
Integrated Experiential Learning:

Connecting Academic Training with Practical Skills
to Serve Societal Needs

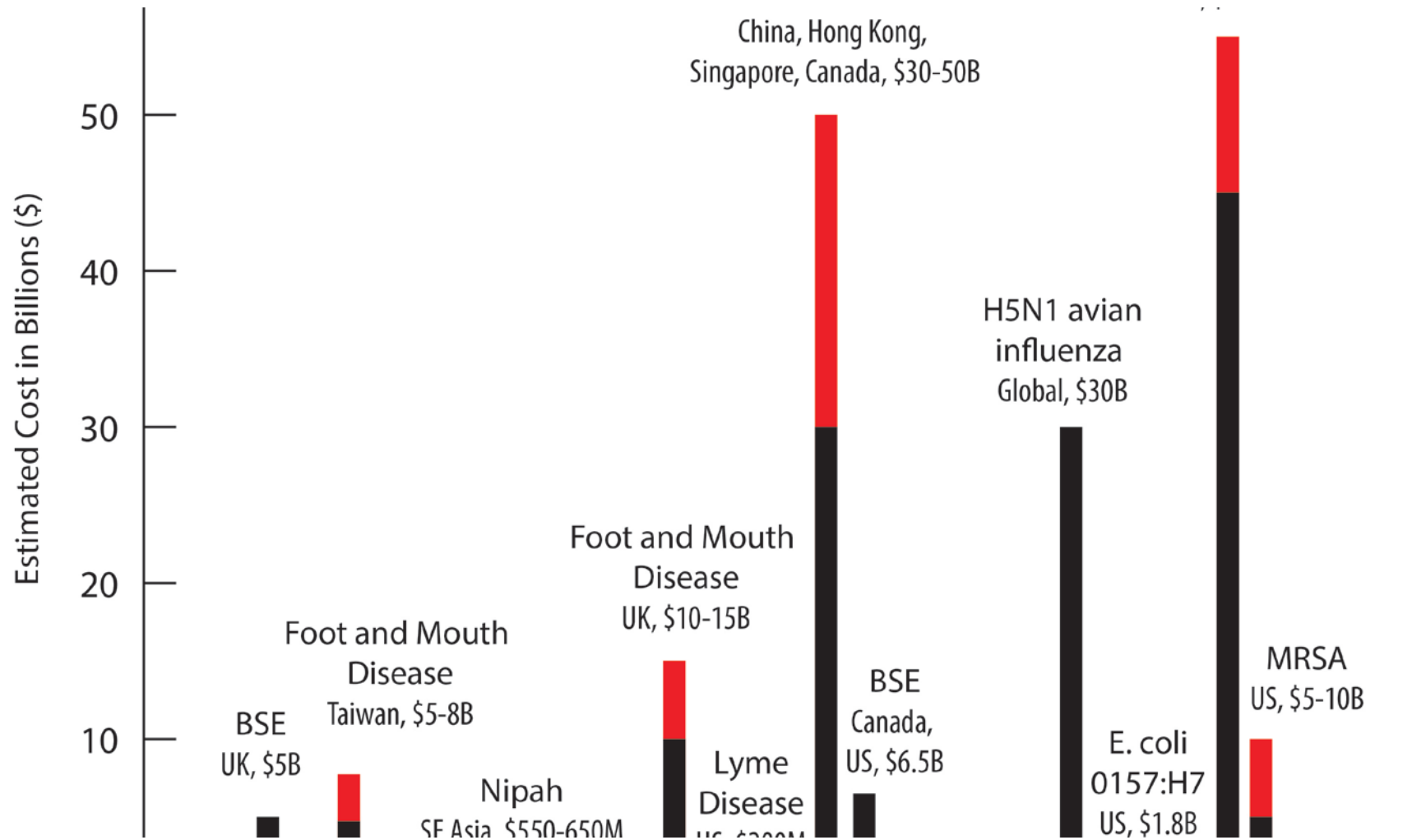
Baljit Singh

3M National Teaching Fellow

Professor and Associate Dean (Research)

Western College of Veterinary Medicine

Cost of Infectious Pathogens



Canada's response to combat infectious pathogens?

