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Designing For Health & Well-being: Self-Tracking & Data Visualization

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A talk in five parts

- 1 Reframing health as more than healthcare—recognizing the importance of self-management
- 2 Four technology trends that support reframing
- 3 An introduction to control theory as background
- 4 Building tools to support self-management
- 5 A discussion with Ian Eslick

Part 1

Reframing Health

- **Wicked problem**
- **A goal-means tree**
- **Asymmetric relations**
- **Era analysis**

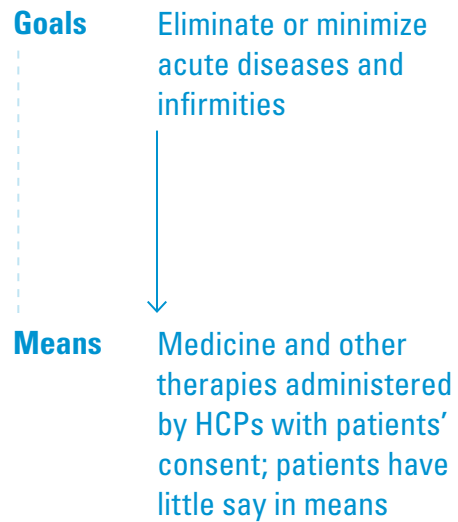
**Most people agree
that healthcare is
a 'wicked problem'.**

**Healthcare's
many stakeholders
can't agree on a solution,
because they
don't agree on the problem.**

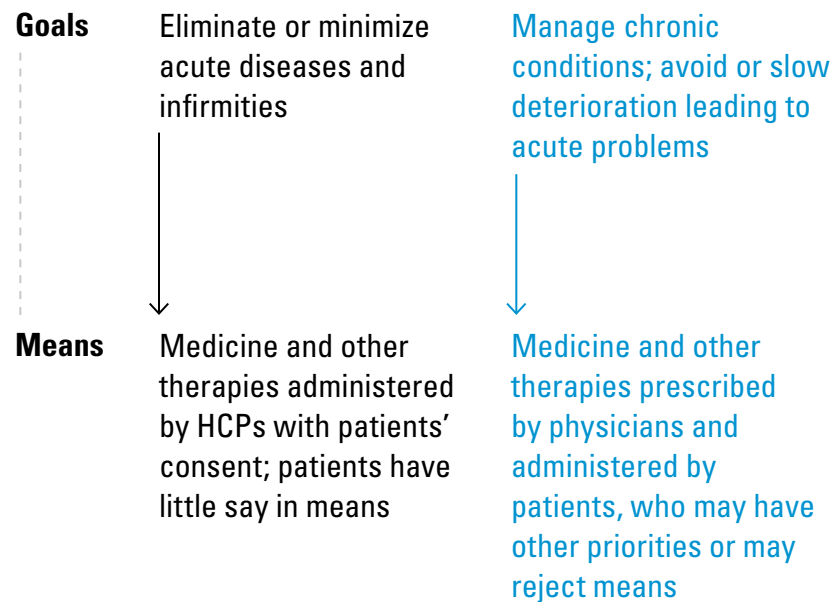
**Wicked problems
can only be resolved
by reframing—
by finding shared views,
values, and goals.**

**From the point of view
of today's healthcare system,
health is largely about
minimizing illness.**

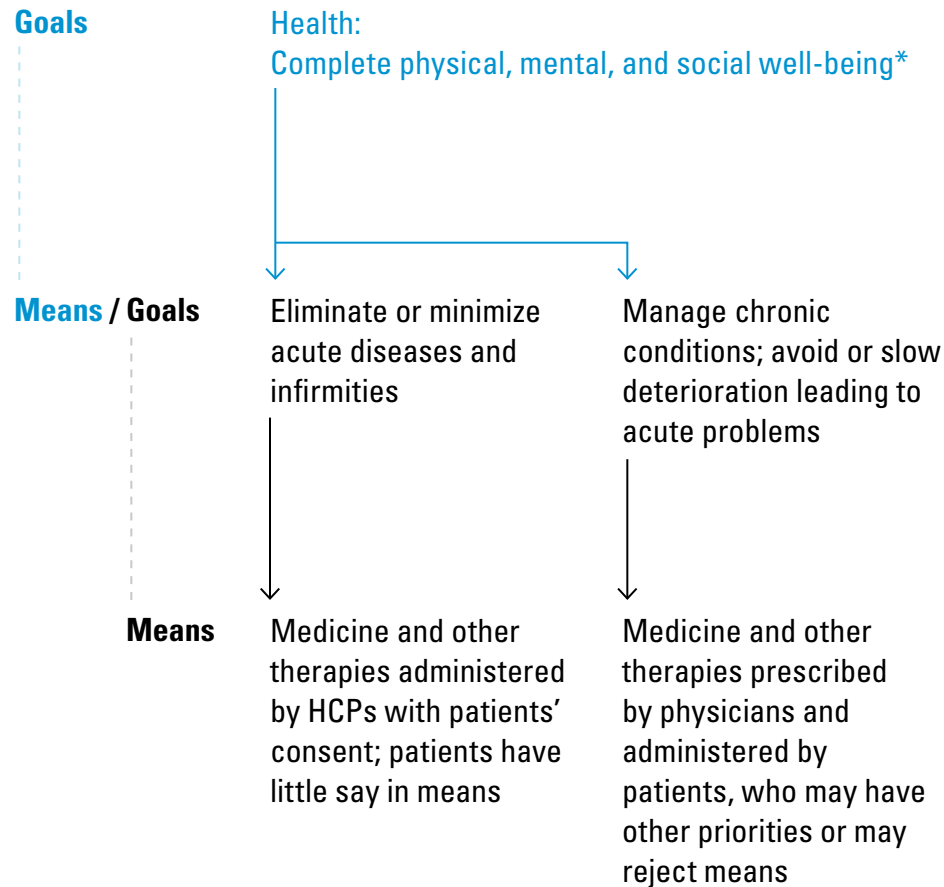
Traditional healthcare focuses on treating acute problems.



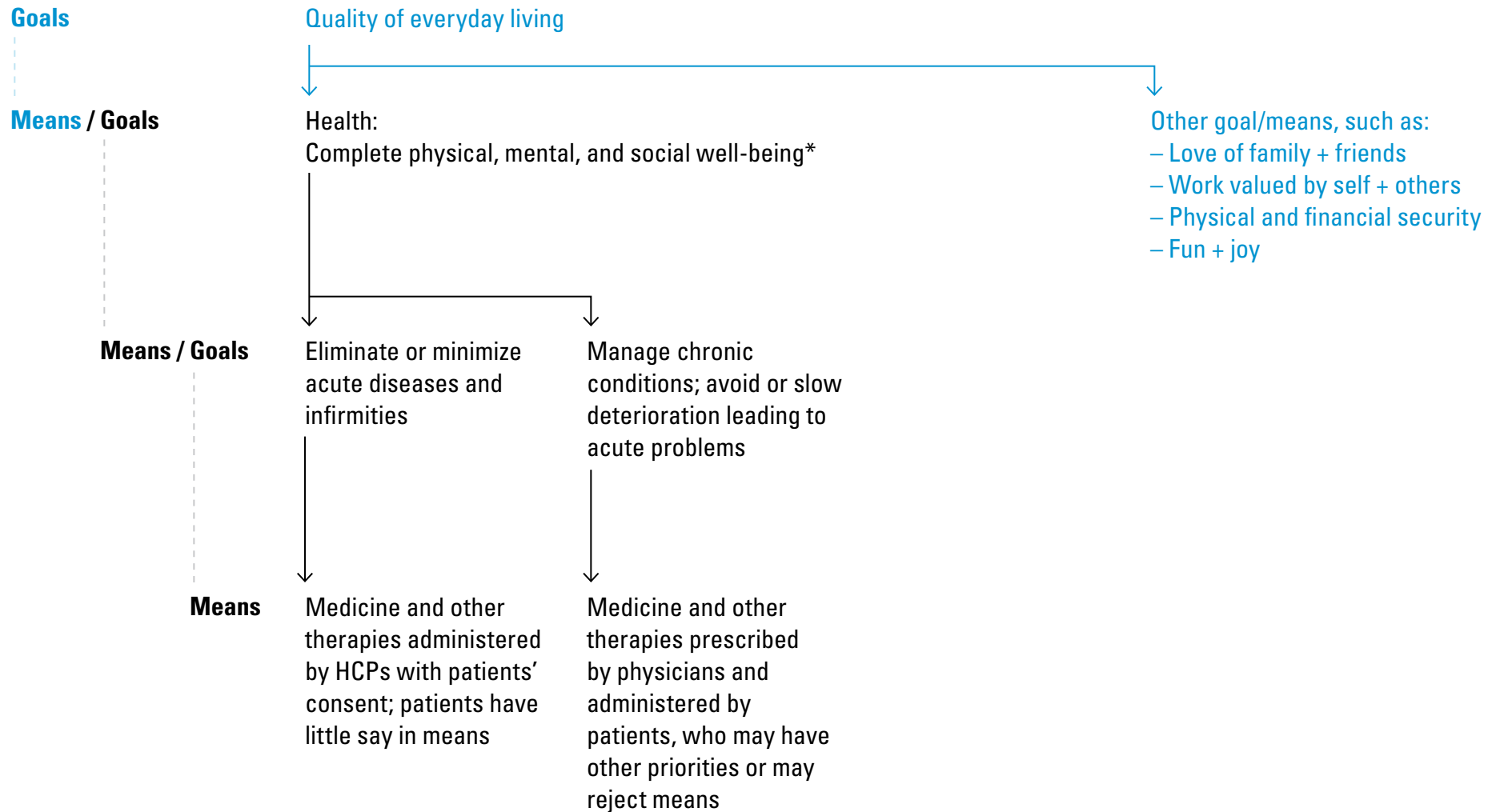
Traditional health management applies the tools of acute care to stabilizing chronic conditions.



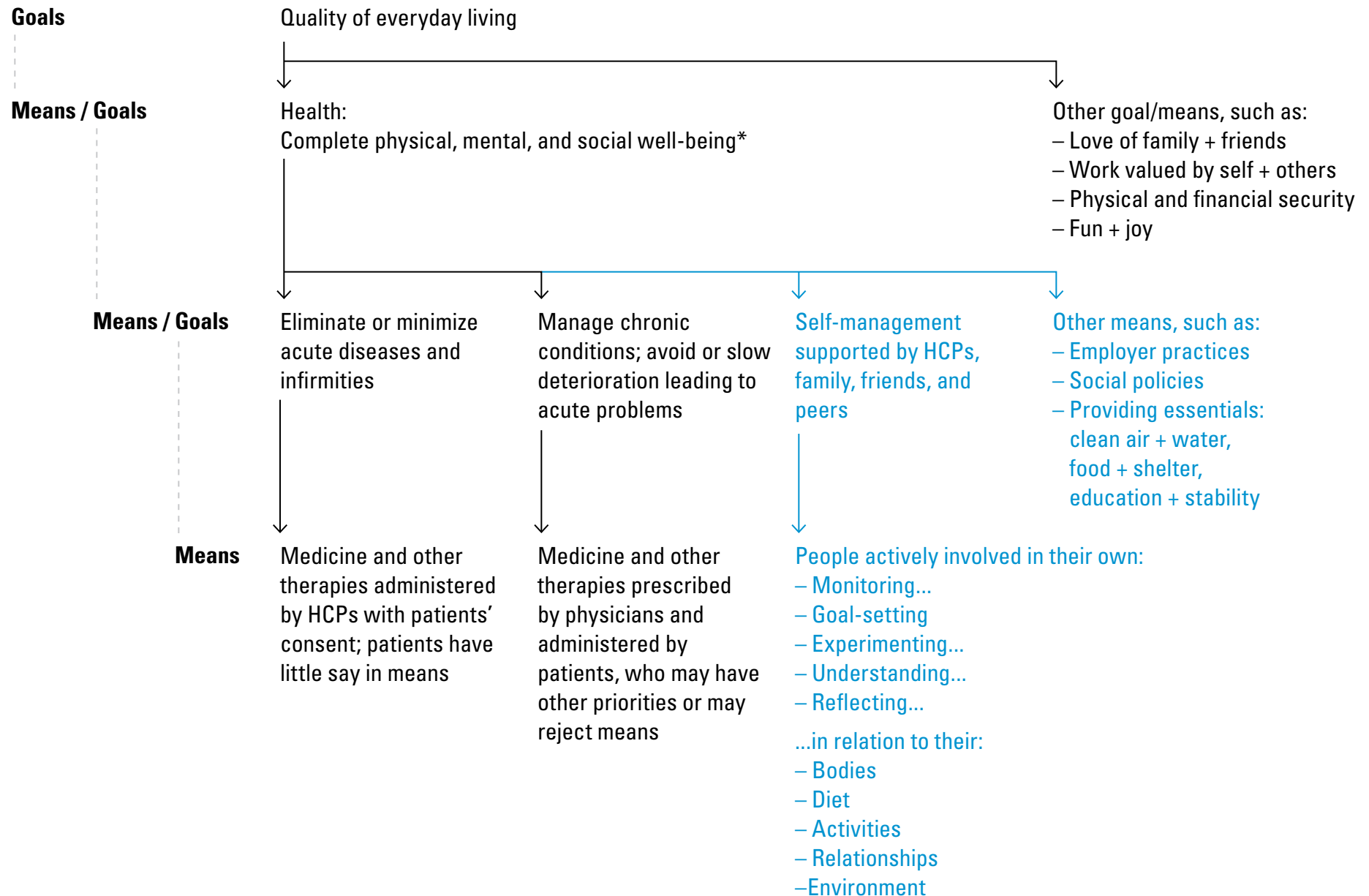
But health is more than eliminating or managing disease.



Health is a means to higher goals— 'a resource for everyday life'



The requirements of health extend beyond traditional healthcare



The way we usually think about health today is bound up in the language of our healthcare system.

- Individuals are **patients**
- Doctors and nurses are **professionals**
- Professionals **care for** patients
- Patients receive **treatment**
- Not following a **physician's orders** means a patient is **not in compliance**

The language of acute care is ill-suited to managing chronic conditions or preventing disease (often framed as behavior change).

‘The number 1 problem in treating illness today is patients’ failure to take prescription medications.’

