

# A Brief Overview of Implementation Science

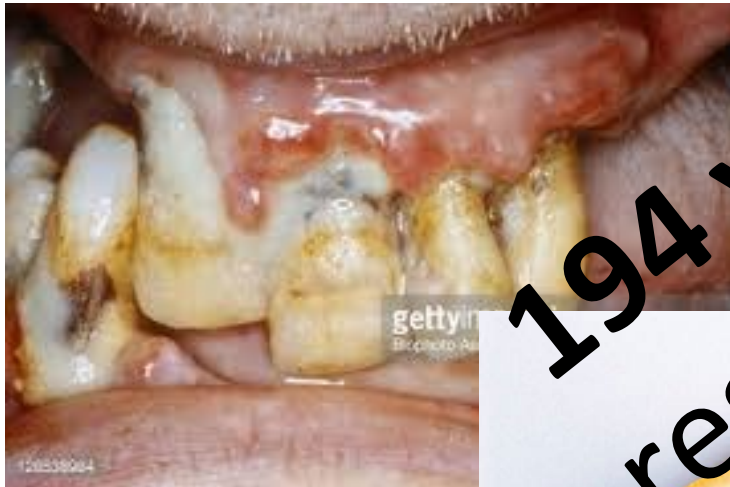


*“We need to figure out the best channels to get information into the hands of teachers, so that more students have teachers who are using the most effective, evidence-based methods.”*

Mark Schneider, IES Director

# The first research-to-practice gap

- Lemon juice was shown to be effective in preventing scurvy in 1601.
- Not introduced into sailors diets on ships until 1795!!



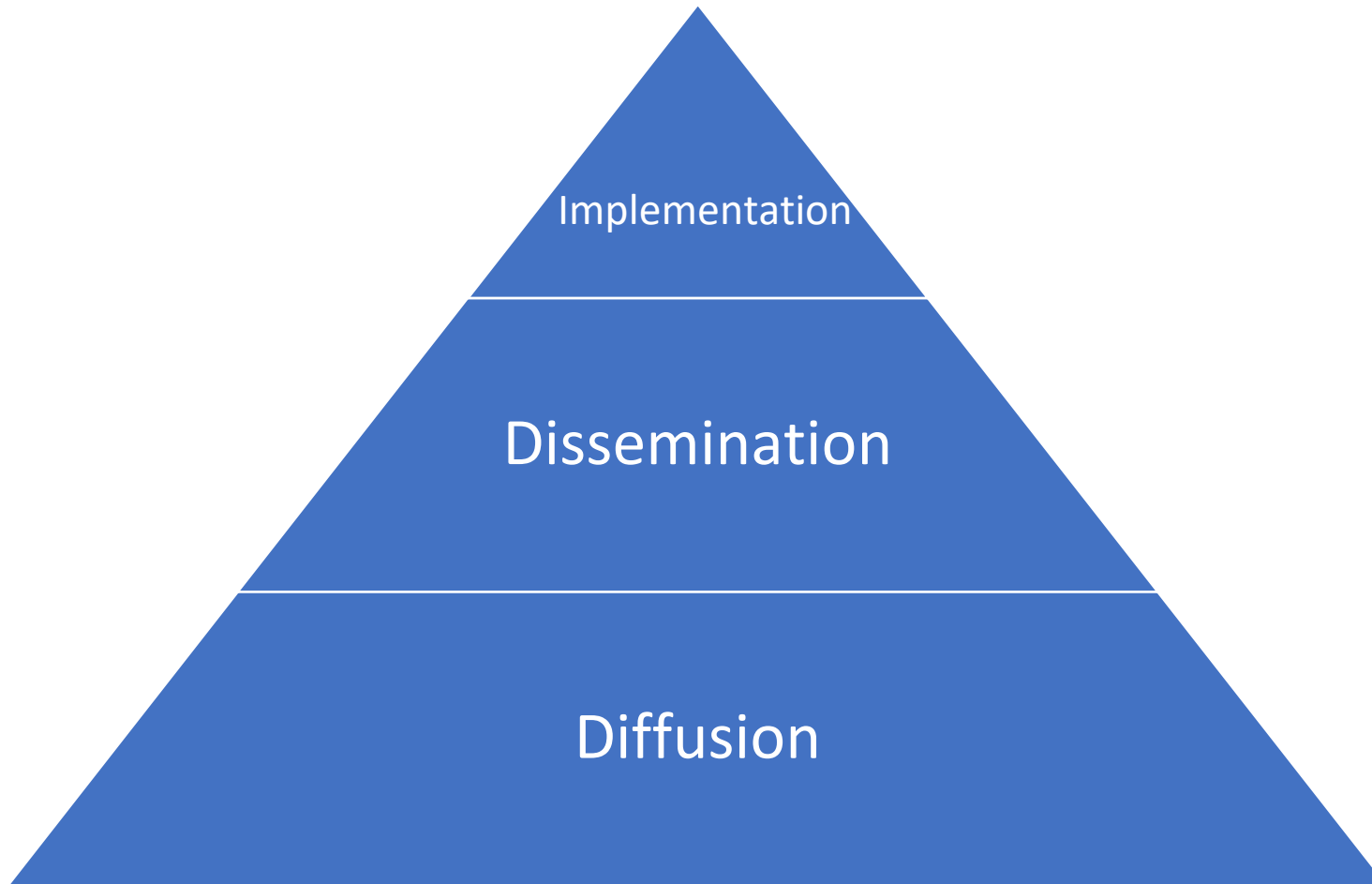
**194 Year  
research-  
practice  
gap!**



