

*Waking a Sleeping Giant:
Hospital's Response to an
Aging Population*

Presented by:

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An Elder Friendly Hospital

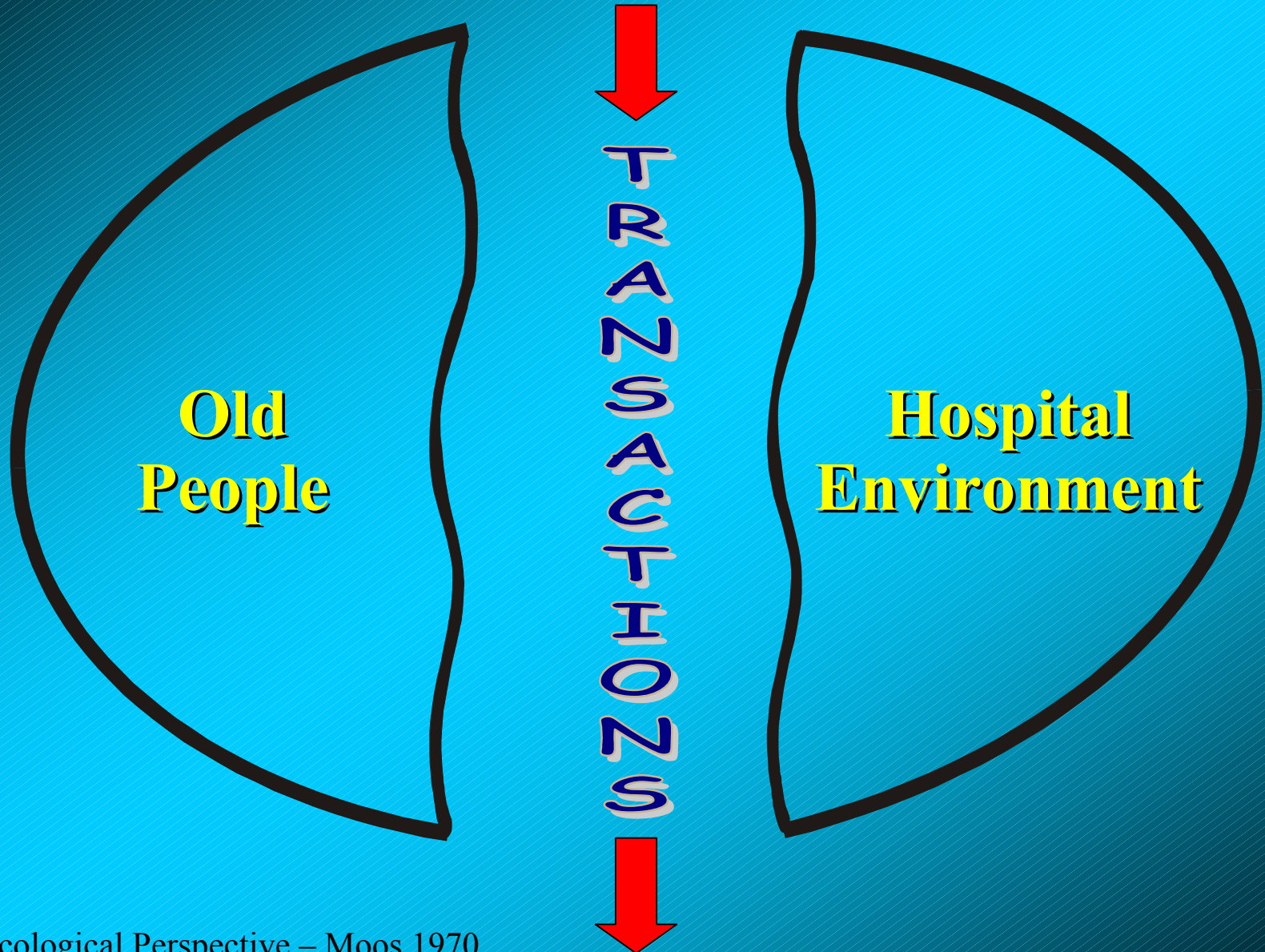
Presentation Outline

- A conceptual tool to critically analyze hospital settings.
- How to create a paradigm shift – customized strategies.

Why is it important?

