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Why this topic?

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Strengthening health systems:

improving population health

and being prepared for the unexpected

What are health systems?

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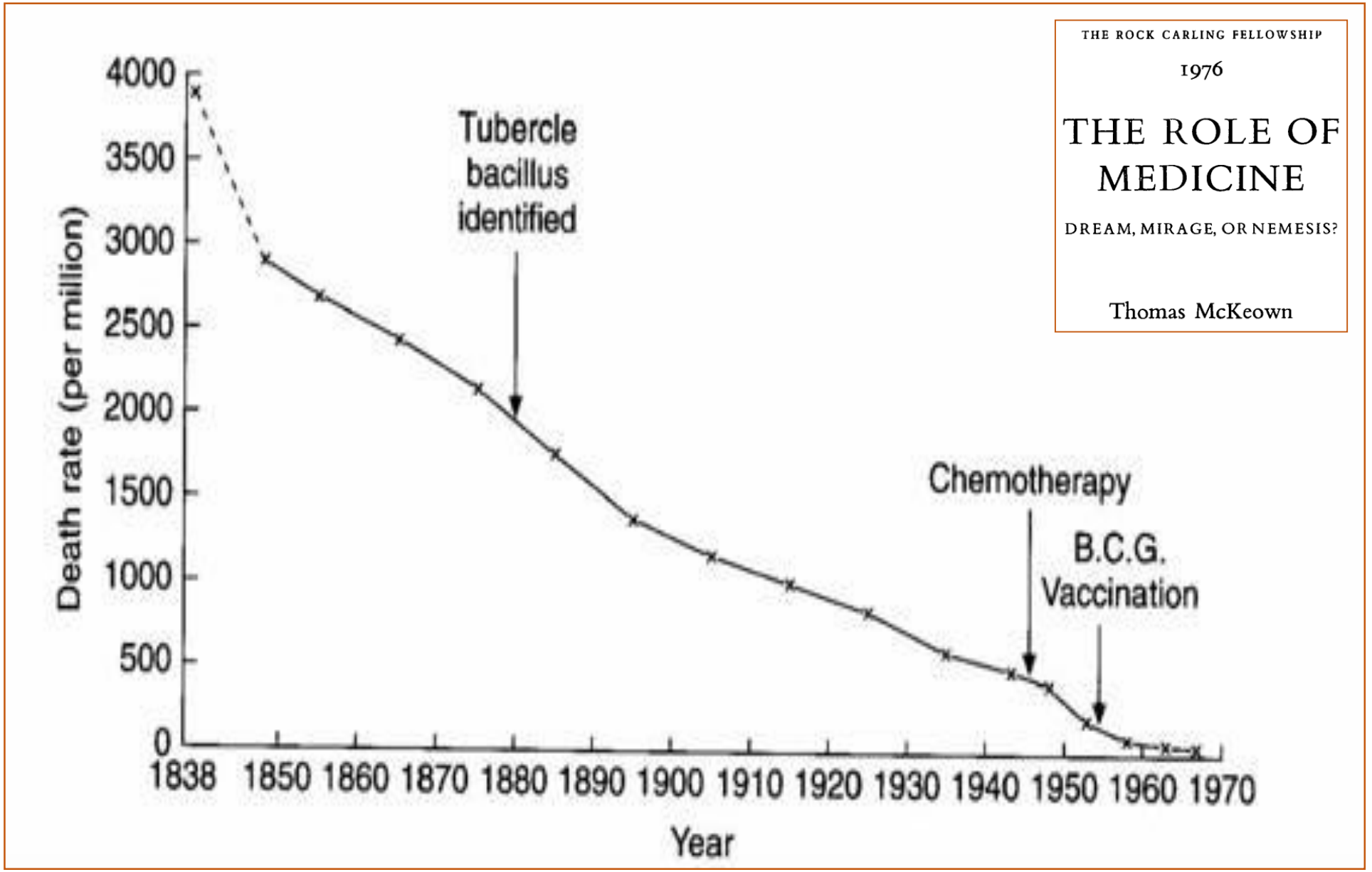
People, institutions and resources, arranged together in accordance with established policies, to improve the health of the population they serve, while responding to people's legitimate expectations and protecting them against the cost of ill-health through a variety of activities whose primary intent is to improve health.