— American Heart Association

**We *can* imagine a
better world;
we can invent a
new language;
we can create
new systems;
we can establish
symmetric relationships**

We can move

from **health** —————→ to **well-being**

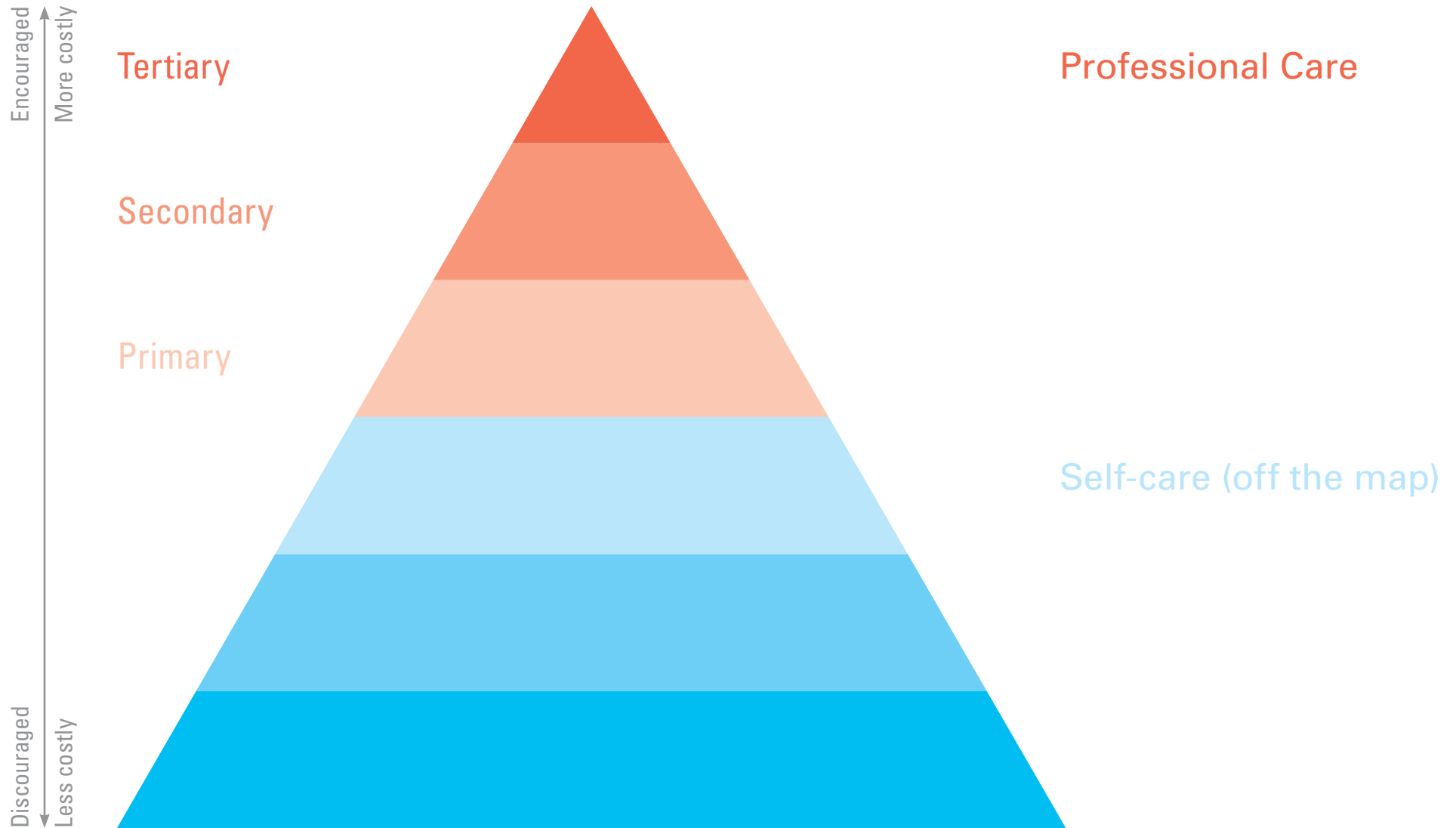
from **health-care** —————→ to **self-management**

from **patient** —————→ to **experiment designer**

*‘A collaborative co-care model
is starting to evolve for healthcare delivery ...
the patient’s role may become
one of active participant, information sharer,
peer leader and self-tracker,
while the physician’s role
may become one of care consultant, co-creator
and health collaborator.’*

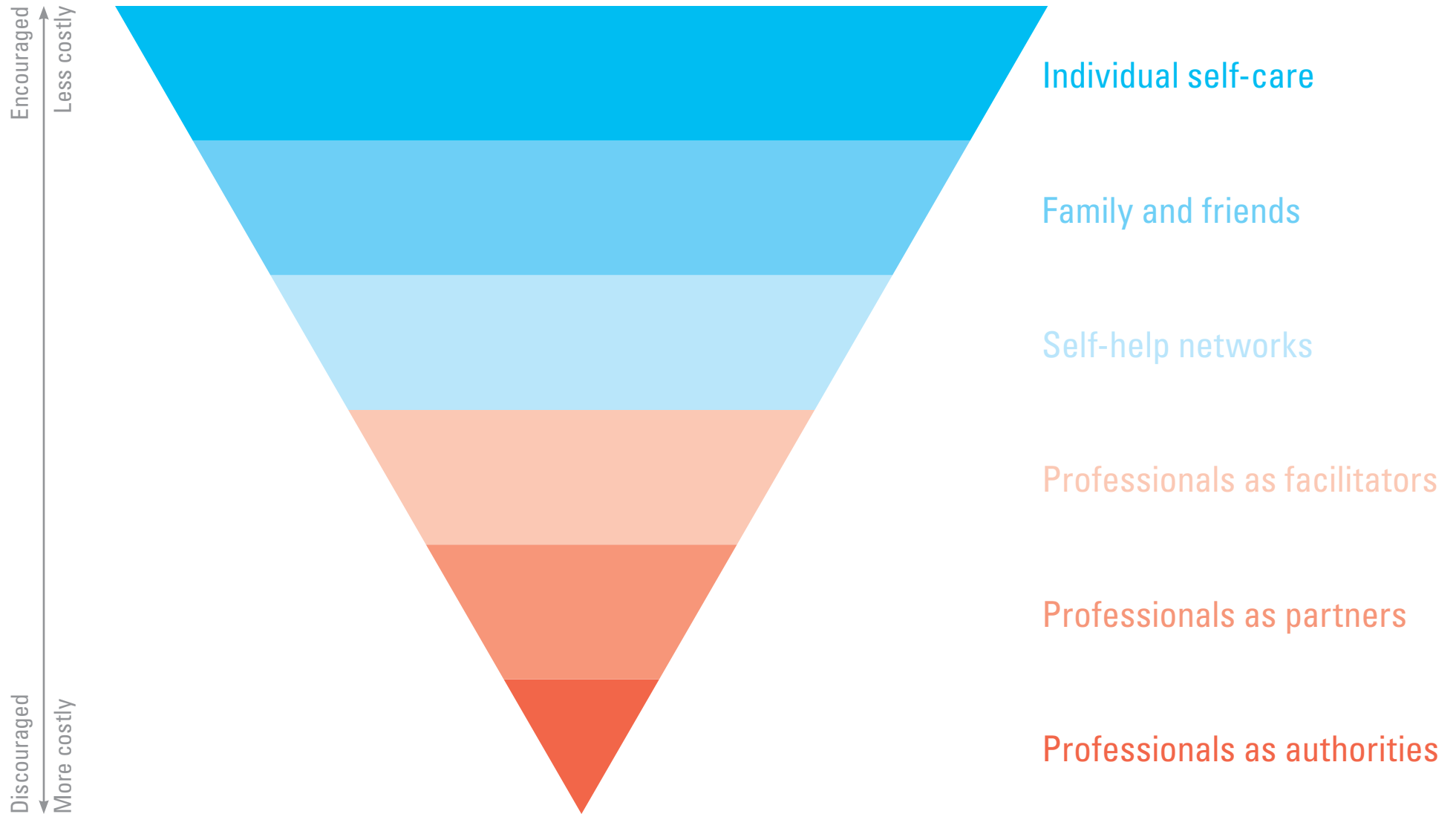
— Melanie Swan

Industrial-age health systems



— Tom Ferguson

Information-age health systems



— Tom Ferguson

Health eras summary

	Traditional Healthcare frame	Emerging Self-management frame
Scope	Relieve acute condition Now	Maintain well-being Over a lifetime
Approach	Intervention; treatment Expert-directed Apply standards of care Lengthy regulatory pre-approval	Prevention; healthy living Self-managed Measure, assess, & adjust; iterate Learn and adapt as you go
Subject	Symptoms and test results	Whole person, seen in context
Response	Prescribe medication	Improve behavior, environment
Relies on	Medical establishment	Individual, family, & friends Social networks, others like me

Health eras summary (cont.)

	Traditional Healthcare frame	Emerging Self-management frame
HCP as	Authority, expert Dispensing knowledge	Coach, assistant Learning from patients
Patient as	Helpless, childlike Taking orders	Responsible adult Setting goals; testing hunches
Relationship	Asymmetric, one-way Command and control	Symmetric, reciprocal Discussion and collaboration
Records	HCP's notes of visit Sporadic Dispersed between offices Managed by HCP	Patient's notes, data from sensors Continuously collected Connected; aggregated Controlled by patient

**Reframing health
as self-management
parallels similar trends
in design practice;
increasingly we recognize
that **users manage** (or design)
their own experiences.**

Design eras summary

	Traditional Designer frame	Emerging Meta-designer frame
Scope	Stand-alone products Manufactured, duplicated Single-function tools	Integrated systems of hardware, software, networked applications, and human services Configured, customized Languages, platforms, APIs Construction kits, kits of parts
Function	Aid consumption	Aid production
Approach	Simplify Make it easy Dumb down (de-skill) Completed	Increase choice Make it rich and subtle Create an environment for learning Open-ended

Part 2

Technology Trends

- **Sensors**
- **Big data**
- **Convergence 2.0**
- **Self-tracking**

Part 2.1

Technology Trends

Sensors are proliferating and connecting

They will be ubiquitous

- **at check points**
- **on line**
- **all around**
- **on you**
- **in you**

Wal-Mart has mandated that every package in its stores include an RFID chip.



**London alone already has
500,000 video surveillance cameras.**



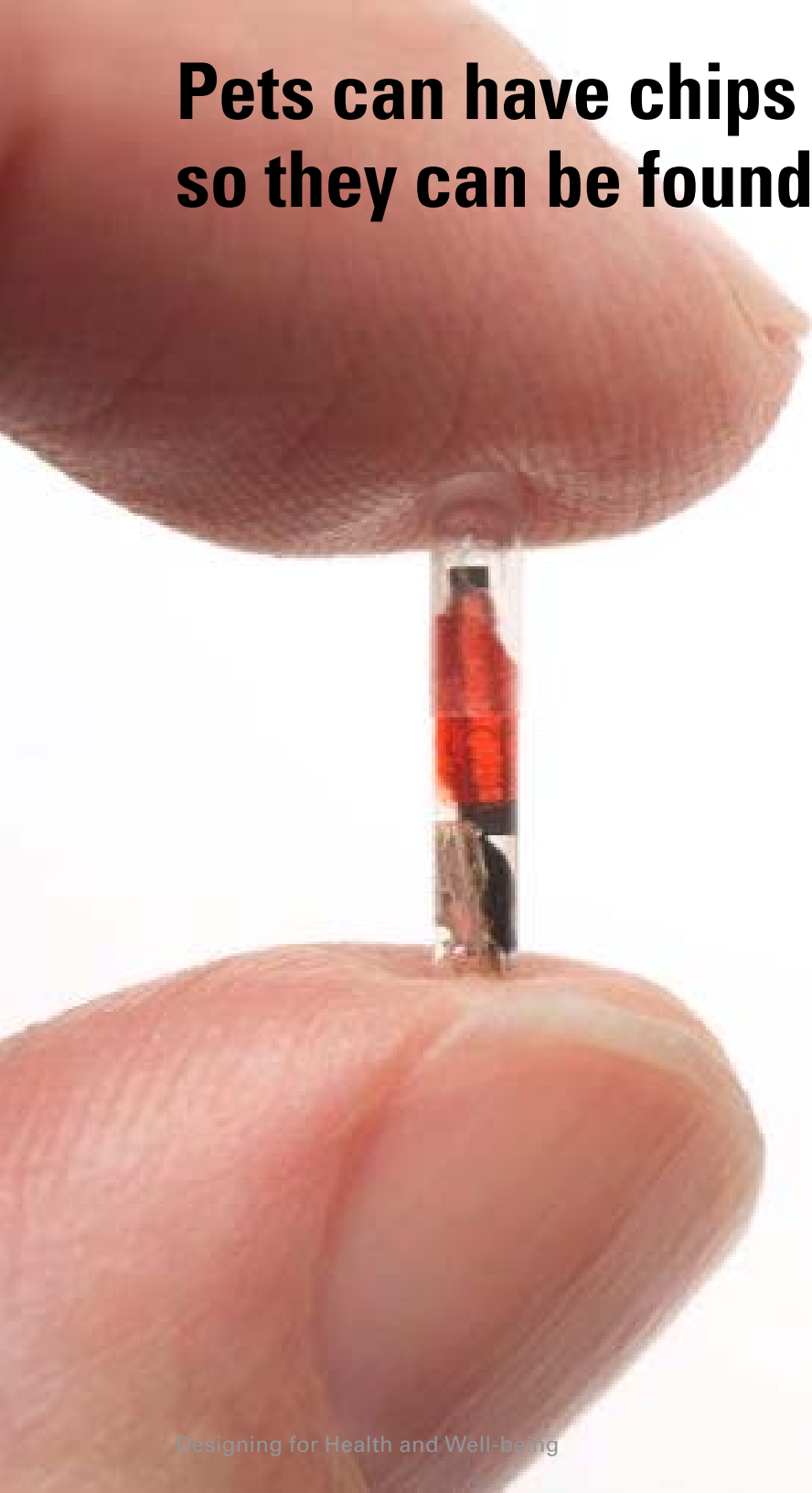
Chicago has about 15,000 cameras, networked so that a 911 call automatically displays images from the nearest camera.



Intel has chips measuring heat and humidity on each vine in several California vineyards.



**Pets can have chips implanted
so they can be found more easily.**



Mobile phones are packed with sensors and becoming hubs for body-area networks

- Motion (accelerometer)
- Compass (magnetometer)
- Location (GPS)
- Sound (microphone)
- Light (camera × 2)
- Touch
- Proximity (to face)



Part 2.2

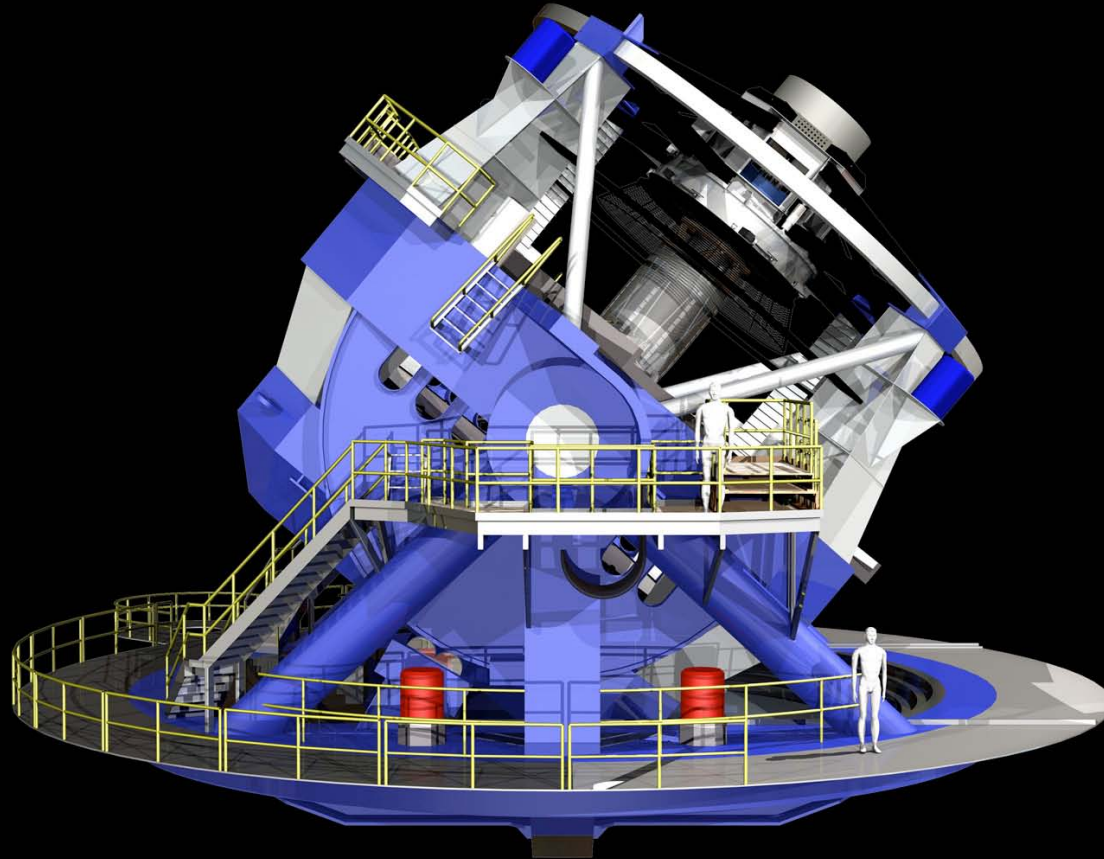
Technology Trends

Big Data: assembling, managing, & mining huge databases

- **Logging every user action**
- **Measuring every design change**
- **Relying on statistics**