- The complex health profile of older adults
- National trends
- Demographics and utilization trends

Encounters



Encounters

**Old
People**

**Hospital
Environment**

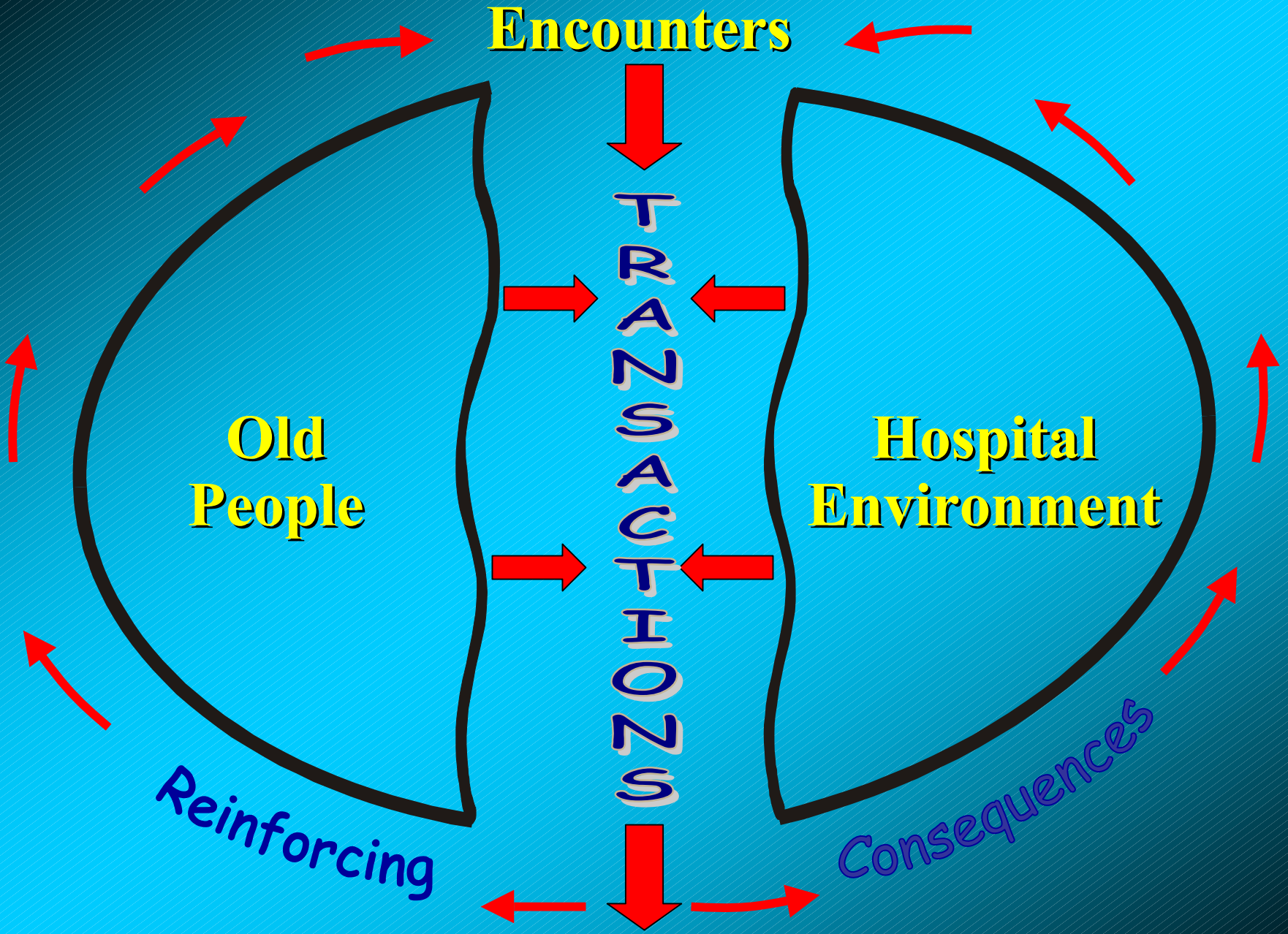
Reinforcing

Consequences

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The Risk of Hospitalization

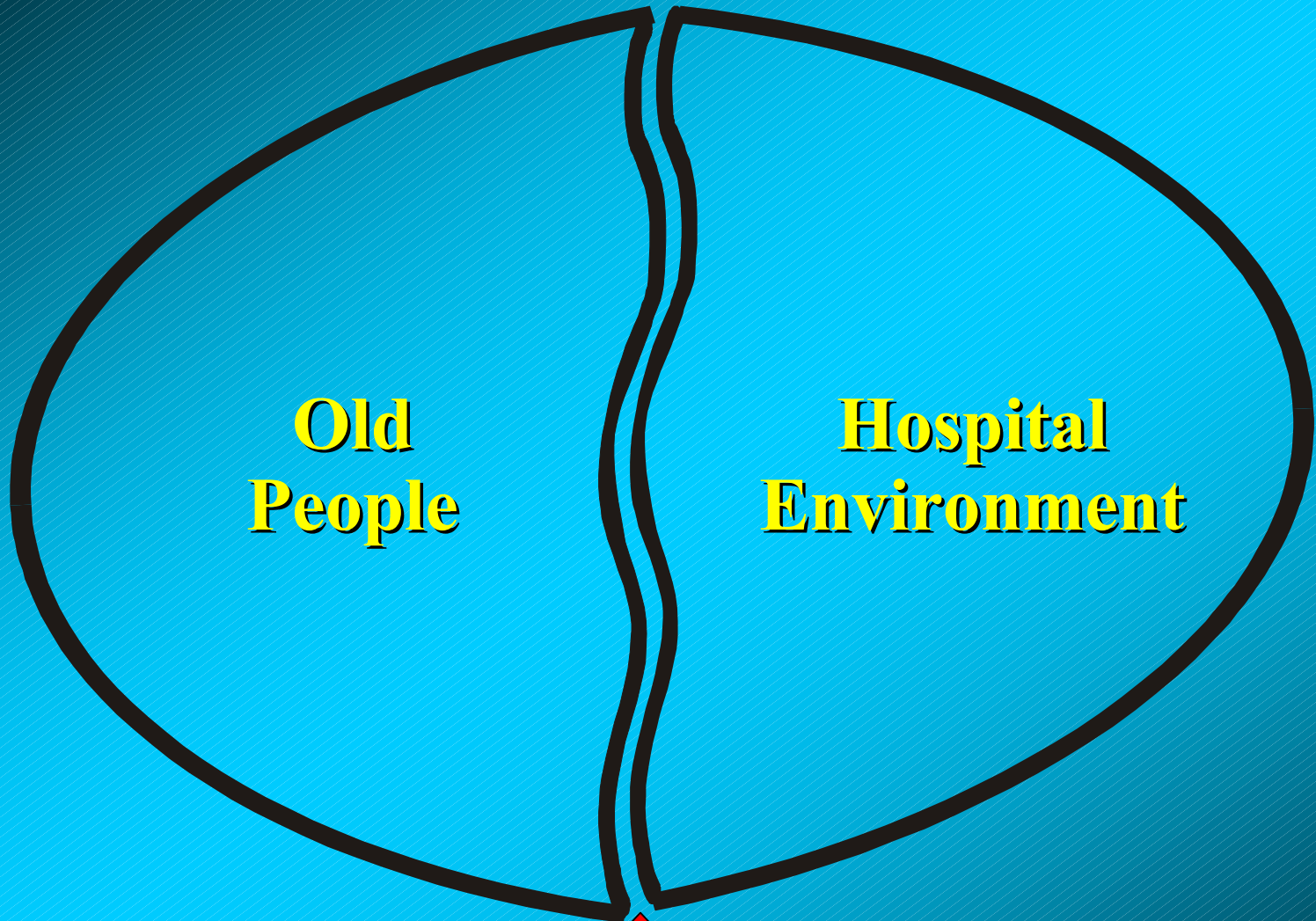
Baseline vulnerability combined with precipitating risk factors found in the hospital environment contribute to adverse outcomes in independent, substantive and cumulative ways.

(Inouye & Charpentier, 1996)

Health Care Variables Relevant to People and Environment

Older Person Factor	Health Care System Environment Factors
<p><i>Chronic Health Needs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More prominent over acute needs • Psycho-social interventions have greater importance 	<p><i>Acute Illness Paradigm</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical disease focus type intervention • Crisis model dominant with technological emphasis • Psycho-social interventions have diminished importance.
<p><i>Vulnerability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age related physiological changes • Changing social circumstances 	<p><i>Organizational Climate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variability of treatment settings • Expert intervention model • Bureaucratic system and processes to aid the professional
<p><i>Attitudes, Values, Beliefs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socialization influences 	<p><i>Relationships</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional dominance • Disempowering (power, control, choice and partnership issues)

