

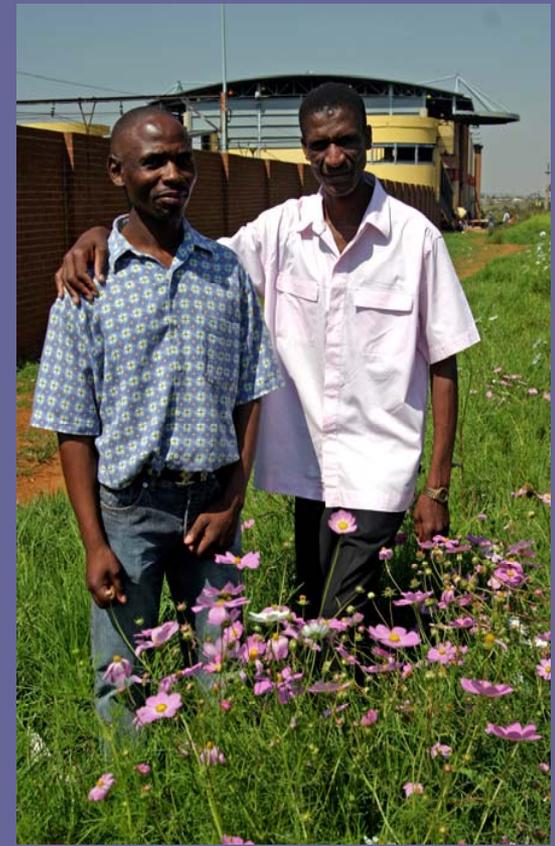


# The 'Social Life' of Clinical Trials

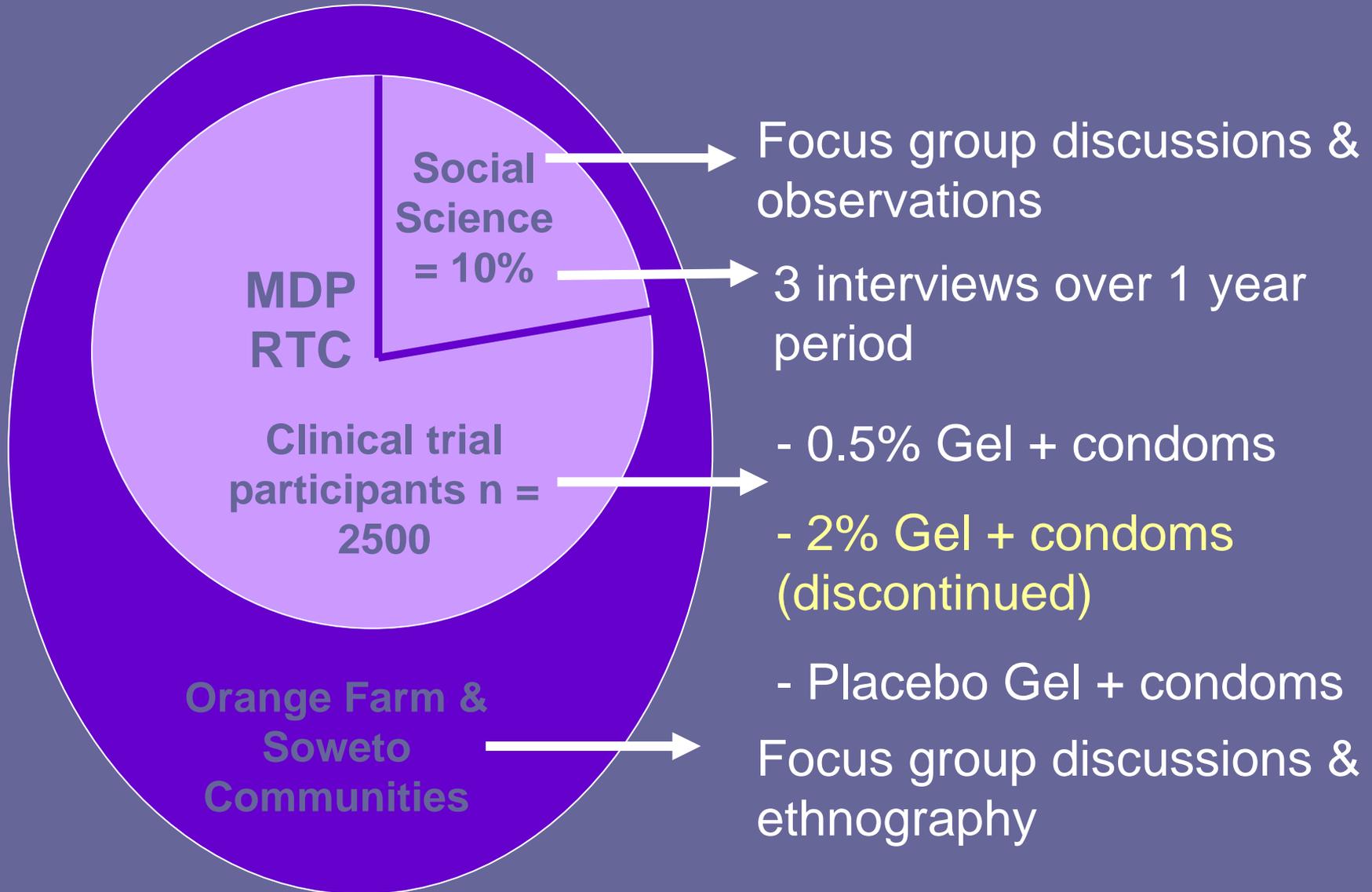
Jonathan Stadler

Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit