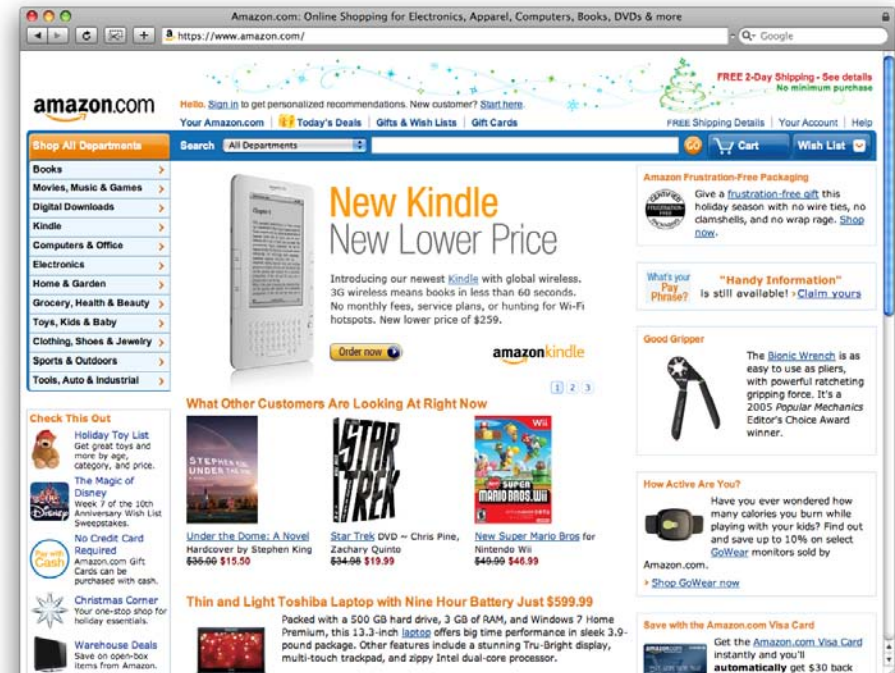
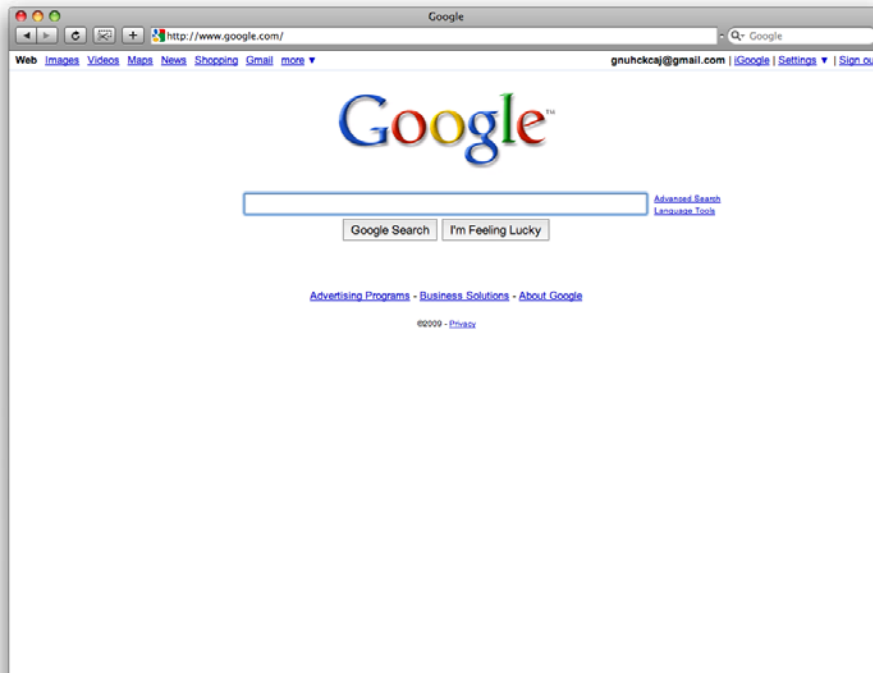
The new Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) will produce 30 terabytes of data each night.

The current largest public database of such images is about 80 terabytes.

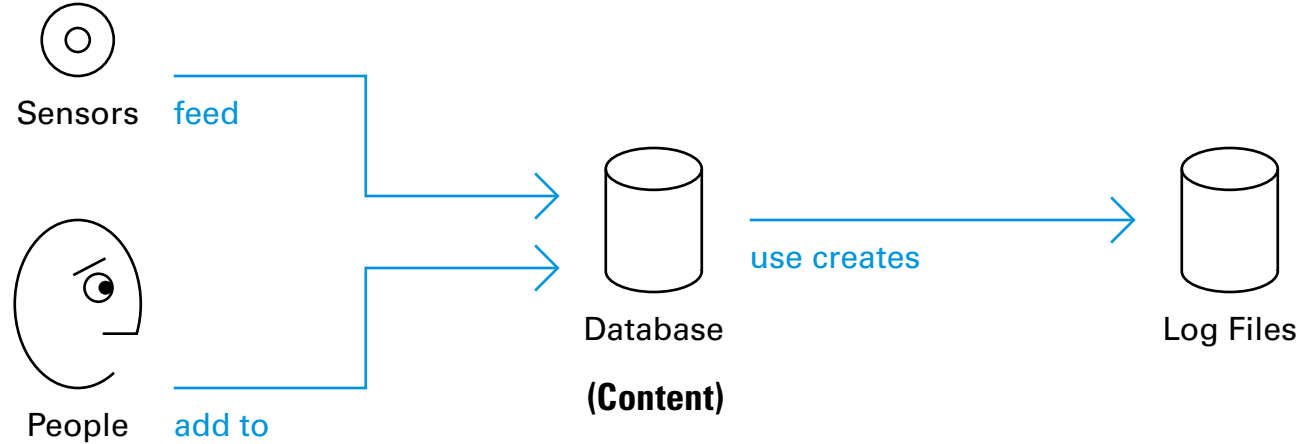


Google + Amazon have built big businesses collecting huge amounts of data.

They are not anomalies, they are signals of the future.

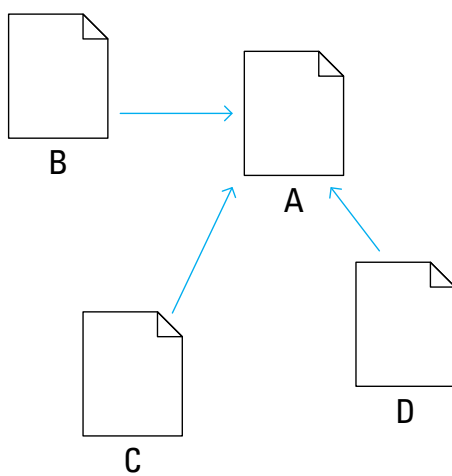


Big data collection has 3 levels.



Large data collections are inherently valuable.

Links on the web



Page rank index

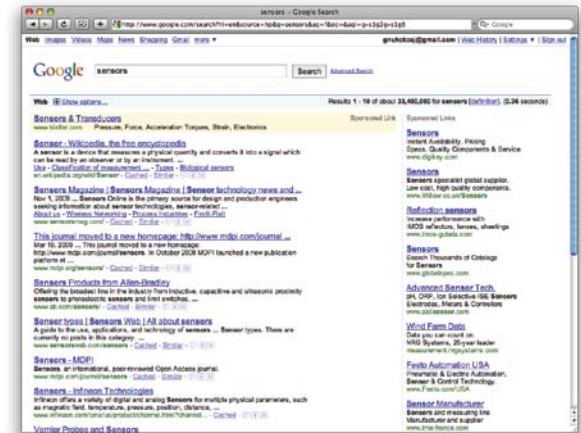
A ← B, C, D

B

C

D

Google search results



The result?

Analytics for everything, everyone, and you.



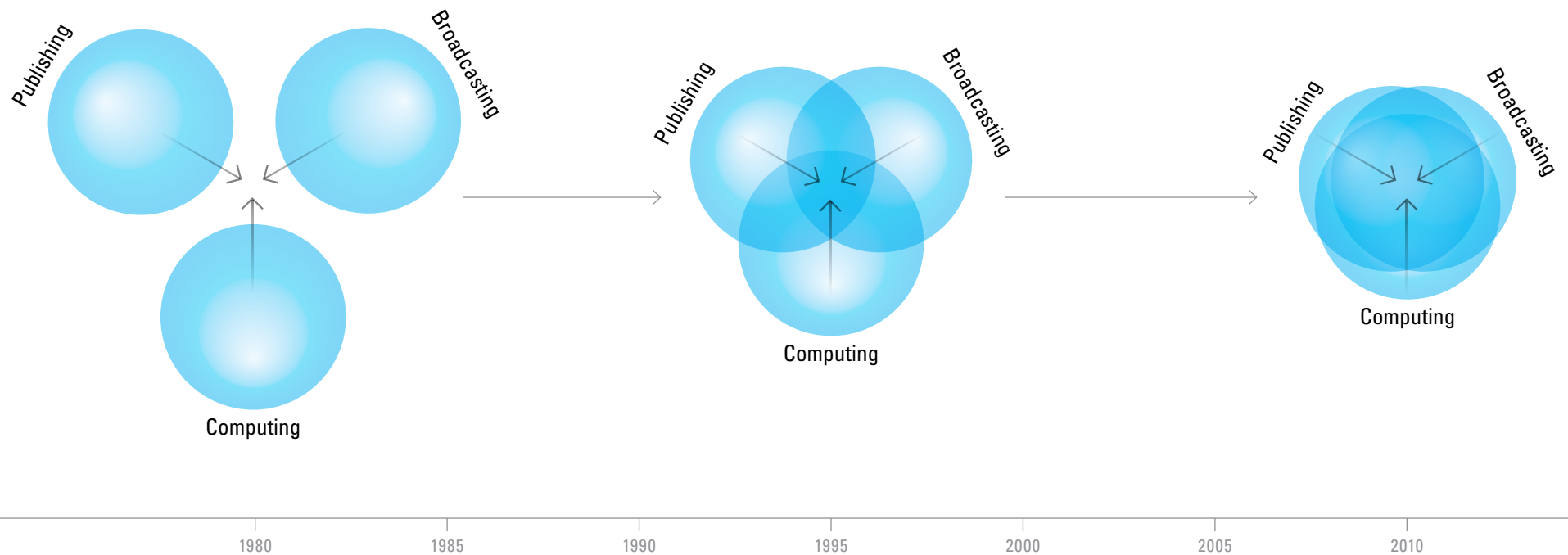
Part 2.3

Technology Trends

A larger trend is at work: Convergence

- **All media becoming digital**
- **Networks becoming services**
- **Healthcare becoming digital & networked**
- **The rise of personal archives**

Convergence 1.0: Publishing + broadcasting + computing

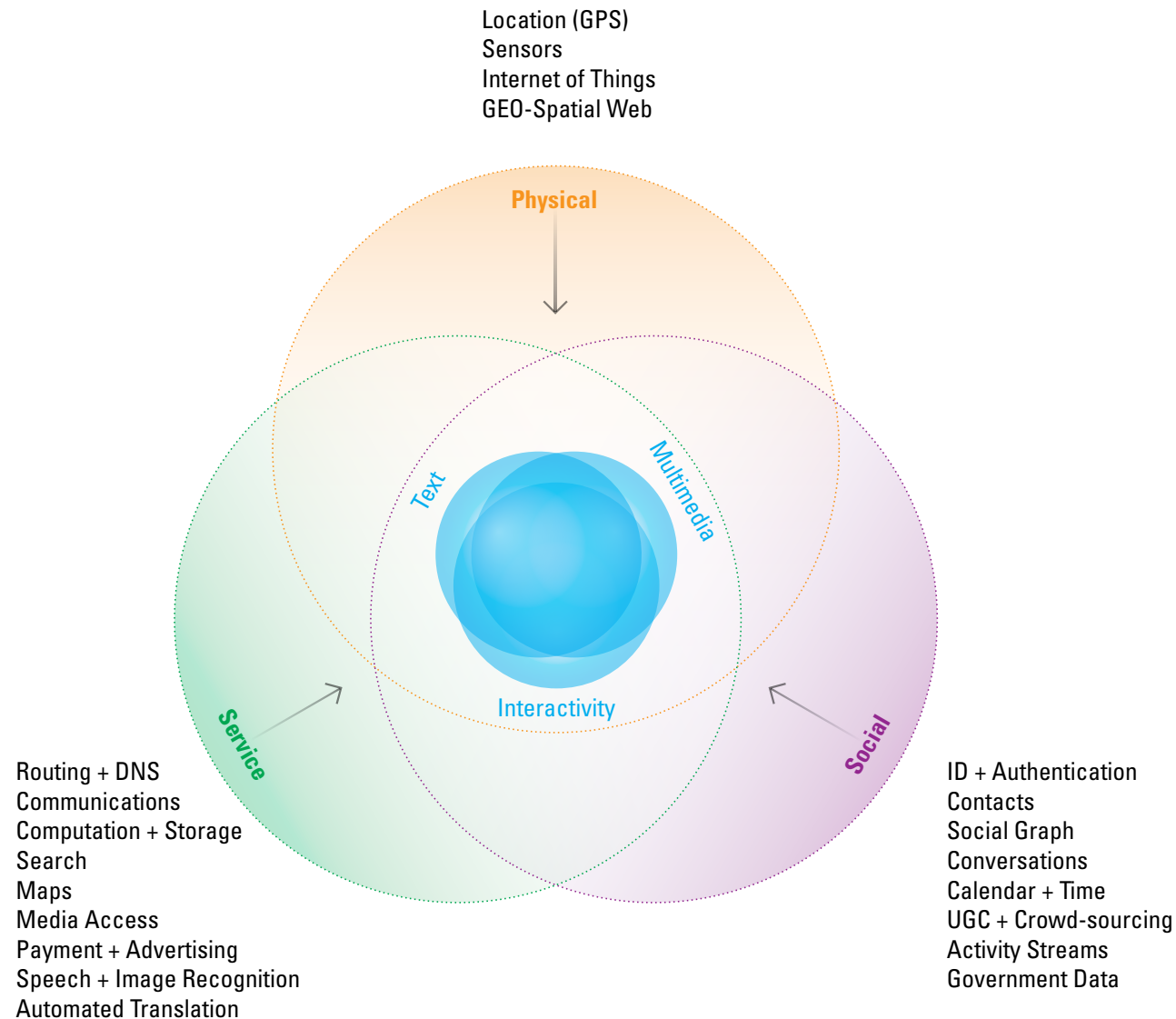


Books, applications, and rich media are distinct entities, but moving toward each other.

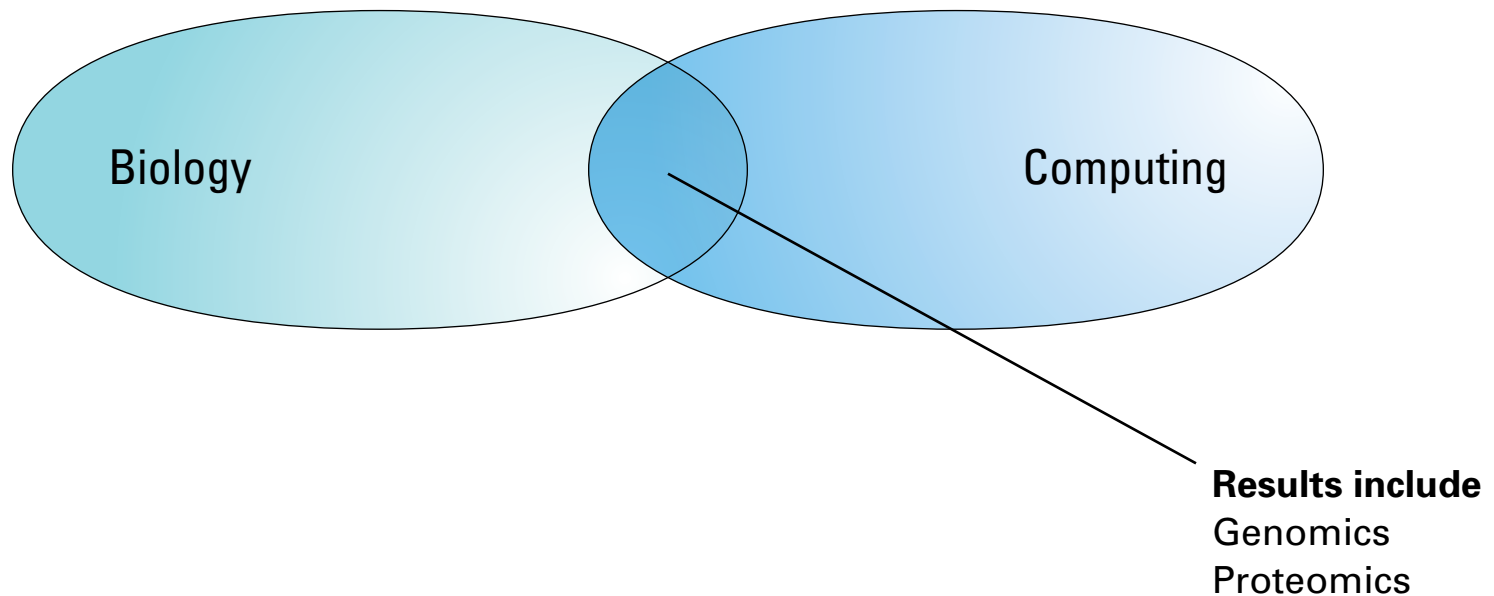
Convergence of books, applications, and rich media.