“Fix the Fit”



**Old
People**

**Hospital
Environment**



Strategies

Principles of Hospital Care for Older Adults

- Family involvement at all stages of care
- Consistent, ongoing interdisciplinary assessment
- A combined gerontological developmental and diagnostic approach
- Recognition for life long patterns and developmental needs
- Early identification of risk factors and problems to:
 - prevent the preventable
 - reverse the reversible
 - support and palliate
- Respect for the older adult's ability to make choices about the services
- An environment that supports abilities, recognizes the need for expertise and knowledgeable staff, assists the older adult and family with transitions needed to leave hospital.



Customized Strategies: A Social Ecological Perspective

- High Risk Screening
- Elder Alerts
- Unit-Based Interdisciplinary Working Groups
- Education Programs
- Community Partnership and Linkages
- Ways of Listening
- Non-Patient Care Services

Suggestions for Implementation

- Change from within
- Establish Administrative and Medical Sponsorship
- Search for creative people
- Establish Networks of Activity

Evaluation – Measures of Success

- Blend qualitative and quantitative approaches
- Choose indicators relevant to older adults
- Find ways to demonstrate the integrated impact of a multi-pronged approach



Encounters

Old People

- vulnerability
- social circumstances
- chronic health needs

Hospital Environment

- physical
- social
- cultural