# Access ≠ Effectiveness



# Enhancing service quality



(Greenhalgh et al., 2004; Lomas, 1993)

# Implementation Research & Practice

- **Implementation research**

- *the scientific study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of research findings ...into routine practice* (Eccles & Mittman, 2006)
- Primarily designed to produce **generalizable knowledge** about practice change
- Implementation *researchers / scientists*

- **Implementation practice**

- Primarily designed to **support practice change** in real world settings
- Implementation *practitioners, purveyors, intermediaries*

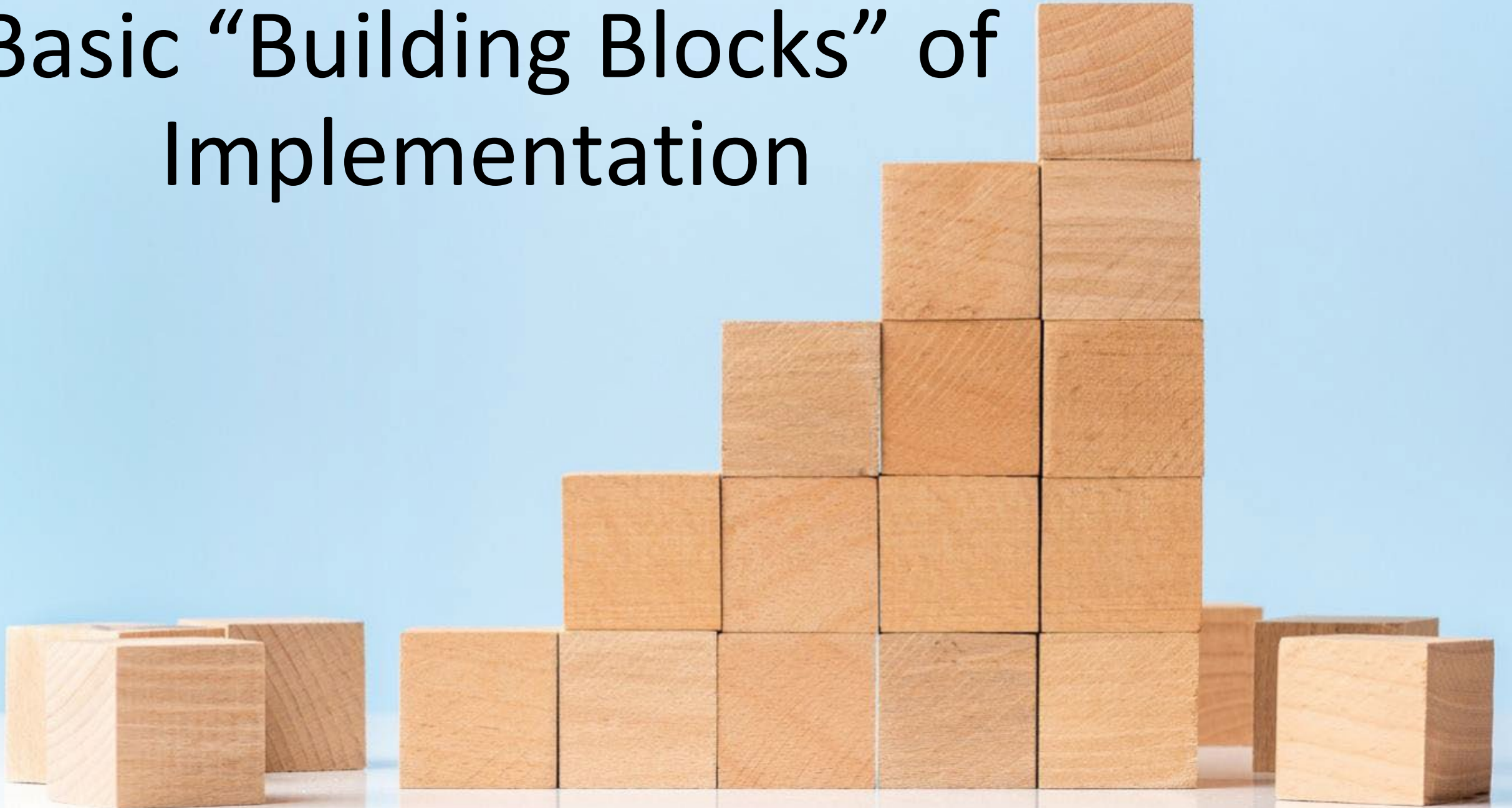


*“Although implementation science was created to reduce the research-to-practice gap, recent critiques suggest we may be recreating it. This could undermine the forward movement of the field, including work to reach populations experiencing health inequities. **More bidirectional partnership between implementation research and practice is needed.**”*