Books are evolving to become multi-media, interactive, social, and service oriented. These are all aspects of the converging technology of books.

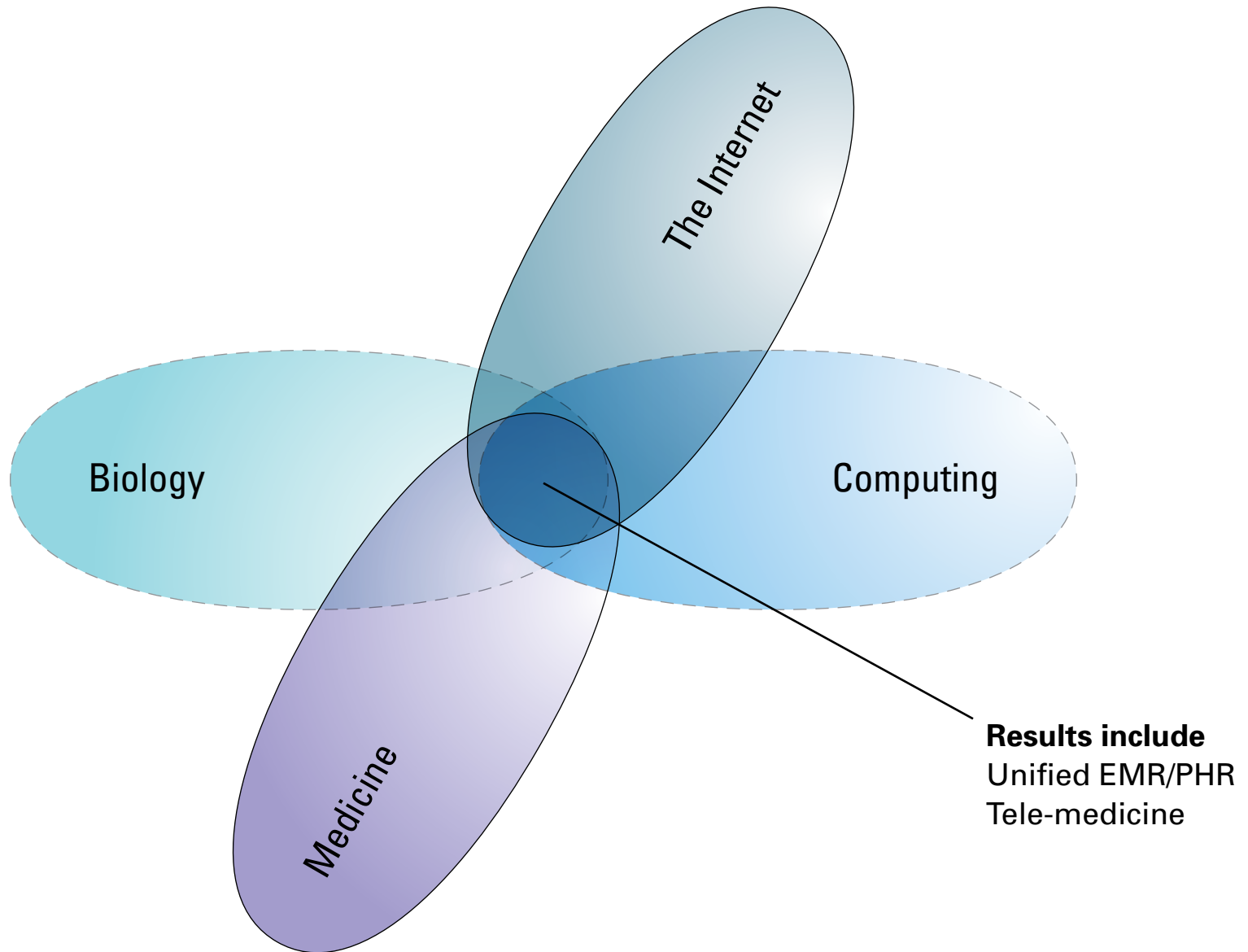
Convergence 2.0: Service + social + physical



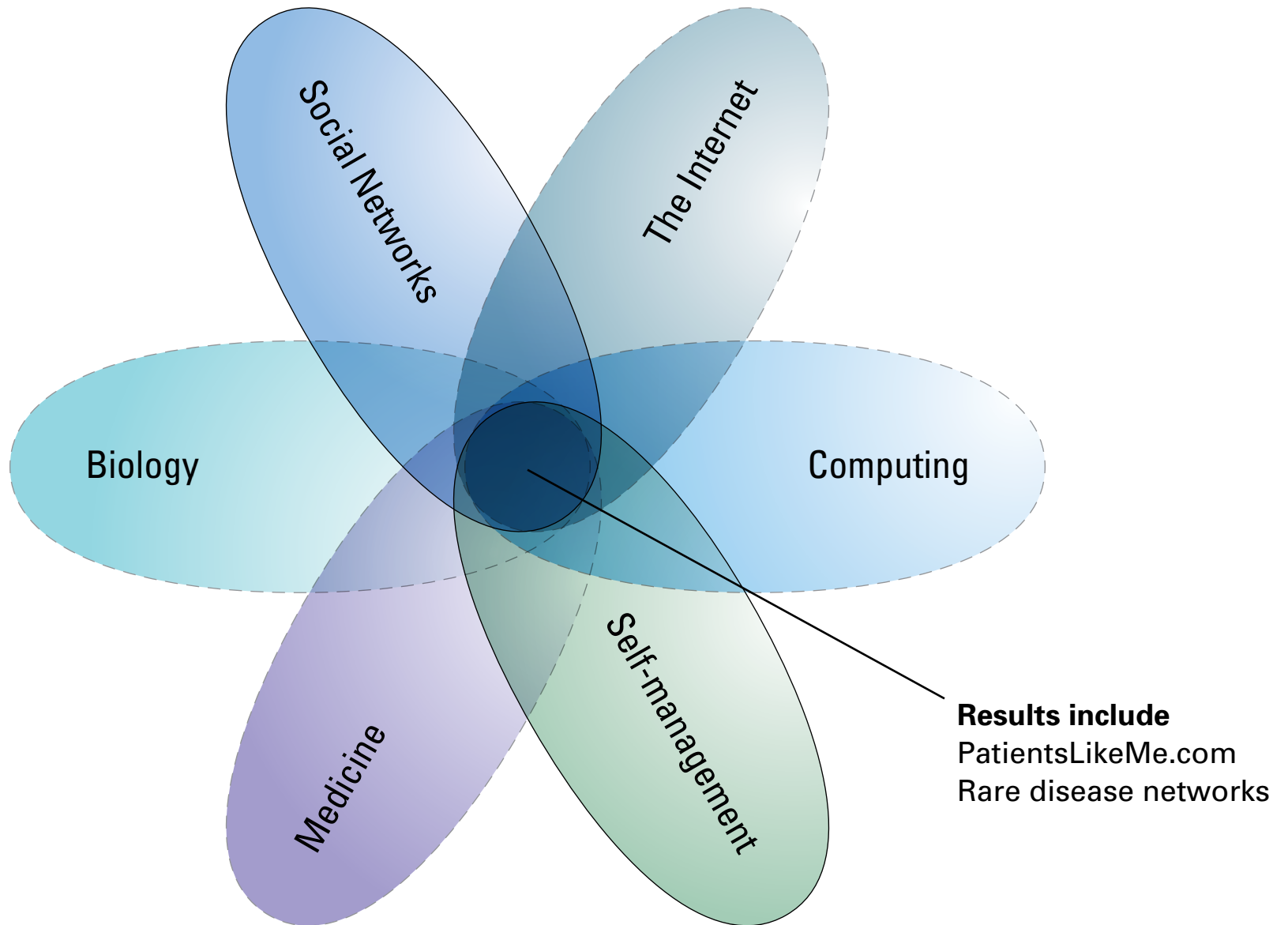
Convergence is even larger. Biology is becoming a computational science.



The internet is beginning to transform the practice of medicine.



Social networks will merge with dashboards to enable self-management.



Convergence will hasten the growth of personal archives—and their integration.

		Health Wellness Physical Data	Finance Assets Transactions	Education Experience Media Consumed	Social Contacts Calendar Communications Travel
Future	<i>Goals</i> – <i>Opportunities</i> – <i>Threats</i>	Amazon Wishlist			
Present	<i>Status</i> – <i>Strengths</i> – <i>Weaknesses</i>	Mint Online Wallets		Facebook Single Sign-on	
Past	<i>Records</i> – <i>Successes</i> – <i>Failures</i>	EMR / PHR		Evernote Amazon Purchase History	

Part 2.4

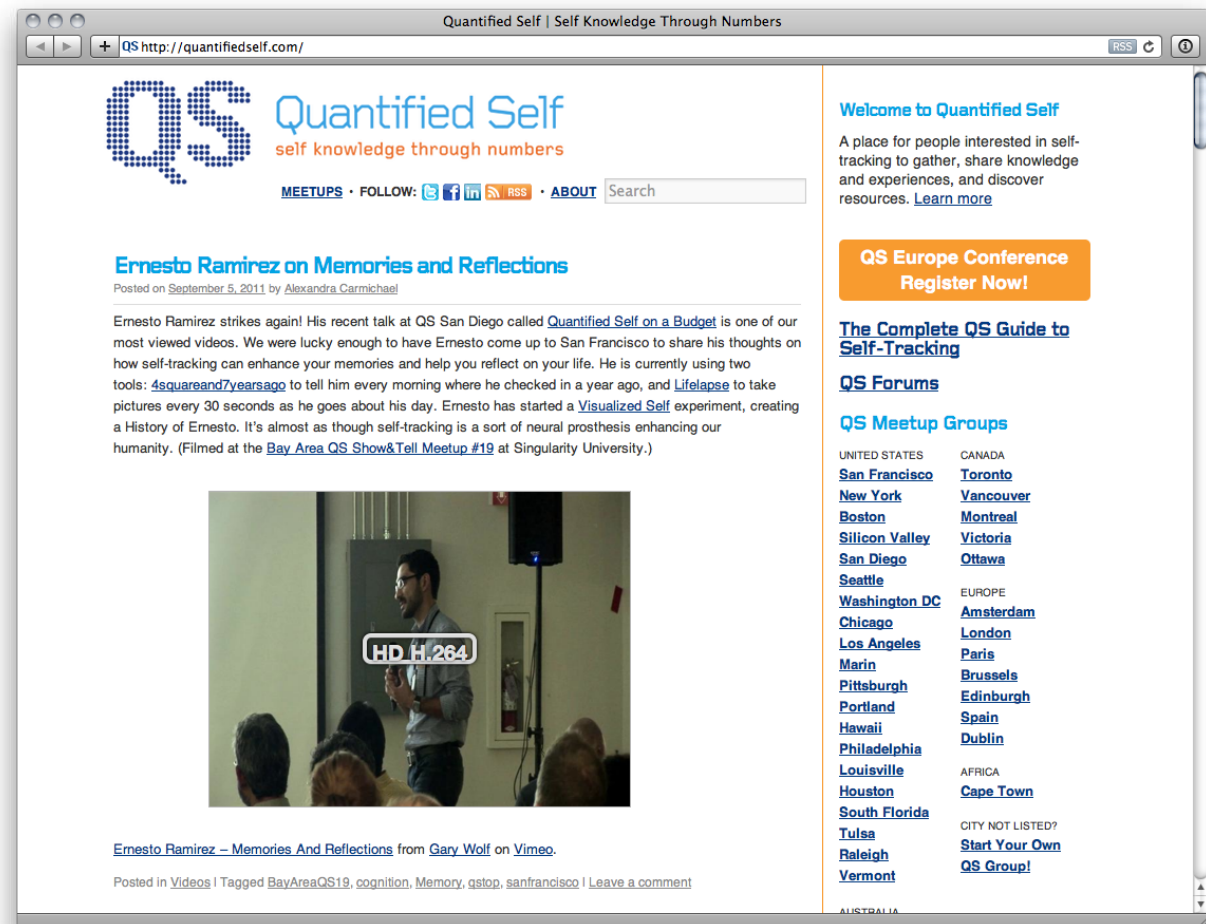
Technology Trends

Self-tracking

'... anyone who makes note of their blood pressure, weight, or menstrual cycle could be categorized as a "self tracker".'
— Carol Torgan

Quantified Self Group (QS)

- Gary Wolf
- Rajiv Mehta
- Steven Dean



27% of adult internet users track health data online.

‘Our survey finds that 15% of internet users have tracked their weight, diet, or exercise routine online.

In addition, 17% of internet users have tracked any other health indicators or symptoms online.

Fully 27% of adult internet users say yes to either question.’

— ‘The Social Life of Health Information’, Pew Research Center

‘Wireless users are more likely than other internet user to track health data online.’

‘Separately, looking at just the 85% of adults who own a cell phone, 9% say they have software applications or “apps” on their phones that help them track of manage their health.’

Apple's App Store offers more than 1885 diet tracking apps for iPhone and another 475 for iPad.



