

# THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN ADDRESSING CHRONIC DISEASE

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# MY BRIEF COMMENTS TODAY WILL COVER...

- ▶ My personal background
- ▶ Reasons for my commitment to international collaboration
- ▶ Types of international collaboration
- ▶ Requirements for productive collaboration

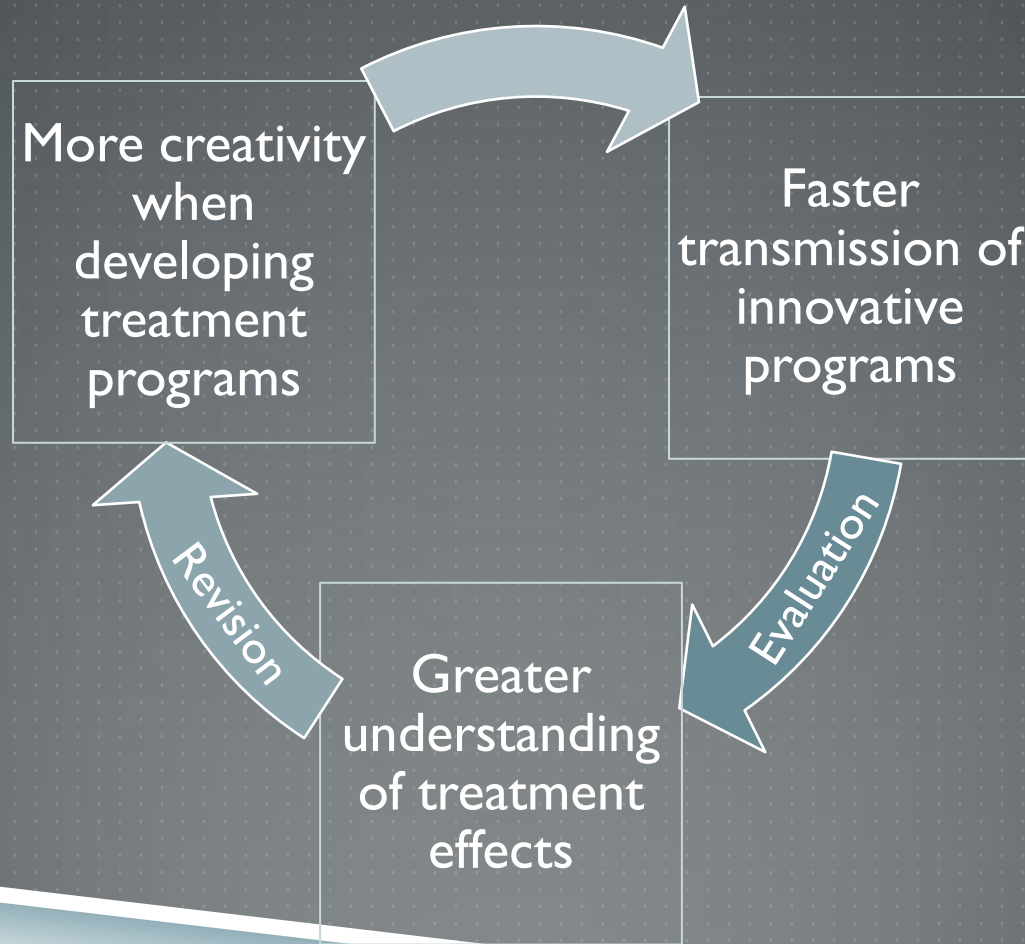
# WHO IS EDMUND RICCI?

- ▶ Grandson of four Italian citizens who left Italy about 1900 to live and work in a large industrial city, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- ▶ Love and appreciate Italian culture and values as taught to me by my grandparents
- ▶ Married 51 years; 3 offspring; 2 grandchildren
- ▶ Have travelled extensively throughout Italy for work and to learn (I am actually comfortable driving!)
- ▶ Currently a professor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health
  - ▶ Direct an Evaluation Science Institute
  - ▶ Have worked in 17 countries during my 40 year career in public health
- ▶ “I am still learning” -Michelangelo, at age 87

# REASONS FOR MY COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- ▶ No country has all the “best ideas”
- ▶ Treatments and prevention programs that work in one country usually require cultural tailoring if they are to work in another
- ▶ Possible to build larger data banks about disease to use in global planning and analysis of impact of treatment
- ▶ My personal growth has been greatly enriched by work with scientists in other countries
- ▶ Accelerates the transmission of knowledge

# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION: DRIVER OF INNOVATION



# TYPES OF COLLABORATION

- ▶ Develop and test new treatments
- ▶ Develop culturally sensitive prevention programs
- ▶ Transfer proven medical and public health approaches across countries
- ▶ Health scientists from collaborating countries share ideas to develop new treatments (no country has all the good ideas)
- ▶ Collaborating countries raise and share funds to conduct research and implement health programs

# TYPES OF COLLABORATION, cont'd.

- ▶ Collaborating nations obtain funds to build health infrastructure where needed
- ▶ Educate the medical and public health workforce in collaborating nations
- ▶ Identify and assess policy options specific to individual countries
- ▶ Share country specific data about prevalence and incidence of chronic disease for global policy and program planning

# TYPES OF COLLABORATION, cont'd.

- ▶ Establish global data after agreeing upon standard data collection protocols
- ▶ Create “Best Practice” repository for each chronic disease
- ▶ Share cost and policy evaluation advice on how to achieve most impact
- ▶ Evaluate community programs to reduce chronic disease burden within and across countries to develop culturally acceptable interventions
- ▶ Share professional expertise when mounting very large scale prevention and treatment programs



# WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR PRODUCTIVE INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION?

- ▶ Long term commitments by participating professionals and scientists
- ▶ Mutual respect for the contributions from each participating nation
- ▶ Continuous search for funds to support the effort
- ▶ Relationships made “formal” by appointments, contracts, signed agreements
- ▶ Mutual trust
- ▶ Cross cultural sensitivity and understanding when social mistakes are made
- ▶ Shared publications