Beidas et al. (2022)



# Basic “Building Blocks” of Implementation



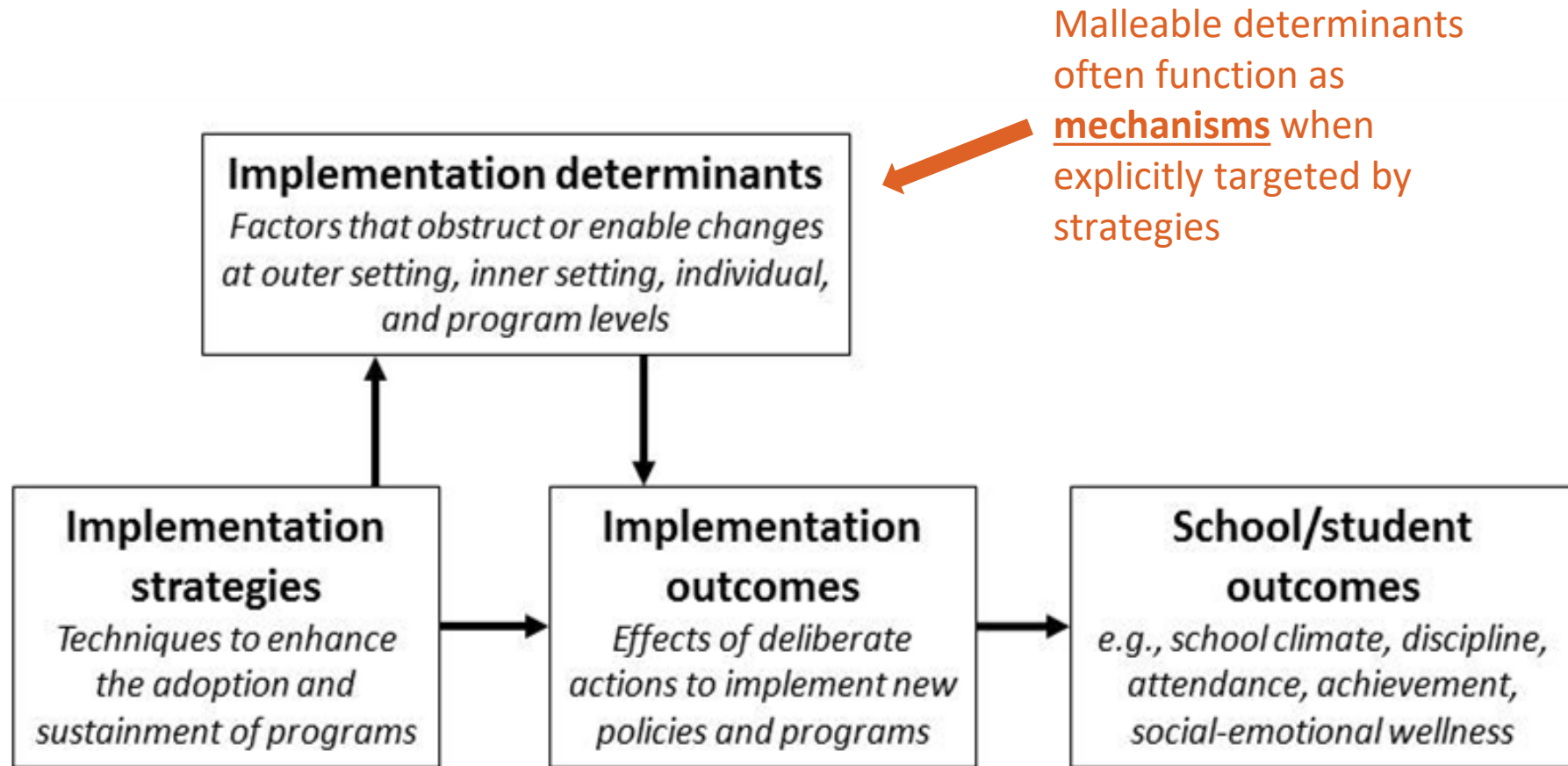


# When defining implementation science, some very non-scientific language can be helpful...

- The intervention/practice/innovation is **THE THING**
- *Effectiveness* research looks at whether **THE THING** works
- *Implementation* research looks at how best to help people/places **DO THE THING**
- Implementation strategies are the stuff we do to try to help people/places **DO THE THING**
- Main implementation outcomes are **HOW MUCH** and **HOW WELL** they **DO THE THING**

Curran (2020)

# Determinants, strategies, outcomes, & mechanisms



(Lyon & Bruns, 2019; adapted from Lewis et al., 2017)

# A few “cutting edge” topics in implementation research...

- Implementation mechanisms (i.e., what comes between a strategy and an outcome)
- Strategic intervention and implementation strategy adaptation
- De-adoption / de-implementation
- Disparities and equity in implementation processes and outcomes
- Effective community engagement processes and navigating power imbalances
- Policy-focused dissemination (to enhance implementation)