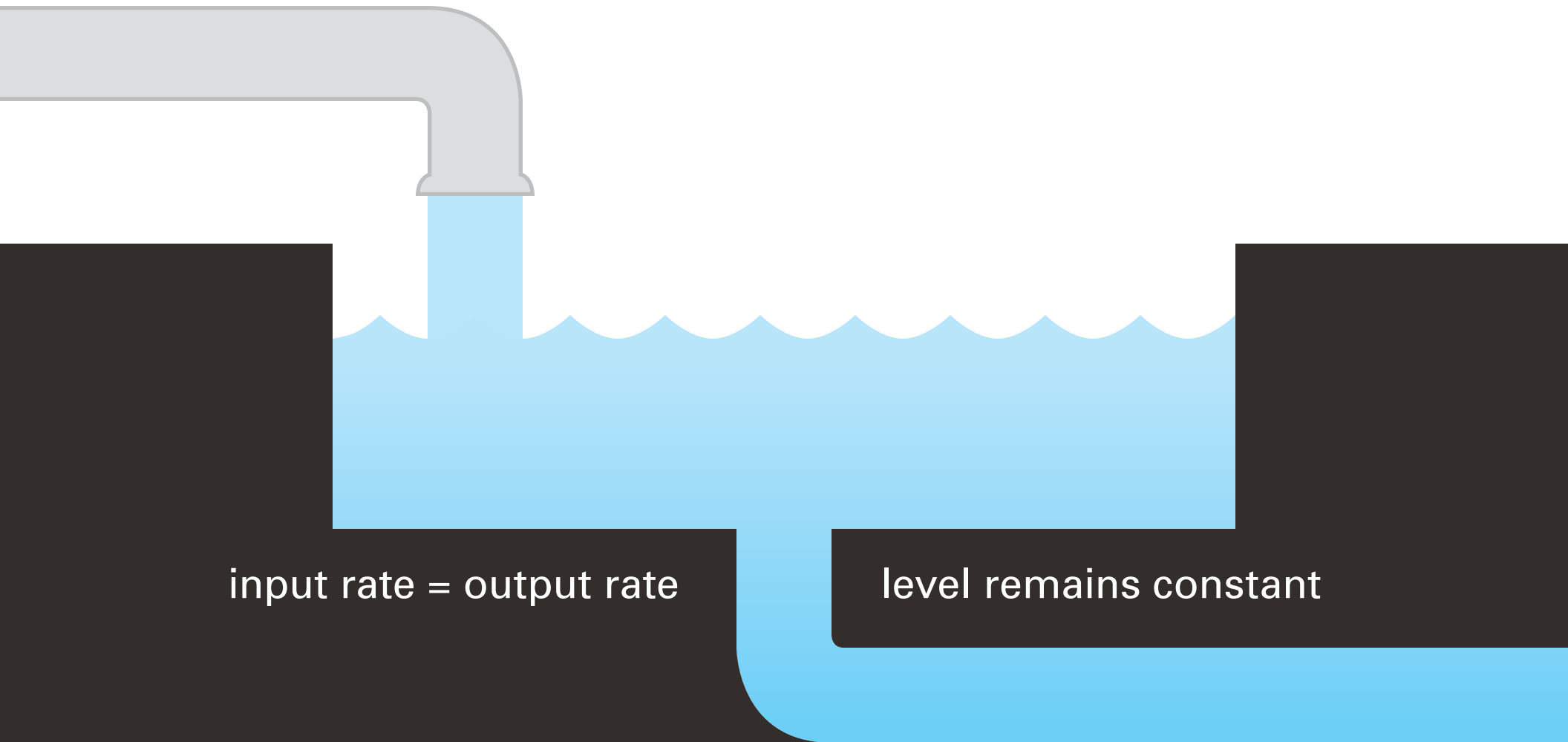
Part 3

Control Theory

- **Dynamic equilibrium**
- **Feedback**
- **Improving improvement**

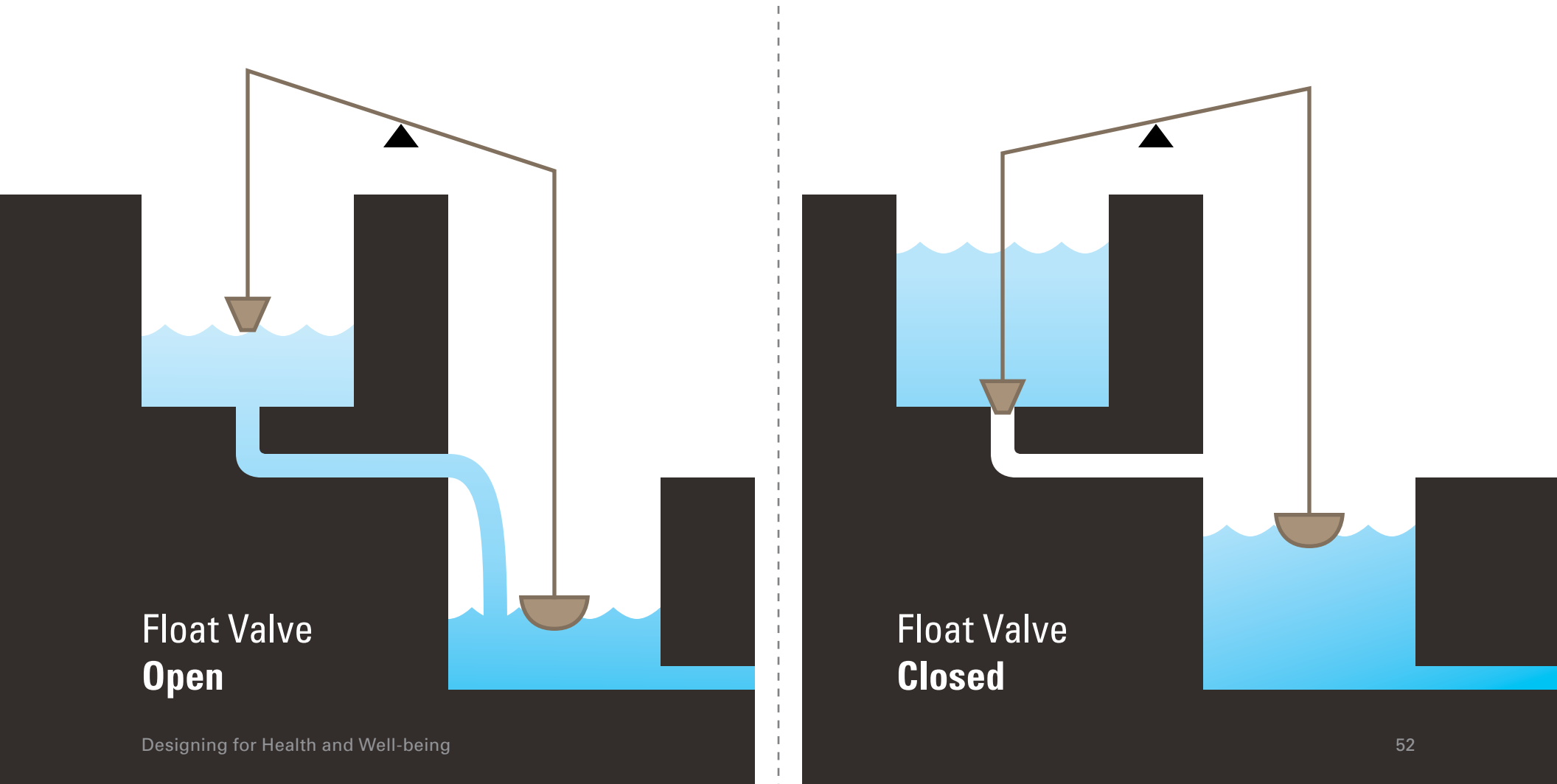
Dynamic equilibrium

In a reservoir, the rate of water flowing in = the rate of water flowing out;
keeping the reservoir within bounds —
not letting it run dry and not letting it overflow.



Dynamic equilibrium is maintained by feedback

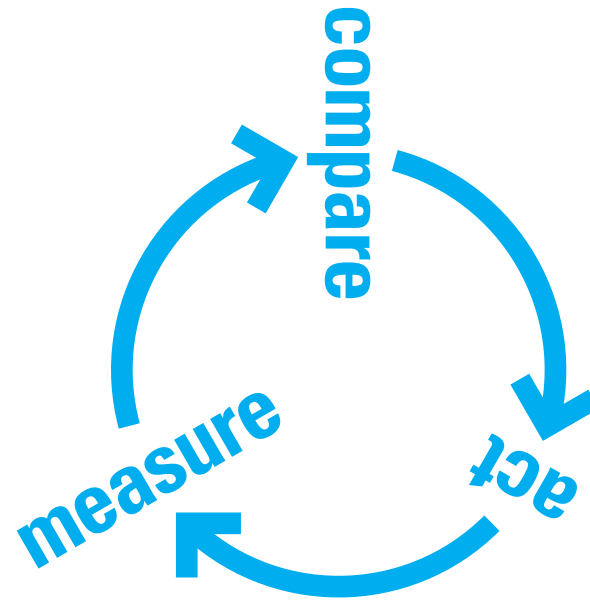
Measuring the effect of an action, comparing it with a goal
(maintaining the level of water in the reservoir)
and acting to correct differences



This feedback loop is a structure common to all control mechanisms: act, measure, compare to goal, act-to-correct differences

self-regulating system

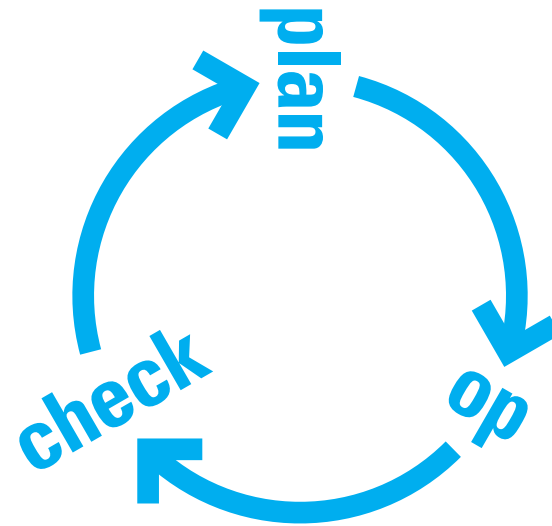
Like a self-regulating system, the creative process is a classic feedback loop. Measure an essential variable; compare it to a goal; and act to eliminate any difference.



This process is similar to the Shewart-Demming PDCA (plan-do-check-act) process.

quality cycle

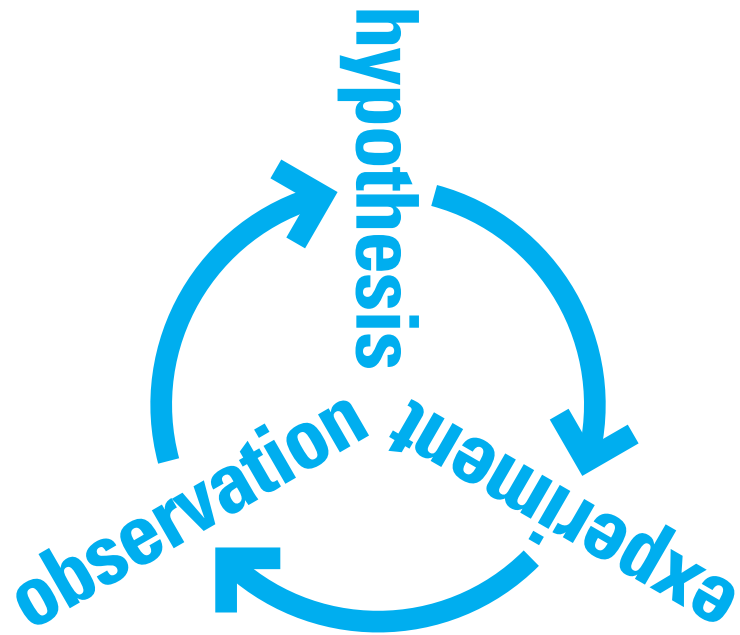
The creative process is startlingly similar to the quality cycle (Shewart, 1939), popularized in business circles by the quality management movement (Deming, 1982).



It's also an analog to the design process and the scientific method.

scientific method

Forming a hypothesis is a special type of creative act.
Framing the creative process as “experimenting” shows
the close tie it has with the domain of science.



Tracking by itself is only useful if you can make correlations.

Tracking measuring + recording, perhaps correlating measurements
Open loop system, no feedback

Tracking + acting = managing

Managing measuring, comparing to goal, + acting to correct differences
Closed loop system, feedback enables dynamic equilibrium (homeostasis)
—first order

Tracking measuring + recording, perhaps correlating measurements
Open loop system, no feedback

Managing may lead to learning

- Learning** anticipating disturbances + affects of actions
Studying the system, developing a model of the feedback loop
—second order
- Managing** measuring, comparing to goal, + acting to correct differences
Closed loop system, feedback enables dynamic equilibrium (homeostasis)
—first order
- Tracking** measuring + recording, perhaps correlating measurements
Open loop system, no feedback

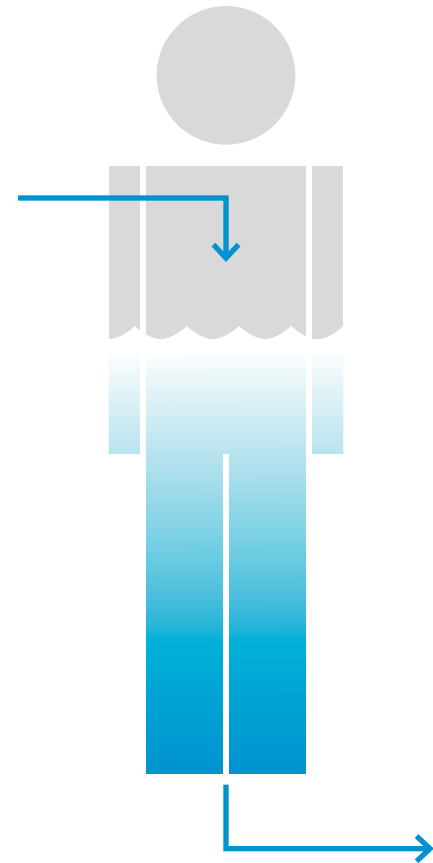
Learning may lead to experimenting

- Innovating** recognizing patterns, proposing causes, + testing hypotheses
Studying the environment, experimenting to see how the system connects to other systems
- Learning** anticipating disturbances + affects of actions
Studying the system, developing a model of the feedback loop
—second order
- Managing** measuring, comparing to goal, + acting to correct differences
Closed loop system, feedback enables dynamic equilibrium (homeostasis)
—first order
- Tracking** measuring + recording, perhaps correlating measurements
Open loop system, no feedback

Part 4

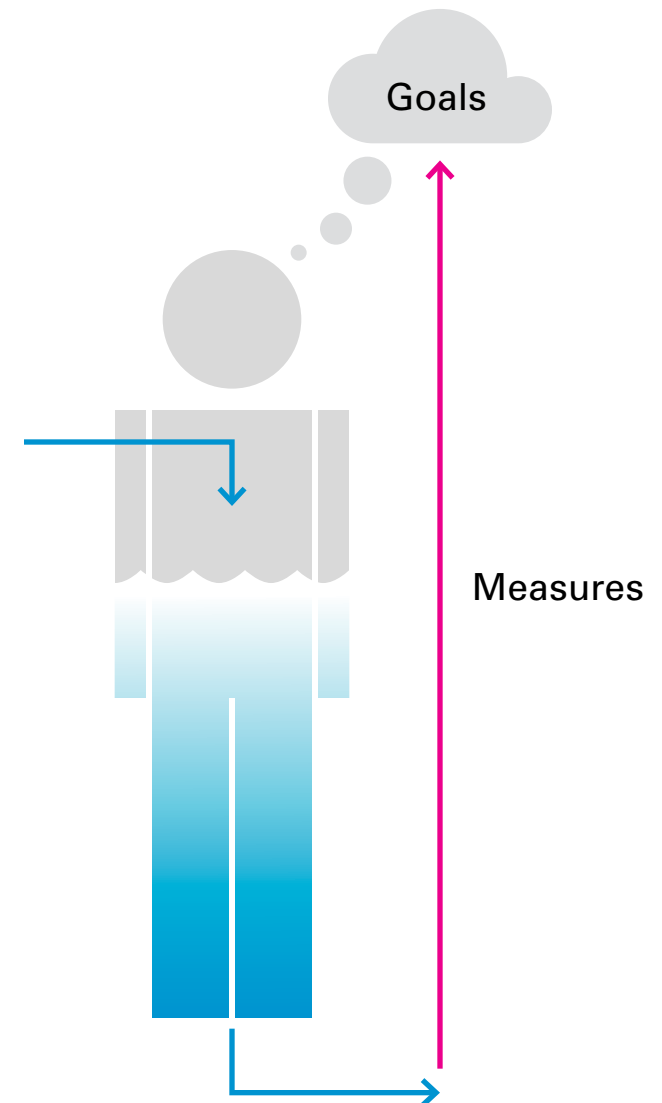
Building Tools

Living systems must maintain dynamic equilibrium (homeostasis) to survive

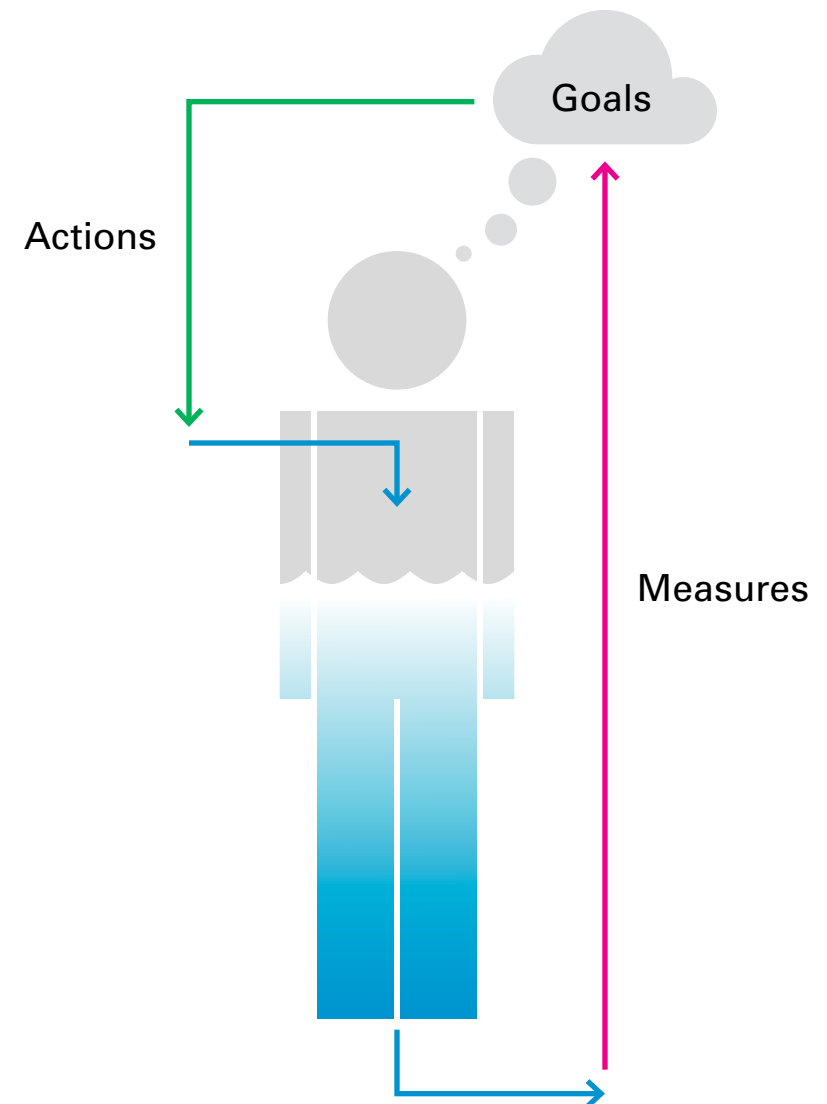


A patient's vital signs measure important elements of homeostasis

Variable	Goal range
Body temperature	97.25°F – 99.5°F
Heart rate	60 – 80 bpm
Blood pressure	< 120 / < 80 mm Hg
Respiratory rate	10 – 14 bpm