- Billions of dollars in infrastructure across Canada
- Billions in recruitment of academic researchers



- Creation of disciplinary silos in the universities

Lack of interdisciplinary focus in training

Lack of connections with industry and public sector

Need “Collaboratories” and “a new social contract”

(Samarasekara, 2009)



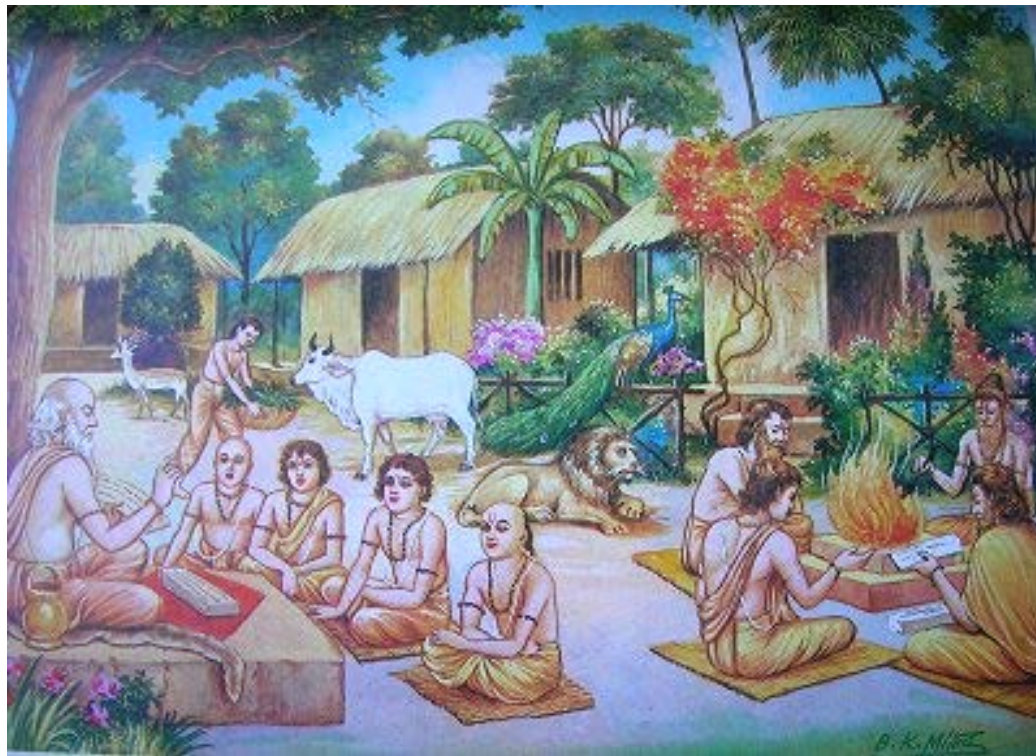
Challenges to changing the academic culture

- Curricular structure
- Time and resources
- Challenge of outcomes assessment
- Professional support for integrative modules
- Departmental boundaries, duty assignments and recognitions
- Teaching collaboration is complex



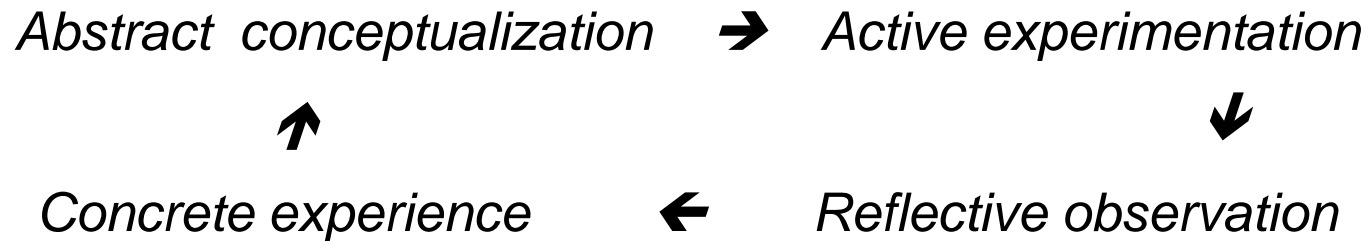
Go Back to *Experiential Learning* in Ancient Times

