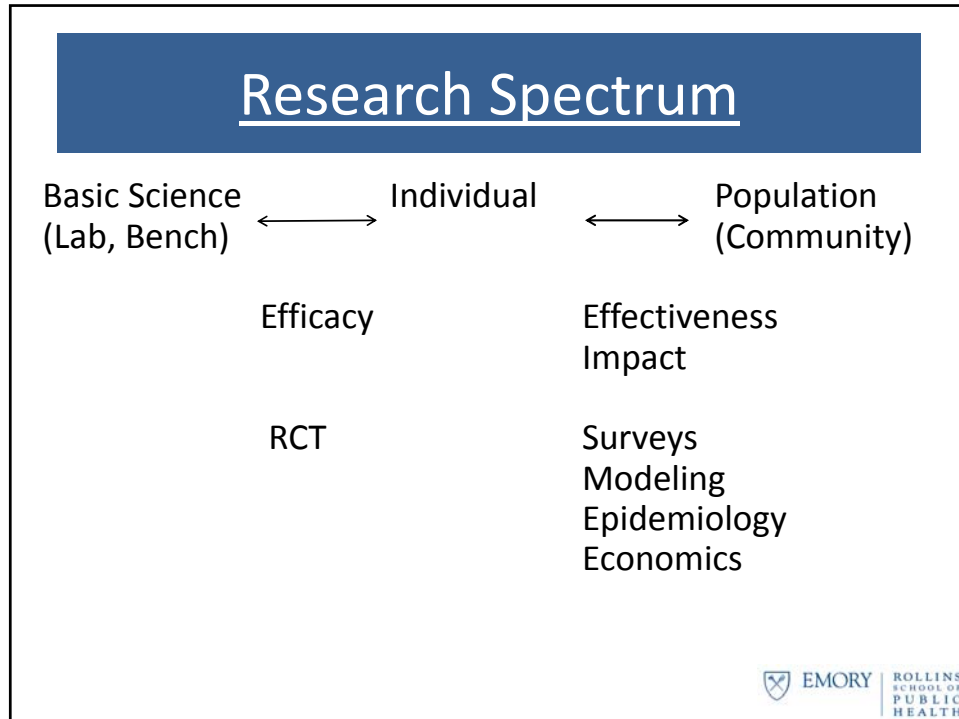
Focus is on prevention.

Main functions are: Assessment (data)
Policy Development
Assurance

Public Health

Priority setting:

- 1) Numbers of persons in a population affected (or potentially affected);
- 2) Severity of conditions;
- 3) Ability to impact (1) and/or (2).



Attributing Research Success in Public Health

- 1) Existing data sets may be inadequate:
 - a) focus on disease, biomarkers, less than prevention;
 - b) time lags between research and implementation;
 - c) sampling may not match populations with greatest potential impact (size, focus);
 - d) specialized data needs should be specified and supported early.



Attributing Research Success in Public Health

- 2) Research is often collaborative in sponsorship;
- 3) Success (or failure) in improving health is often multifactorial;
- 4) Social determinants of health often ignored by policy makers (and researchers).



Examples from HIV/AIDS:

- 1) Multidisciplinary collaborations
- 2) Research
 - NIH
 - Other USG Agencies
 - Industry
 - Foundations



Examples from HIV/AIDS:

- 3) Breakthroughs – Problem definition
 - Etiology
 - Therapy
 - Impact on populations
- 4) Data availability for public health:
 - best in US / developed countries;
 - best for treatment / mortality;
 - less adequate – prevention, developing countries.