Maintaining homeostasis requires 'closing the loop' on many variables simultaneously



Common lab tests measure other elements of homeostasis and may indicate therapies

Variable	Goal range	Therapy
Weight	150 – 170 lbs	Diet, exercise
BG (fasting)	70 – 99 mg/dL	Diet, insulin
INR	0.8 – 1.2	Diet, warfarin
Cholesterol	< 200 mg/dL	Diet, statins

A quick survey turned up more than 150 analytes that can be measured in lab tests today.

Pulse regularity	Body mass index	Bleeding time	Albumin
Respiratory rate	Epinephrine	Viscosity	Globulin
Bone density	Cortisol	D-dimer	Total Bilirubin
Cross-linked N-telopeptides	17 hydroxyprogesterone	Creatine kinase	Direct/conjugated bilirubin
Vitamin D	Angiotensin-converting enzyme	CPK-MB	Lipase
Uric acid	Growth hormone	Brain natriuretic peptide	Plaque regulation
Blood vessel dilation	Follicle-stimulating hormone	NT-proBNP	Amylase
Muscle mass	Luteinizing hormone	Myoglobin	H.pylori
Sodium	Adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH)	Troponin-I	Lumen obstruction
Potassium	Prolactin	Troponin-T	Gastrin
Calcium	Pulse	Lung volume	Fecal occult blood
Magnesium	Pressure	Oxygen absorption	Serum creatinine
Chloride	Blood Glucose	Hypopneas	Urine specific gravity
Hydrogen phosphate	Insulin absorption	Neutrophil granulocytes	Osmolality
Hydrogen carbonate	Plasma osmolality	Neutrophilic band forms	Uribilinogen
Total serum iron	Total cholesterol	Lymphocytes	RBC casts
Total iron-binding capacity	High density lipoprotein (HDL)	Monocytes	Ketone bodies
Transferrin	Low density lipoprotein (LDL)	Mononuclear leukocytes	Nitrite
Transferrin saturation	Triglycerides	CD4+ cells	NMP22 protein
Ferritin	pH	Eosinophil granulocytes	Sperm
Ammonia	H+	Basophil granulocytes	Testosterone
Copper	Base excess	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate	Dihydrotestosterone
Zinc	Oxygen pressure	C-reactive protein	Estradiol
Magnesium	Oxygen saturation	Alpha 1-antitrypsin	Progesterone
Selenium	Carbon dioxide	Immunoglobulin A	Prostate specific antigen
Ceruloplasmin	Standard bicarbonate	Immunoglobulin D	Human chorionic gonadotropin
Blood vessel supply	Hemoglobin	Immunoglobulin E	Alpha-fetoprotein
Dopaminergic neuron quantity	Hemoglobin in plasma	Immunoglobulin G	Human chorionic gonadotropin
Glucose	Glycosylated hemoglobin	Immunoglobulin M	CA19-9
Protein	Haptoglobin	Anti-SS-A (Ro)	CA-125
Red blood cells	Hematocrit	Anti-SS-B (La)	Carcinoembryonic antigen
White blood cells	Mean cell volume	Anti ds-DNA	Homocysteine
Blood pressure	Red blood cell distribution width	Anti-histone antibodies	Herpes simplex 1&2
Refractive error	Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration	Cytoplasmic/classical anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies	Hepatitis A
Pressure	Erythrocytes/Red blood cells	Perinuclear anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies	Hepatitis B
Clarity	Reticulocytes	Anti-mitochondrial Antibodies	Hepatitis C
Hearing sensitivity	Thrombocyte / platelet count	Rheumatoid factor	Cytomegalovirus
Thyroid stimulating hormone	Prothrombin time	Antistreptolysin O titre	HIV
Free thyroxine	Coagulate production		Influenza
Free triiodothyronine			Measles
Total thyroxine			Human papillomavirus

We are organizing these markers into a taxonomy

We are building a database that describes how the individual variables within the larger system are related to and affect one another

Cardiovascular	Pituitary gland	Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE)
		Cortisol (hydrocortisone)
		Prolactin
		Follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH)
		Luteinizing hormone (LH)
	Blood	Adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH)
		Blood pressure
		Blood glucose
		Insulin absorption
		Plasma osmolality
	Blood: lipids	Total cholesterol (TC)
		HDL
		LDL
		Triglycerides
		TC/HDL ratio
	Blood: acid, base & blood gases	pH
		H+
		Base excess
		Carbon dioxide
		Oxygen pressure
	Blood: hematology (red blood cells)	Oxygen saturation
		Standard bicarbonate (SBC _e)
		Hemoglobin (Hb)

... a database of reference ranges for key markers ...

System	Component	Variable	Range	Measurement method	Potential disorder
Cardiovascular	Blood: lipids	Total cholesterol * in mg/dL	Desirable: < 200 Borderline high: 200–239 High: > 240	Blood	Hyper/hypo-cholesterolemia, coronary heart disease, heart failure
		High density lipoprotein (HDL) * in mg/dL	Poor: < 40 (men) < 50 (women) Better: 50–59 Best: > 60	Blood	Atherosclerosis
		Low density lipoprotein (LDL) * in mg/dL	Ideal: < 100 Near ideal: 100–129 Borderline high: 130–159 High: 160–189 Very high: > 190	Blood	Atherosclerosis
		Triglycerides	Normal, low risk: < 150 mg/dL Borderline high: 150–199 mg/dL High: 200–499 mg/dL Very high: > 500 mg/dL	Blood	Arteriosclerosis, heart disease
	Blood: acid, base & blood gases	pH	Arterial, normal: 7.34–7.44	Blood	Metabolic acidosis, respiratory acidosis

is composed of

may have many

are measured in

via

Body
systems

Markers

Disorders

... which link markers to disorders ...

Component	Variable	Range	Measurement method	Potential disorder	Therapies	# Affected
Blood: lipids	Total cholesterol * in mg/dL	Desirable: < 200 Borderline high: 200–239 High: > 240	Blood	Hyper/hypo-cholesterolemia, coronary heart disease, heart failure	Diet, medications, alternative medicine, surgery (heart disease)	Hypercholesterolemia: 110 million Coronary heart disease: 17.6 million Heart failure: 5.8 million
	High density lipoprotein (HDL) * in mg/dL	Poor: < 40 (men) < 50 (women) Better: 50–59 Best: > 60	Blood	Atherosclerosis	Diet, exercise, weight loss, smoking cessation, fibrates, niacin	4.6 million
	Low density lipoprotein (LDL) * in mg/dL	Ideal: < 100 Near ideal: 100–129 Borderline high: 130–159 High: 160–189 Very high: > 190	Blood	Atherosclerosis	Statins, ezetimibe, niacin, clofibrate, tocotrienols, diet	4.6 million
	Triglycerides	Normal, low risk: < 150 mg/dL Borderline high: 150–199 mg/dL High: 200–499 mg/dL Very high: > 500 mg/dL	Blood	Arteriosclerosis, heart disease	Diet, exercise, supplements (fish oil, flax seed oil), Carnitine	-
Blood: acid, base & blood gases	pH	Arterial, normal: 7.34–7.44	Blood	Metabolic acidosis, respiratory acidosis	-	-

can lead to

Markers

Disorders

... and disorders to therapies and effects

Measurement method	Potential disorder	Therapies	# Affected	Cost of treatment	Alere tests for this with
od	Hyper/hypo-cholesterolemia, coronary heart disease, heart failure is associated with	Diet, medications, alternative medicine, surgery (heart disease)	Hypercholesterolemia: 110 million Coronary heart disease: 17.6 million Heart failure: 5.8 million	\$100 –	Cholesterol LDX
od	Atherosclerosis	Diet, exercise, weight loss, smoking cessation, fibrates, niacin	4.6 million (USA)	\$259 billion (USA)	Cholesterol LDX
od	Atherosclerosis	Statins, ezetimibe, niacin, clofibrate, tocotrienols, diet	4.6 million (USA)	\$259 billion (USA)	Cholesterol LDX
od	Arther...s, heart disease	Diet, exercise, supplements (fish oil, flax seed oil), Carnitine	-	-	Cho
od	Metabolic acidosis, respiratory acidosis	-	-	-	Epocal

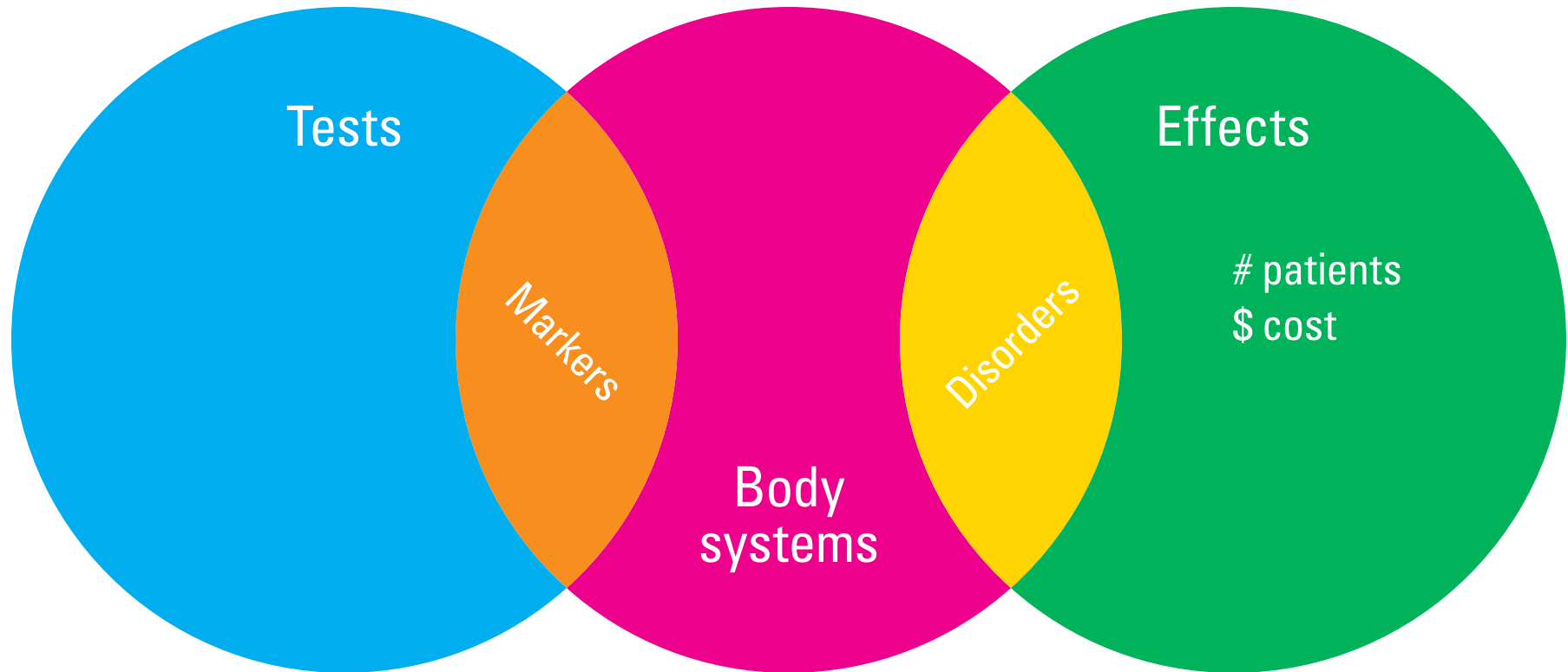
Disorders

Effects

Tests

The database provides a whole-systems view of well-being

This approach points to a unified future for health management



For example:

Cholesterol LDX

Total cholesterol
* in mg/dL

Desirable: < 200
Borderline high: 200–239
High: > 240

Cardiovascular

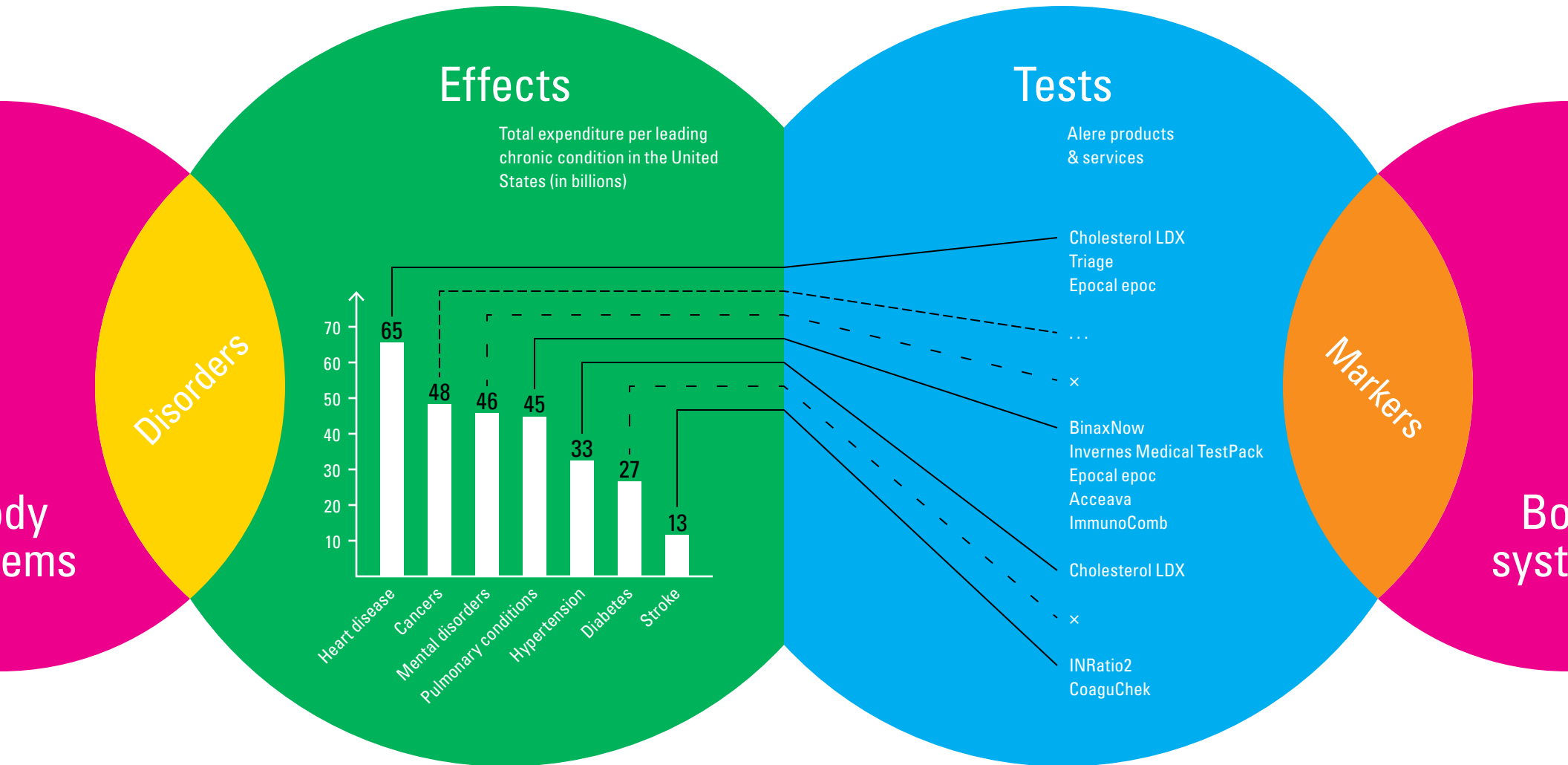
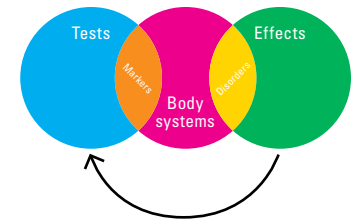
Blood: lipids