*21 October 2009, MTN Regional Meeting,  
Cape Town*



# MDP301 Social Science



# Medicines are 'social'

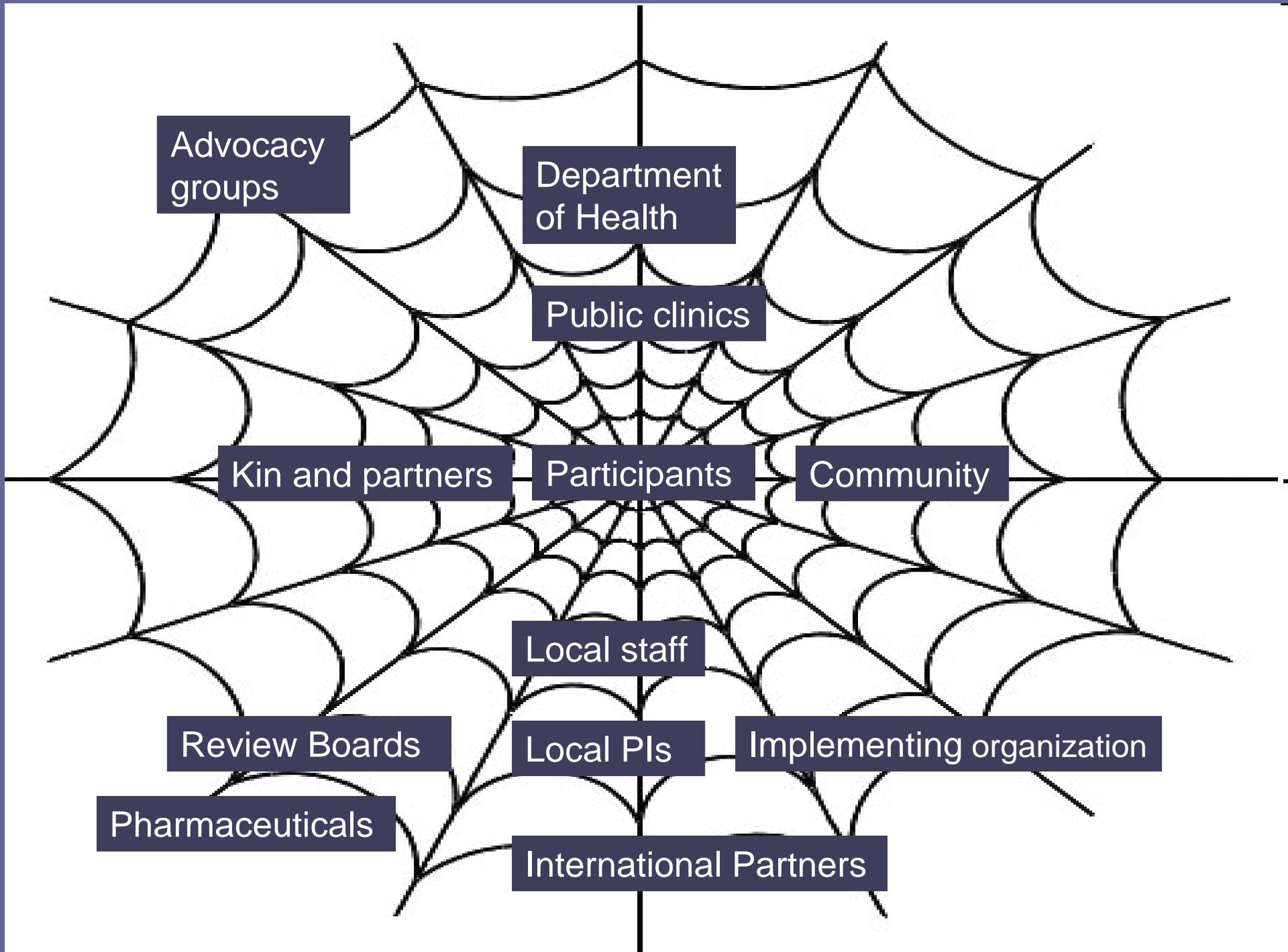
- social uses and consequences
- cultural and social contexts