- Concept of *Gurukul* (Teacher's family)



Experiential Learning: Kolb and others

Experiential Learning Cycle / Cycle of Karma

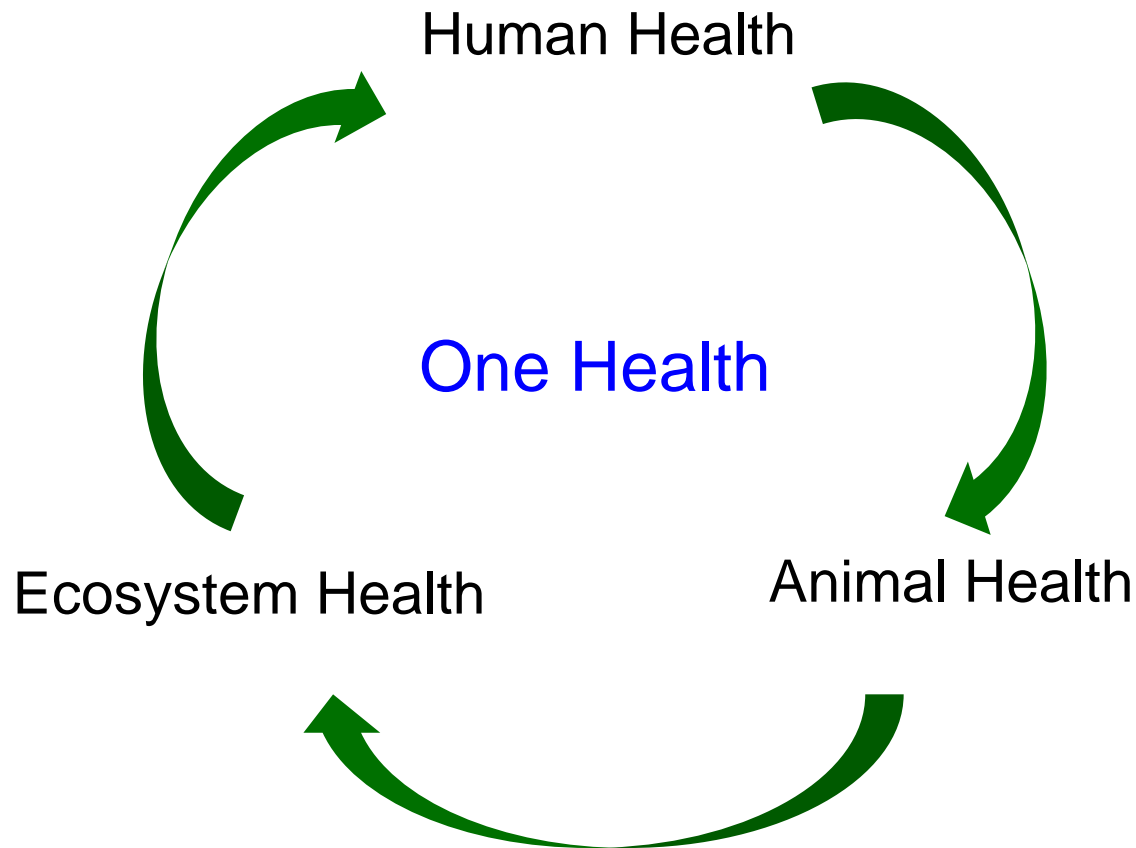


- Potentially transformative learning
- Many forms (many more can be envisioned). Examples:

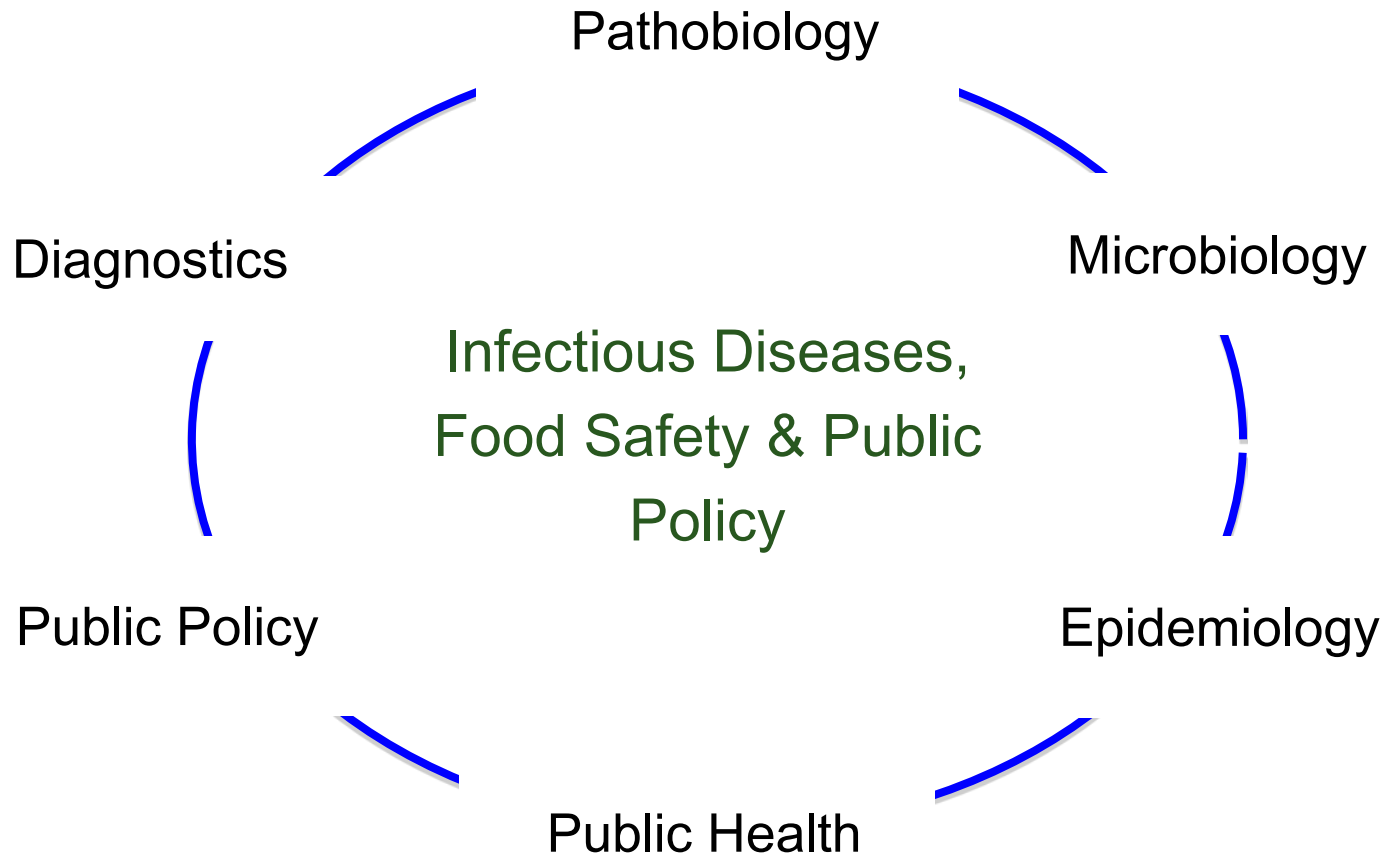
Industry internships, Community-service learning and research, Role of public sector