Hyper/hypo-cholesterolemia, coronary heart disease, heart failure

Hypercholesterolemia:
110 million
Coronary heart disease:
17.6 million
Heart failure:
5.8 million

This new database can help identify potential opportunities

It can 'close the loop' between effects and tests

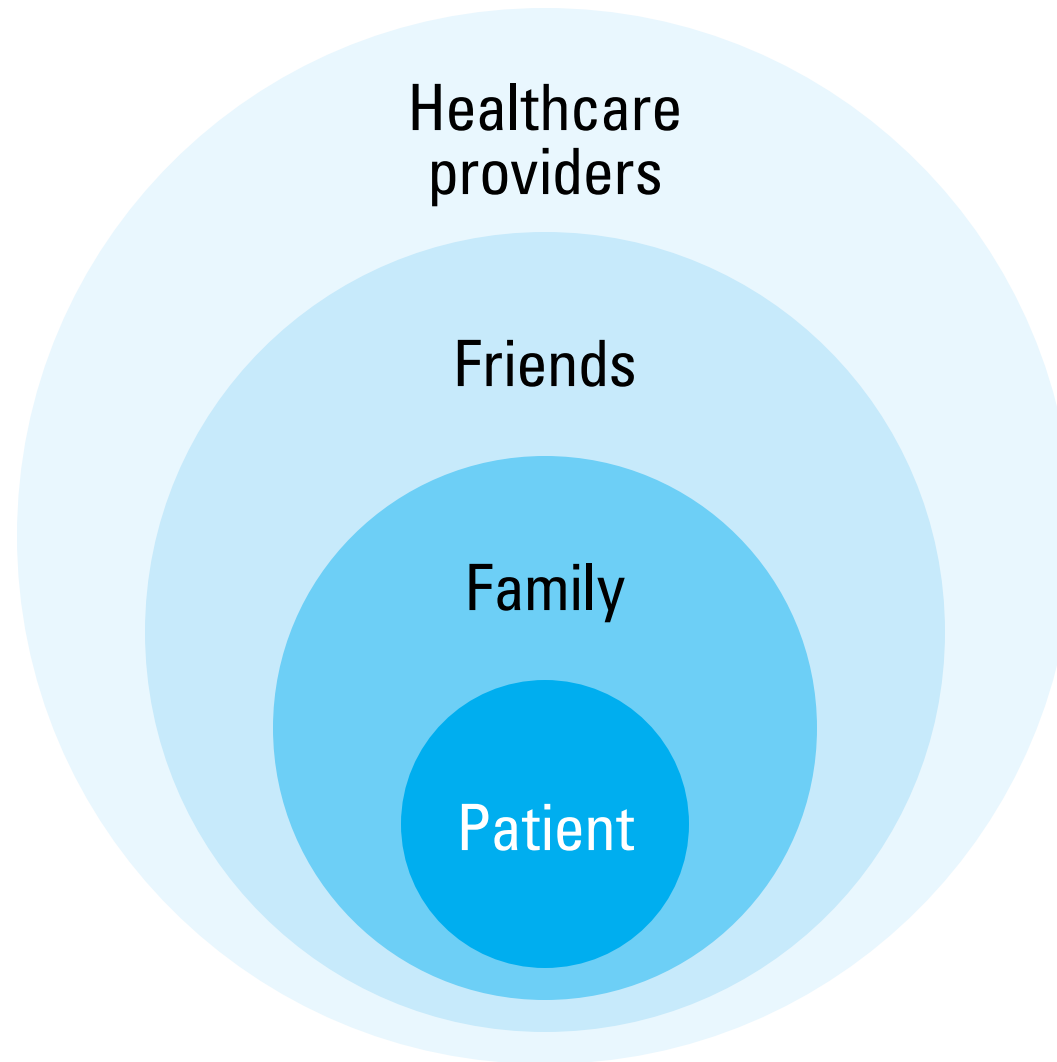


Health is more than measuring chemicals

A whole-systems view should encompass more than chemical markers and consider how our actions, emotions, perceptions, and histories affect our overall health

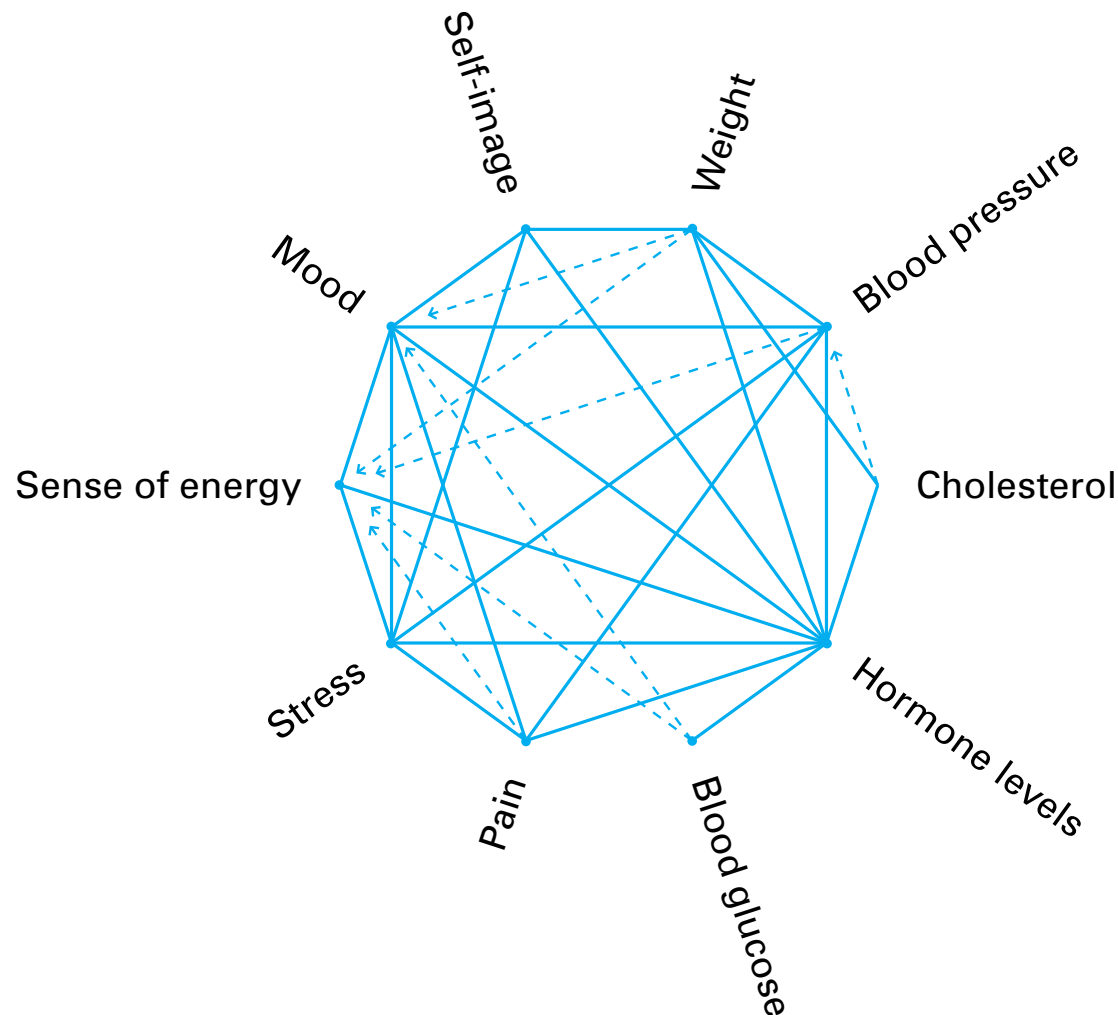


A whole-systems view should show how an individual's network contributes to their health

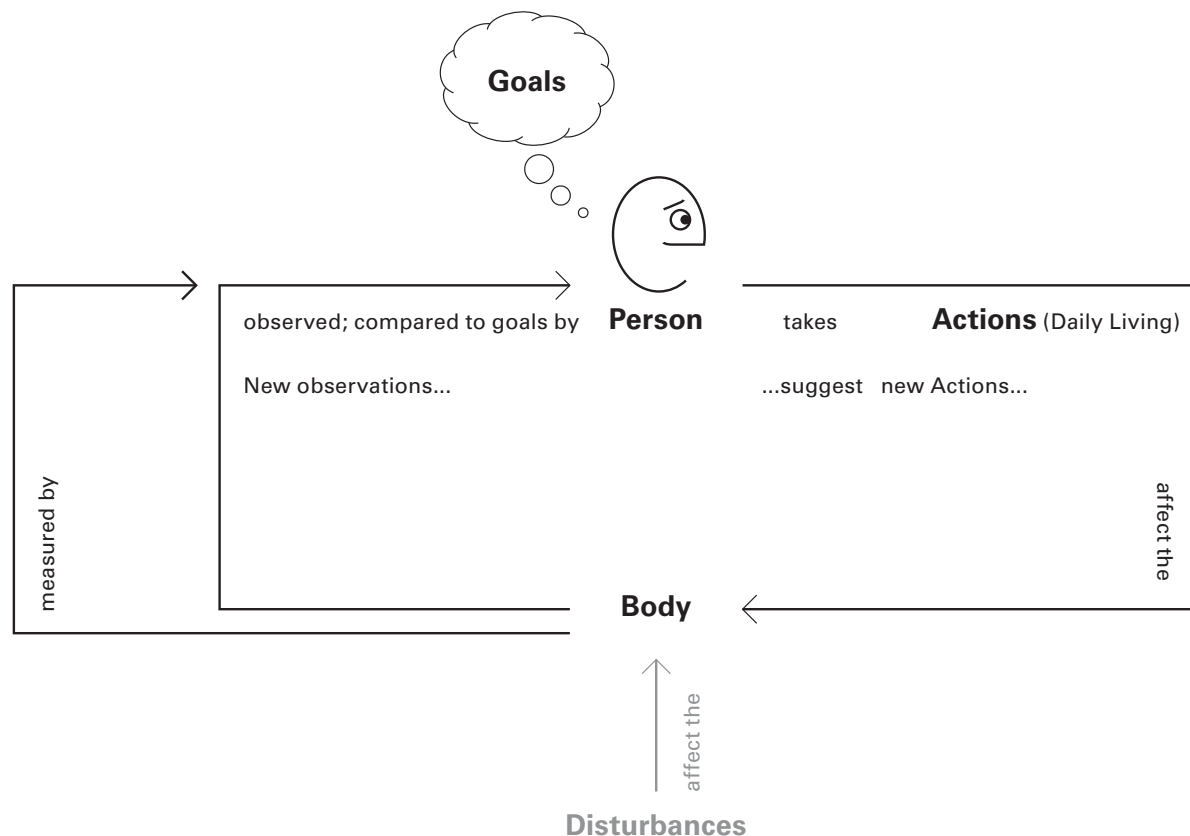


A very large number of factors contribute to wellbeing; many of them are richly interconnected.

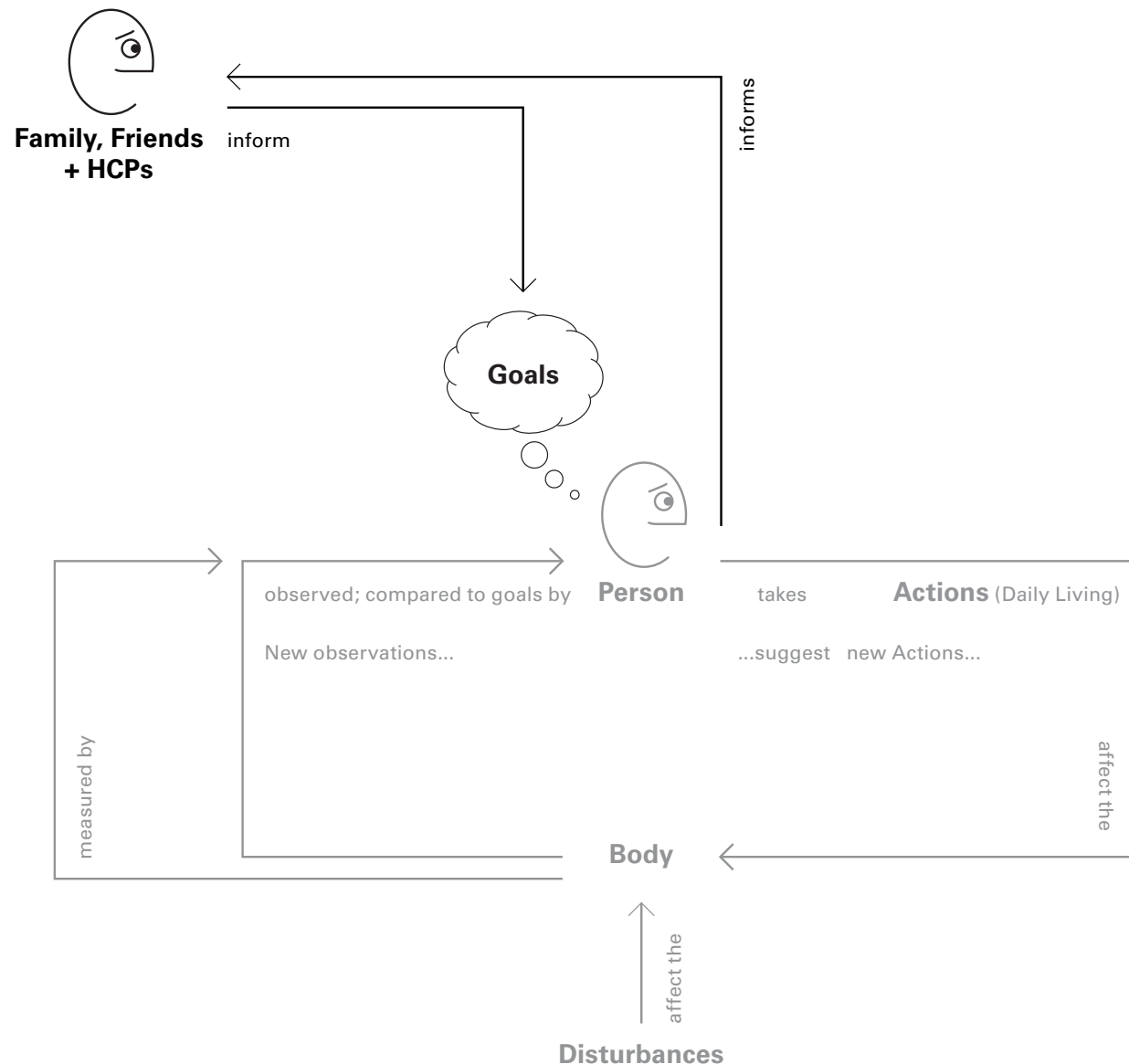
Modelling these relationships is complicated but presents a truly massive opportunity for new understanding