# Clinical trials are 'social'



- Occur in social contexts
- Create social relationships
- Represent flows of exchange



Advocacy groups

Department of Health

Public clinics

Kin and partners

Participants

Community

Local staff

Review Boards

Local PIs

Implementing organization

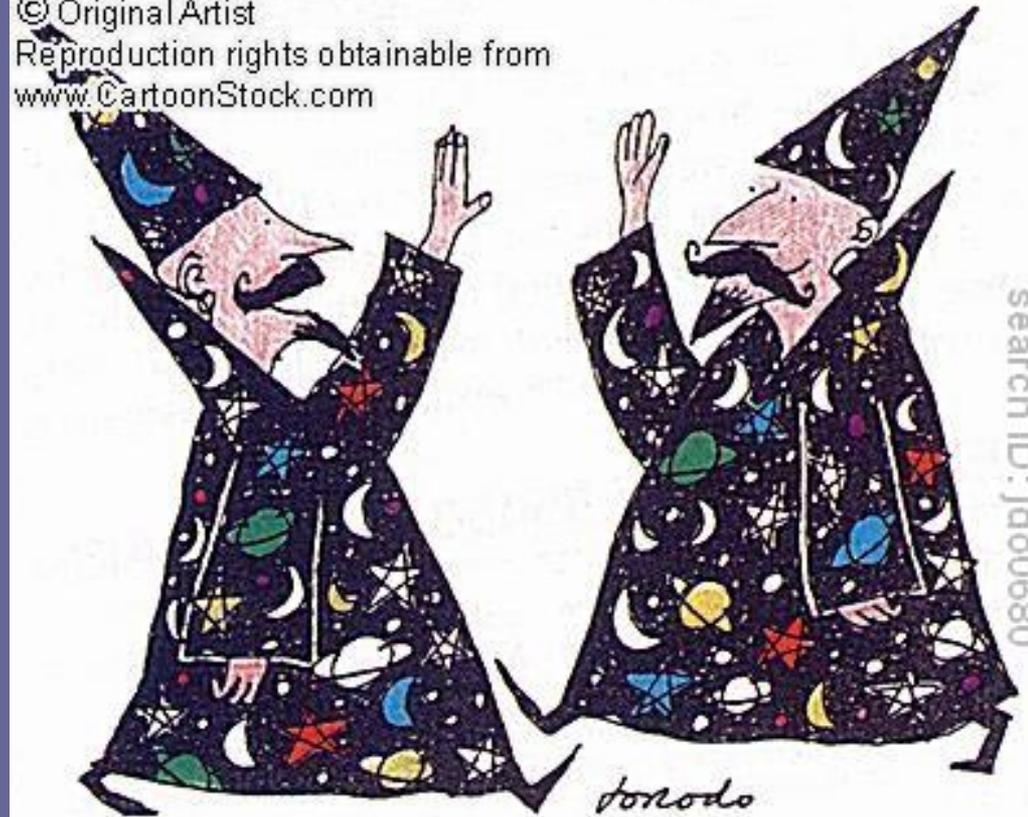
Pharmaceuticals

International Partners

# Rumour and Medical Research

- blood theft
- HIV infection