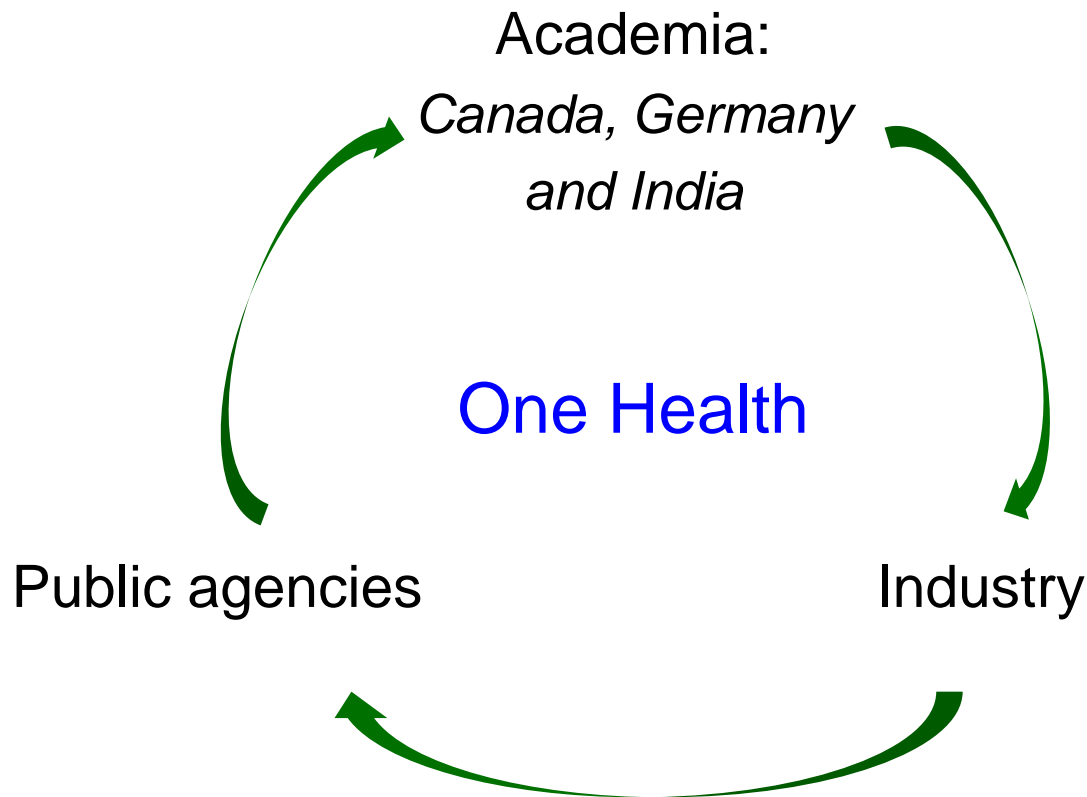
CREATE: *Integrated Training Program in Infectious Disease, Food Safety and Public Policy*



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Freie Universität
Berlin, Germany