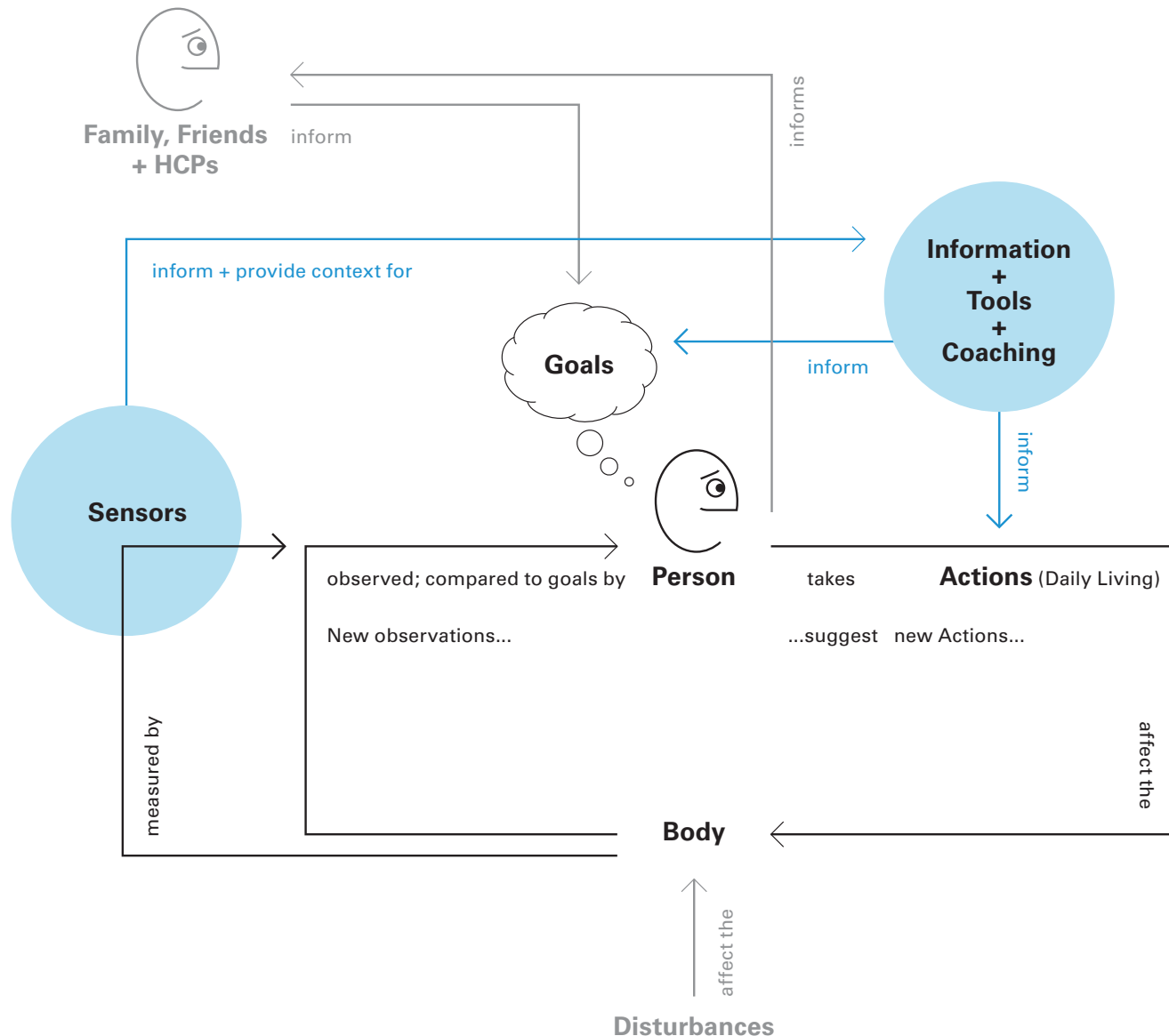
The feedback loop provides a conceptual model— imagine 'Quantified Self (or diet tracking) for all of homeostasis'



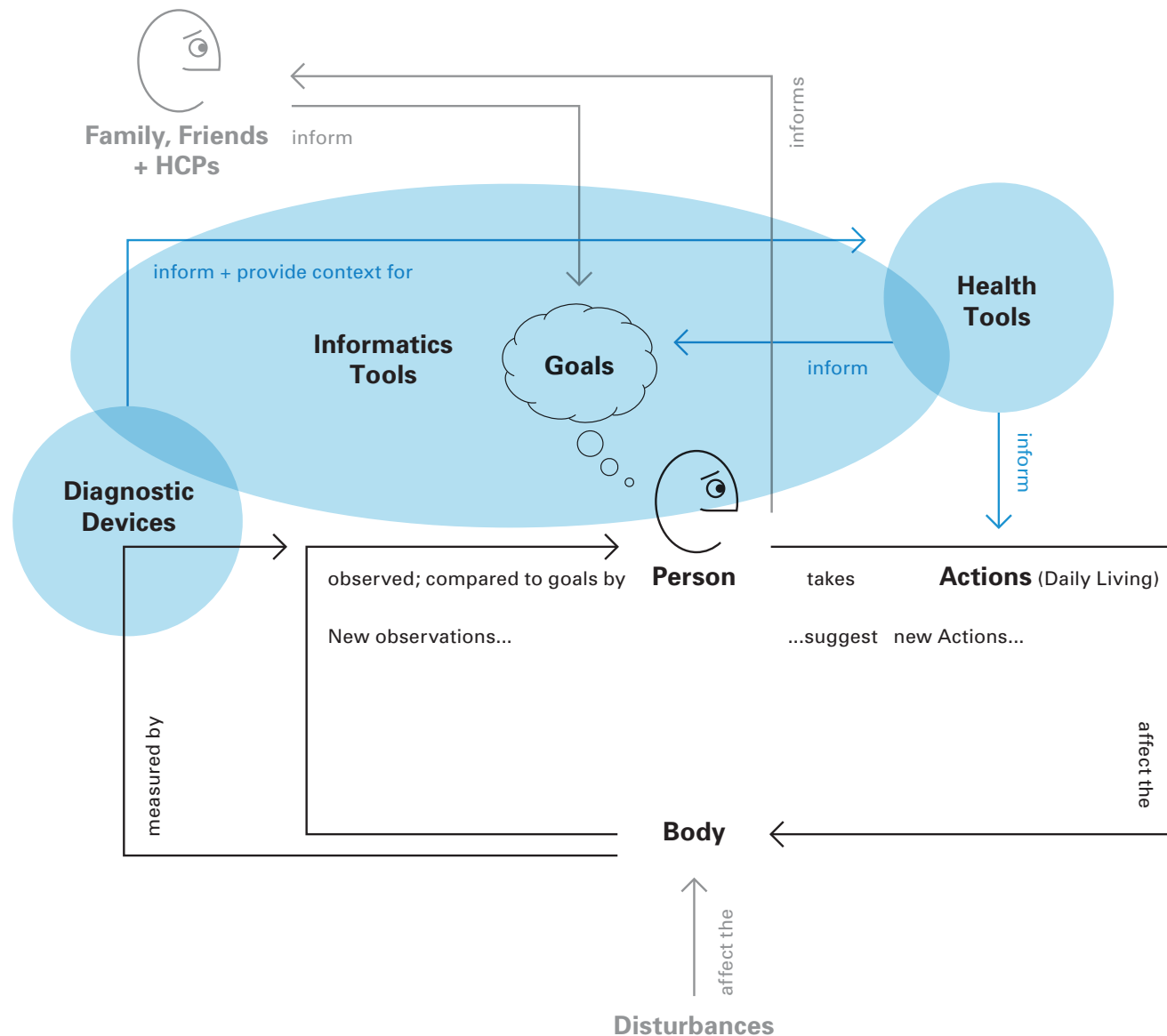
Individuals also need to connect to a wider circle, while controlling who sees what— imagine 'Facebook for health'



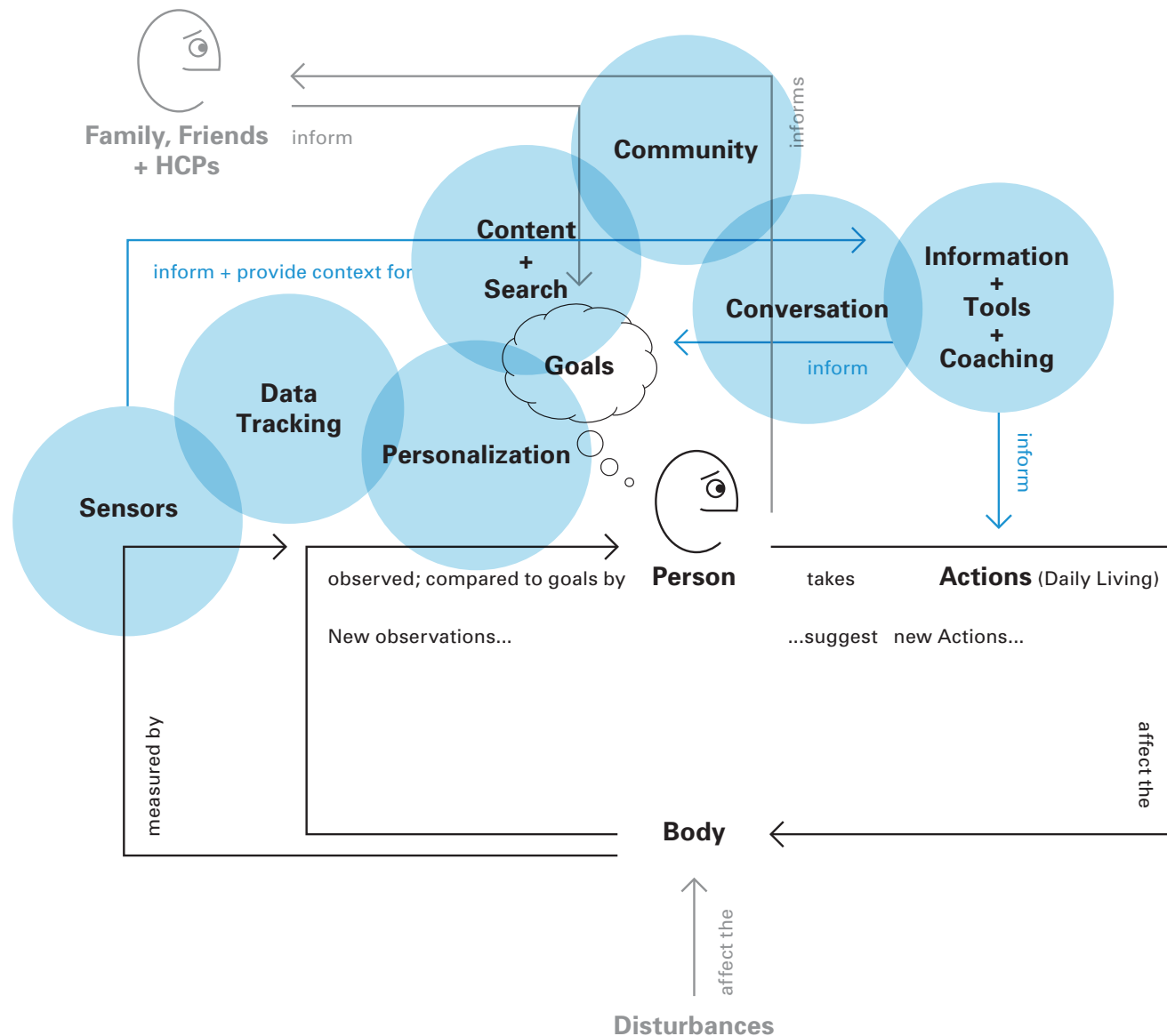
Connecting sensors with coaching offers a new blend of self-management or chronic care— imagine 'University of Phoenix for wellbeing'



Informatics tools can link devices, services, and people.

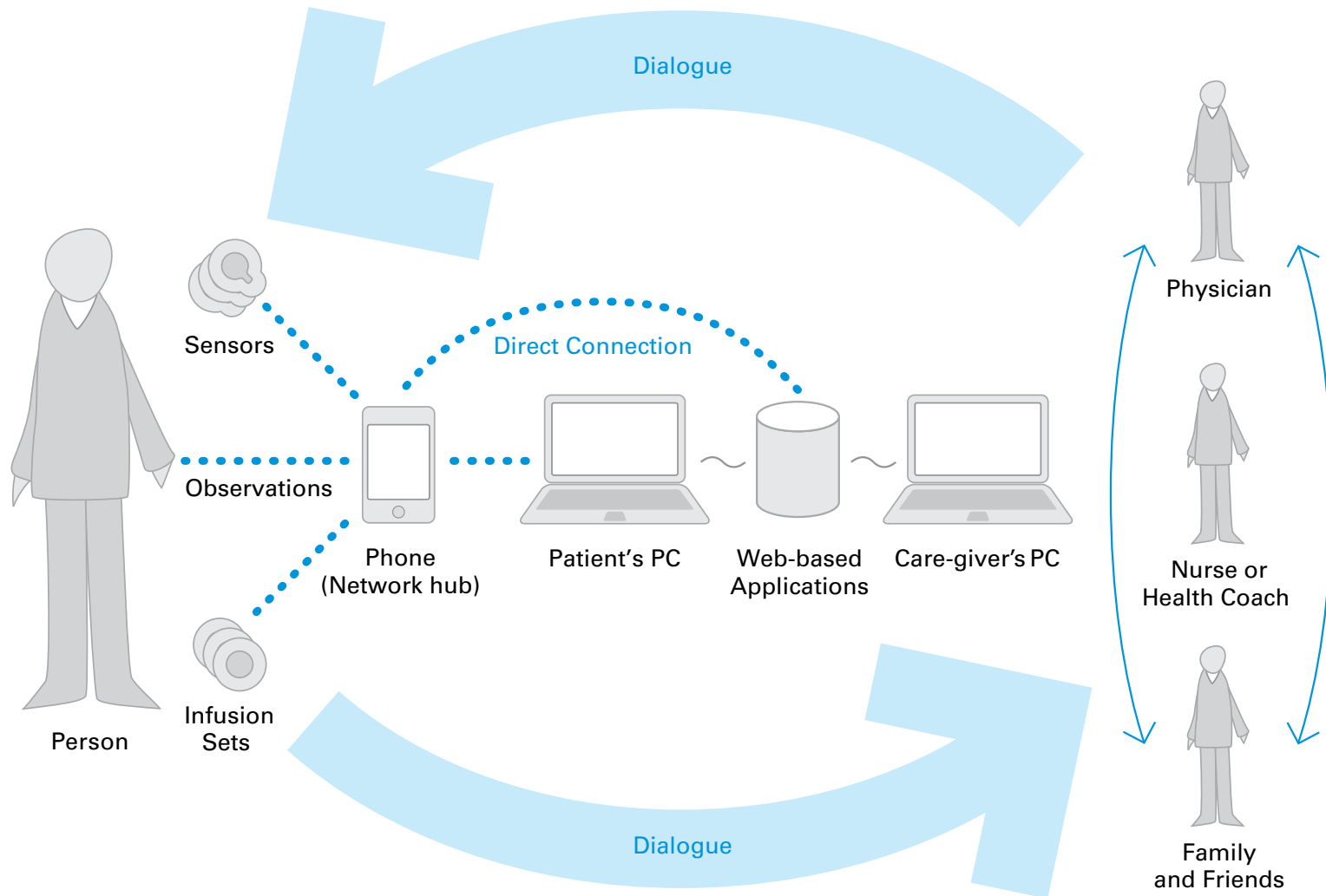


Informatics tools include five major areas.



Imagine 'QS + Facebook + University of Phoenix'

Individuals take a more active role in managing their own health (designing and running their own experiments)—while also engaging in more dialogue with others.



New tools can build a ladder to health + wellbeing.

Health + Wellbeing

↑ enable

Better Choices

↑ yield

Motivation + Validation

↑ yield

Conversations + Learning

↑ support

Data + Stories

↑ generate

Actions + Events

Part 5

A discussion

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