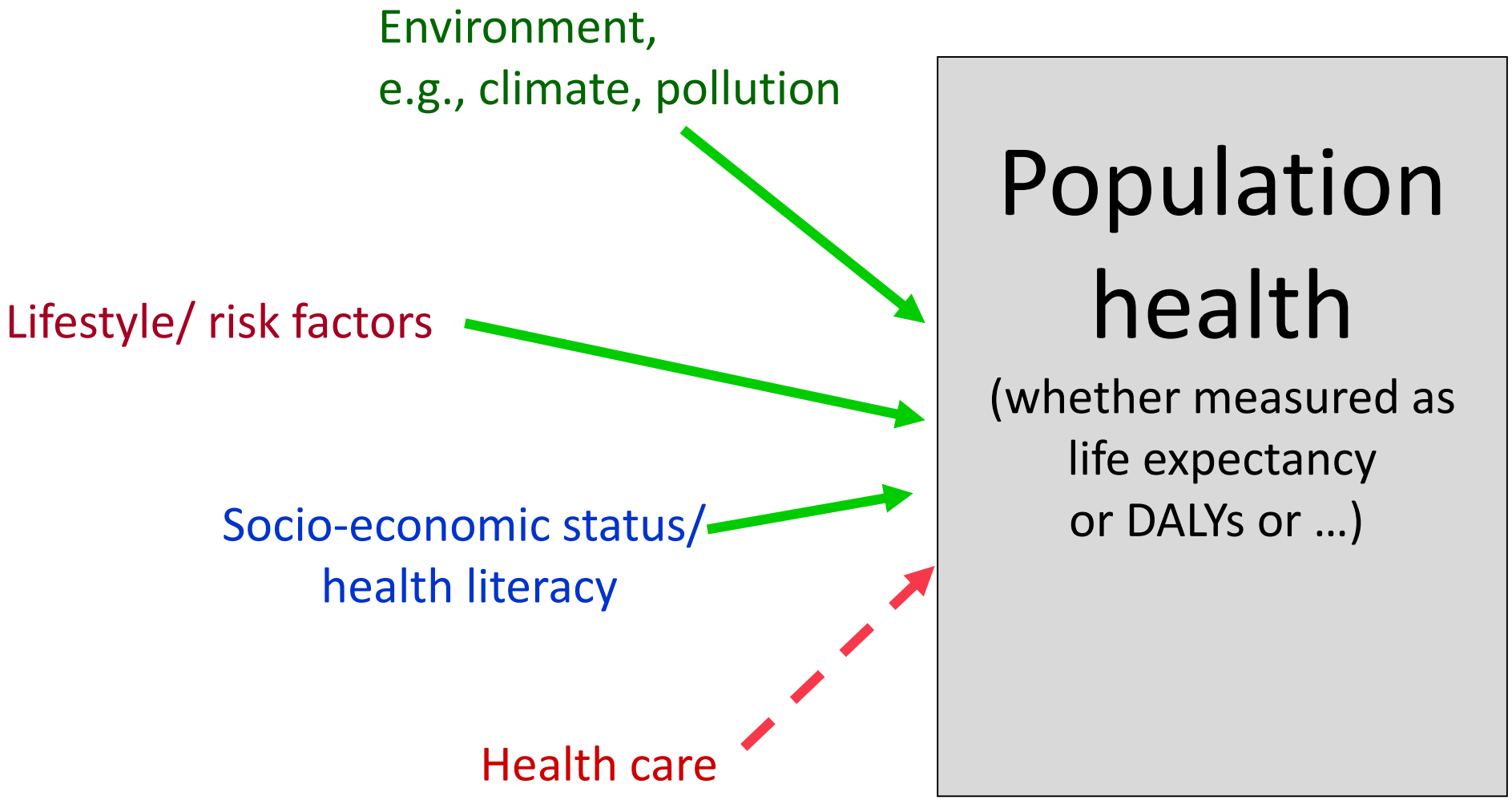
… ensemble of all public and private organizations, institutions and resources
mandated to improve, maintain or restore health.
… encompass both personal and population services,
as well as activities to influence the policies and actions of other sectors to address the social, environmental and economic determinants of health.