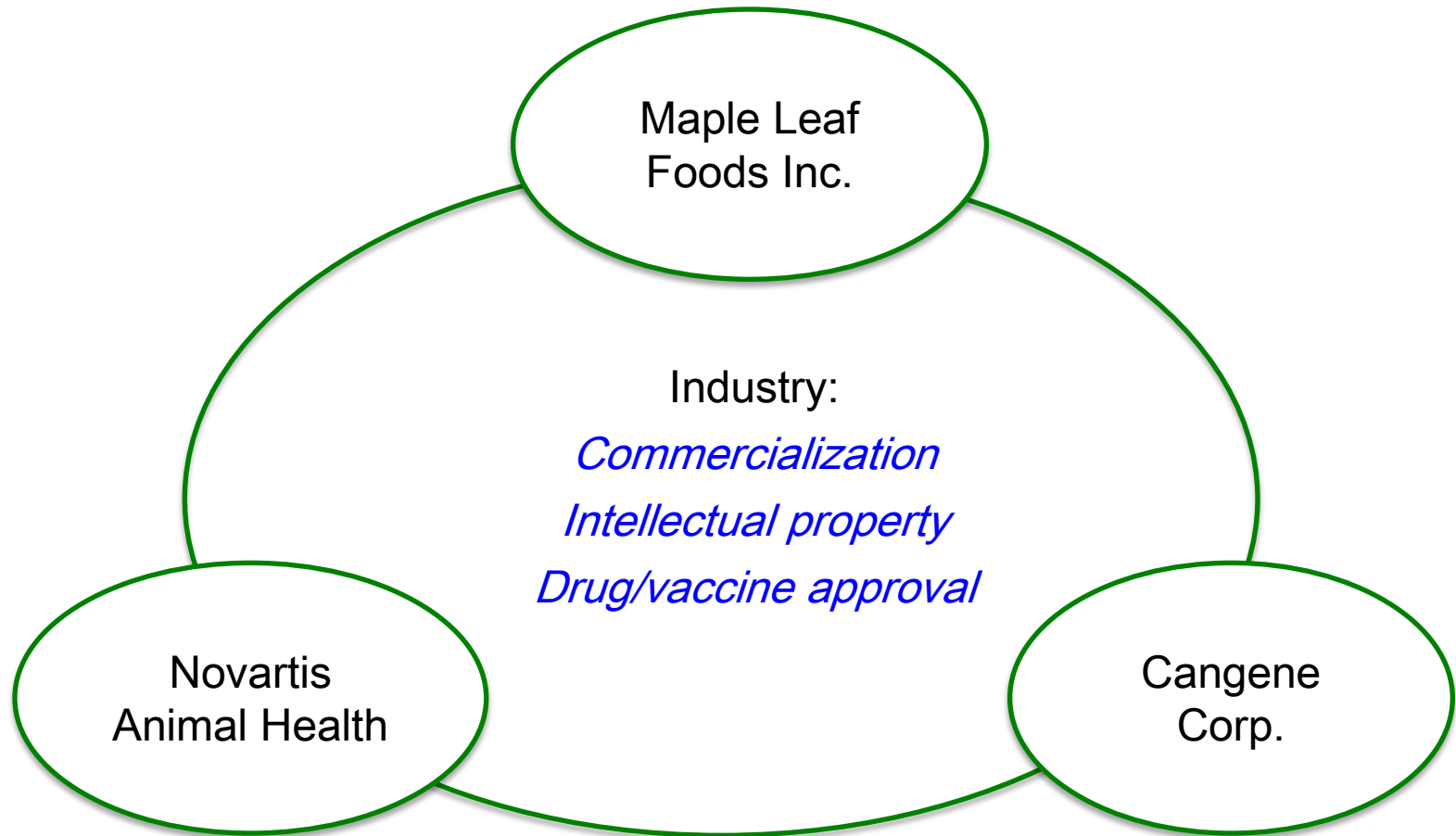
Academic:
Courses
Research Projects
Summer School