- infertility
- trade in body parts
- Satanism

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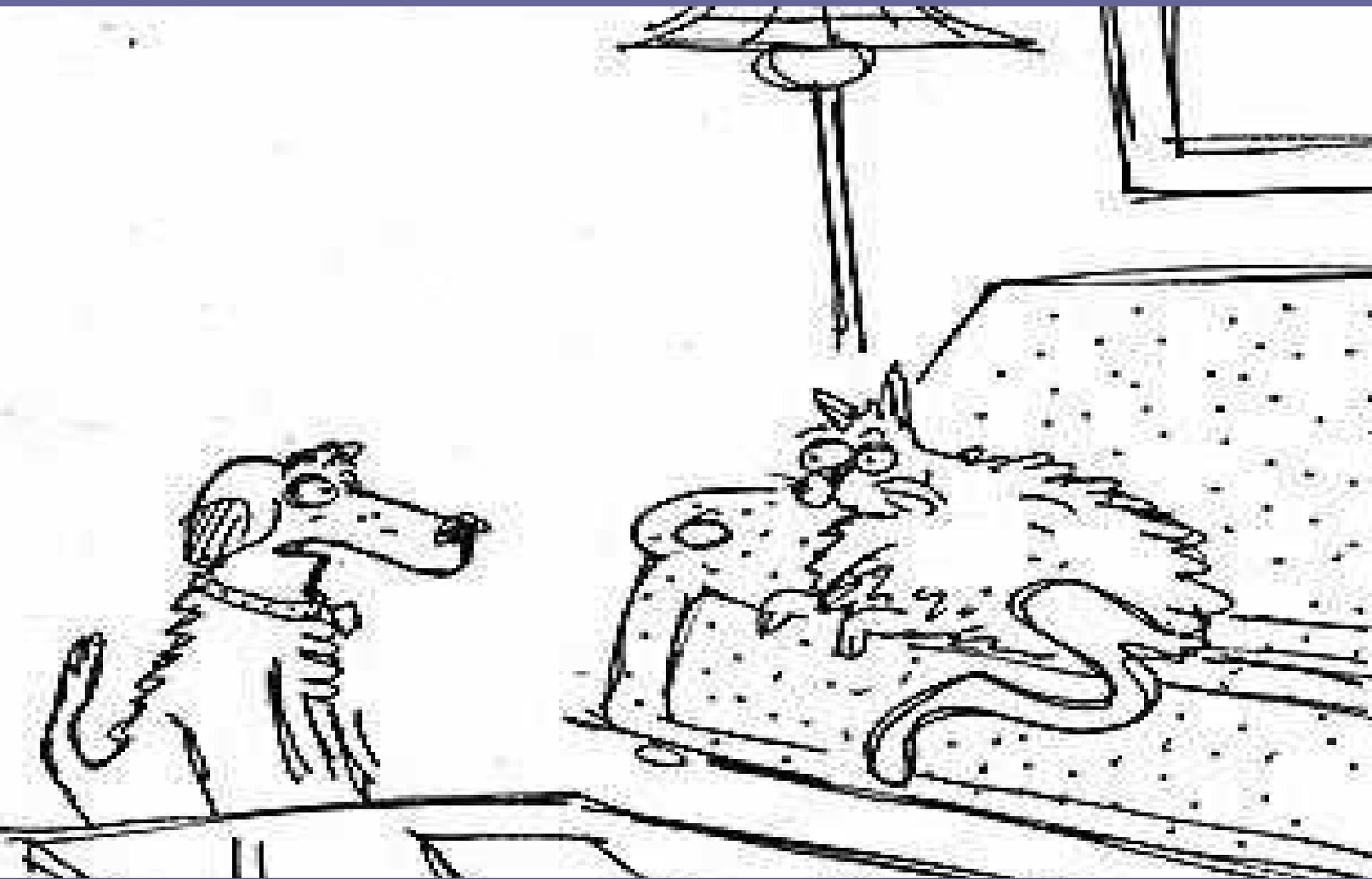
"Yo, give me 666!"

search ID: jd00680

# Consequences



- loss to follow up
- reduced enrolment
- community protest



'You've never caught a mouse and I've never eaten homework. How do these crazy rumours get started?'



They are risking their lives because they really love money!!