Improving population health?

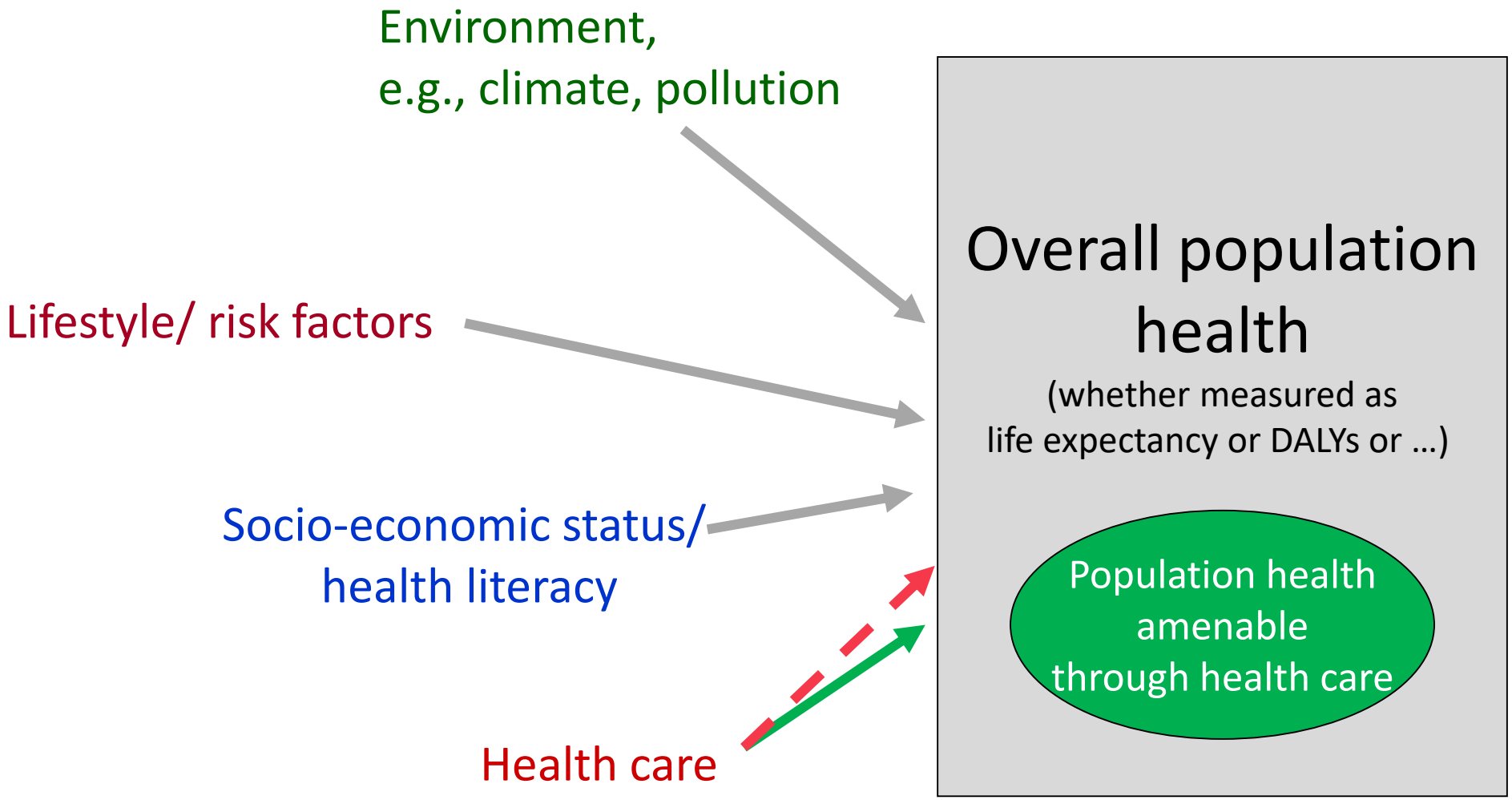


The long held view

(which many of us learned while studying public health)



But newer evidence has changed our view



The pandemic contributed to our changing view; but which conclusions need to be drawn for health systems to really improve population health?

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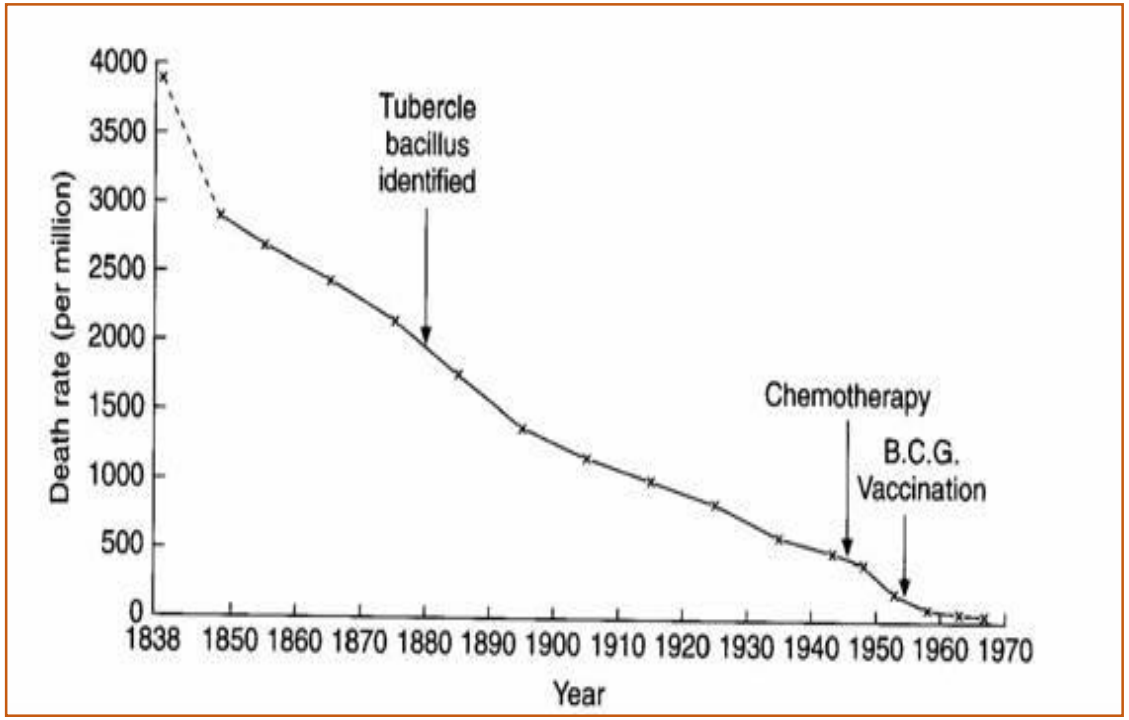

This question has driven our plenaries' programme (and the selection for parallel sessions)

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1. **Can people afford to pay for health care?**
2. **How can better data contribute to better health care?**
3. **How can we assess health systems' performance for policy?**
4. **How can health services be reoriented towards health promotion?**
5. **How can we improve training of the clinical and public health workforce to sustain high quality care?**