Guru Angad Dev
University, India

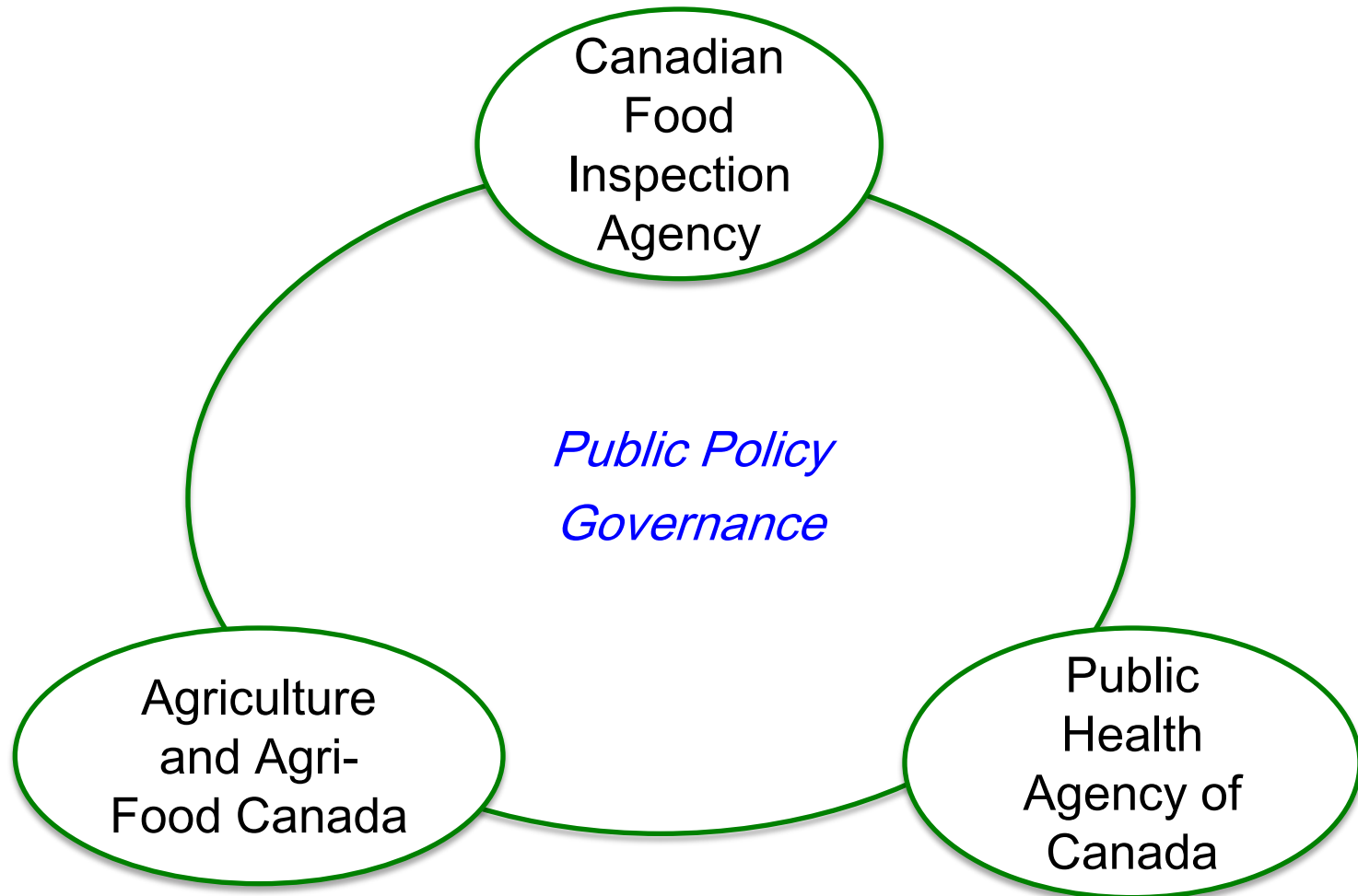
University of
Saskatchewan,
Canada



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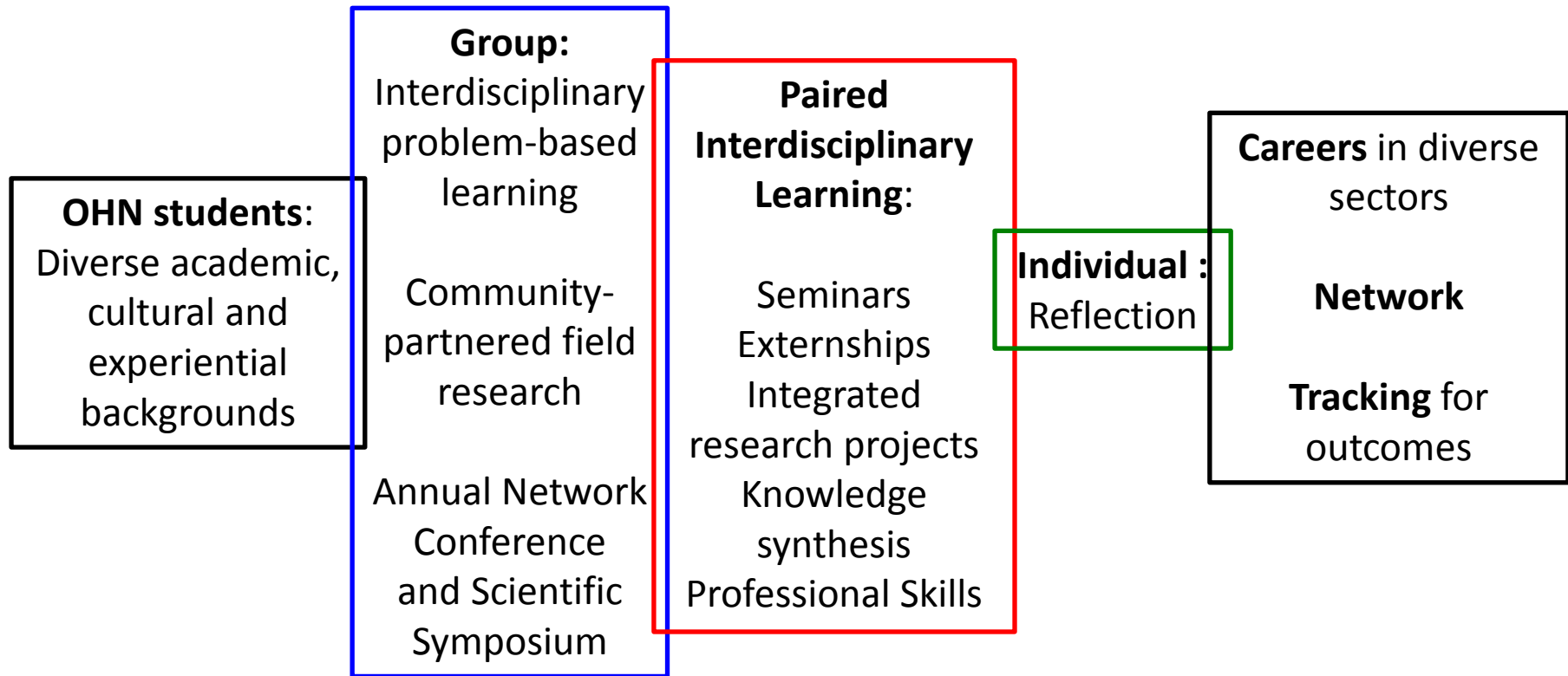
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Professional Skills, Summer School and Workshops

<i>Leadership, media training</i>	Explore interconnected elements relevant to the modern research and industry system
<i>Risk communication</i>	Communications underpinning theoretical and experimental science and aligned with social norms
<i>Commercialization issues and strategies</i>	Examine link of modern science with the market
<i>Risk analysis and the market</i>	Explore the structure and function of the modern risk analysis framework
<i>CV management, job search, networks</i>	Career development, growth and satisfaction

One Health Network: Integrated Solutions for Infectious Diseases

- Pan-Canadian horizontal integration of public & private infrastructure
- Establishing Canada's global leadership



Integrated Experiential Learning: Discovery and Learning in Partnership with Aboriginal Communities

- Partnership with Northern Aboriginal communities
 - Identification of issues such as stray dogs and zoonotic diseases
 - Create a mobile clinical and research infrastructure
 - Teams of students and community partners work on site
 - Demonstrated benefits to community health
 - Enrichment of student learning and community-centred growth
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Universities and the Civil Society

“The role of schools is not to create “idiot specialists” to fill the special needs of different sectors of the national economy, but to develop the individual abilities of students in a purposeful way, and to send out into life thoughtful people capable of thinking about the wider social, historical, and philosophical implications of their specialties. Schools must also lead young people to become self-confident, participating citizens.”

Vaclav Havel in *A Dream for Czechoslovakia*