Women are selling their blood to the clinic. The clinic sells the blood to make a profit so the nurses can drive fancy cars



It's good for my blood to save someone's life

If it is clean they sell it to people who have a shortage of blood. We use the cash to buy food to replenish our blood

ANCESTORS (THE PAST)

BLOOD



BLOOD



CASH

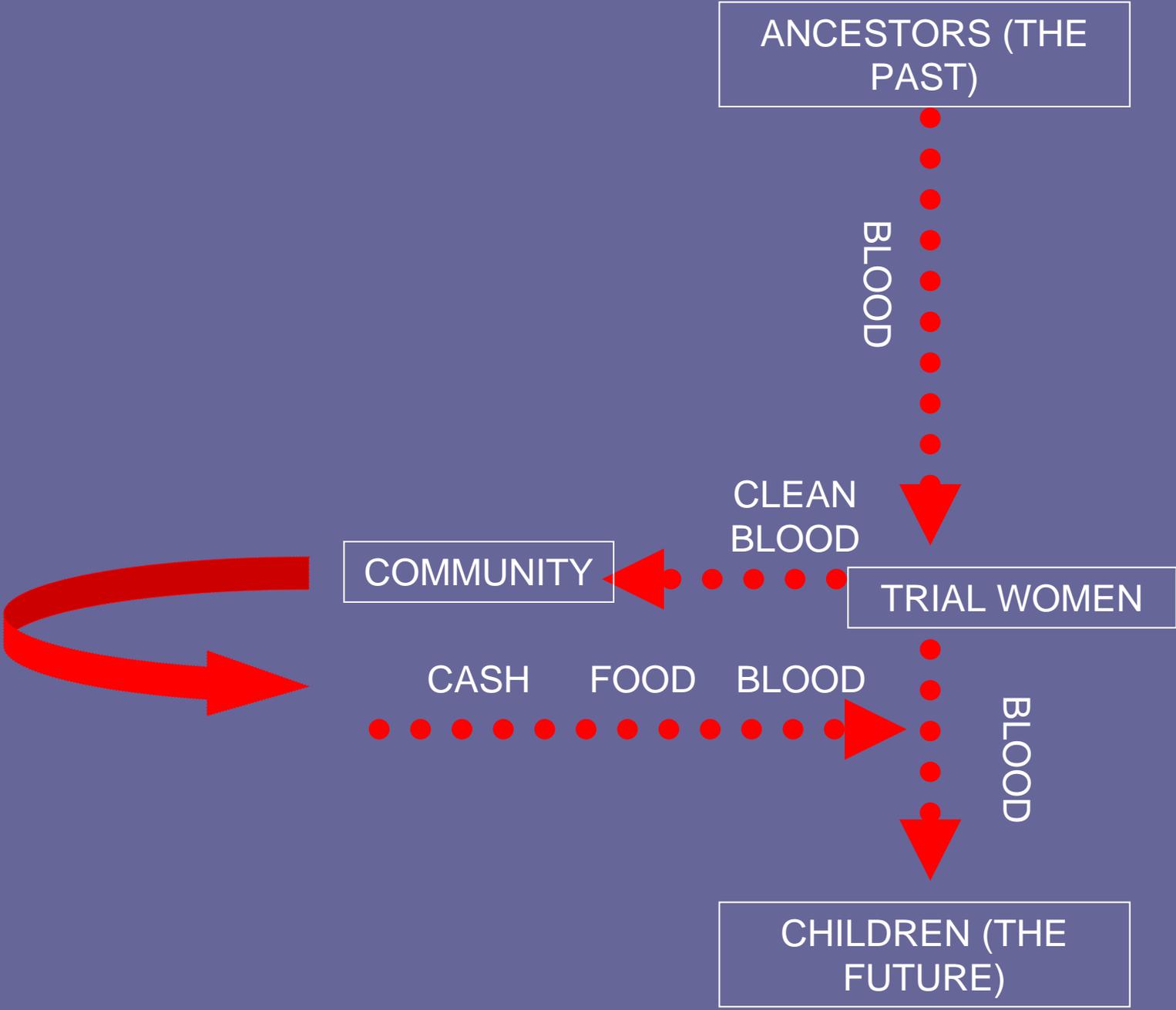


TRIAL WOMEN



CHILDREN (THE FUTURE)

THE CLINIC



# Conclusions

- Rumours ...

...just wrong information or ...

... as 'stories' with deeper meaning

... about ethics

... about relationships

... as data

# Thanks to:

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