

# An Introduction to the 'integrated-Promoting Action on Research Implementation in Health Services' (i-PARIHS) Framework

*Jeffrey L. Smith*

*Implementation Coordinator, QUERI for Team-Based Behavioral Health  
Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, North Little Rock AR*

*Behavioral Health*  
**QUERI**  
*VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative*

# Objectives

- 1) Provide brief history and background on original PARIHS framework
- 2) Summarize critiques on limitations and areas for improvement of original PARIHS
- 3) Describe the updated **'integrated – Promoting Action on Research Implementation in Health Services (i-PARIHS)'** framework
- 4) Describe how i-PARIHS may be used to guide or inform IR

# Poll Question #1

- What is your primary role in VA?
  - student, trainee, or fellow
  - clinician
  - researcher
  - Administrator, manager or policy-maker
  - Other

# Poll Question #2

- Which best describes your familiarity with the original PARIHS framework?
  - am familiar with original PARIHS and have used it in my work
  - am familiar with original PARIHS but never used it
  - what is PARIHS? (i.e., very limited or no familiarity)

# Original PARIHS Framework

- Introduced in 1998 by Kitson and colleagues in UK
- Asserted... **“Successful implementation (SI) of evidence into practice is a function of the quality and type of evidence (E), the characteristics of the setting or context (C) and the way in which the evidence was introduced or facilitated (F) into practice.”**
  - Each dimension subdivided into sub-elements that needed to be considered in order for implementation to be successful
- Per developers... **“one of the first frameworks to make explicit the multi-dimensional and complex nature of implementation as well as highlighting the central importance of context.”**
- Many researchers applied PARIHS and found it useful (including VA QUERI investigators), but also pointed out limitations and suggested areas for improvement

# PARIHS Critiques

- **Helfrich et al. *Implement Sci* 2010; 5:82**
  - lack of evidence from prospective studies on PARIHS effectiveness
  - lack of clarity between elements and sub-elements of the framework
  - predominant focus on the facilitation *role* rather than the facilitation *process*
  - lack of a clear definition for successful implementation
- **Tabak et al. *Am J Prev Med* 2012; 43:337–50**
  - lacked a focus on the system and policy level of implementation
- **Flottorp et al. *Implement Sci* 2013; 8:35**
  - failed to pay attention to the individual health professional and the wider social, political and legal context of implementation
- **Harvey & Kitson 2015**
  - prospective studies remain limited
  - failure to acknowledge the central role of individuals in determining the process and outcomes of implementation

# Poll Question #3

- Which best describes your familiarity with the updated **i-PARIHS** framework?
  - am familiar with i-PARIHS and have used it in my work
  - am familiar with i-PARIHS but never used it
  - what is i-PARIHS? (very limited or no familiarity)

# i-PARIHS Framework

Harvey G, Kitson A, (Eds.). *Implementing evidence-based practice in healthcare: A facilitation guide*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2015.

# i-PARIHS Framework

Successful  
Implementation

# i-PARIHS Framework

Context

Successful  
Implementation

# i-PARIHS Framework

Context

Successful  
Implementation

- Inner context: local and organizational
  - leadership support
  - culture
  - organizational priorities
  - evaluation and feedback processes
  - learning networks
- Outer context
  - policy drivers and priorities
  - incentives and mandates
  - inter-organizational networks

# i-PARIHS Framework

Successful  
Implementation

Innovation

# i-PARIHS Framework

Successful  
Implementation

Innovation

- Complexity
- Relative advantage
- Usability
- Evidence
  - research-based evidence
  - clinical experience
  - patient preferences and experiences

# i-PARIHS Framework

Successful  
Implementation

Recipient

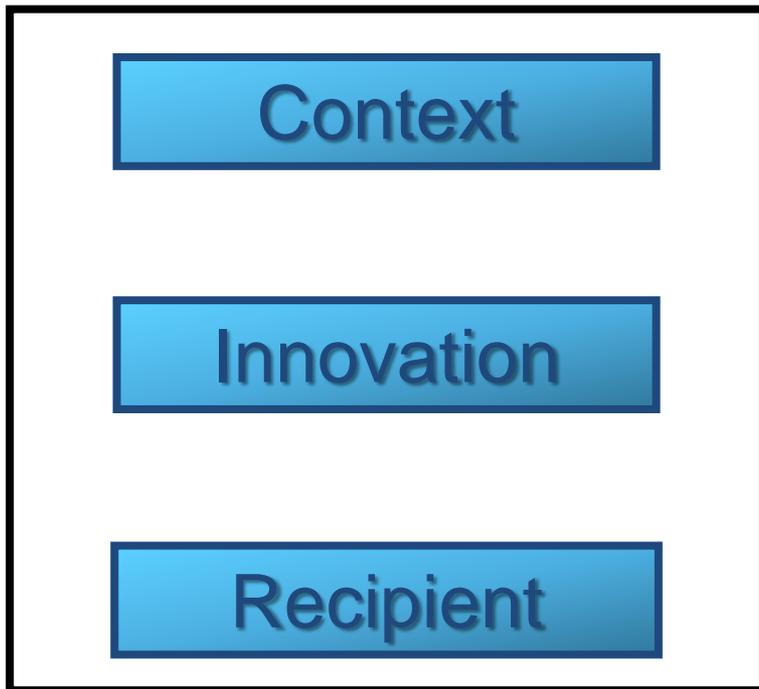
# i-PARIHS Framework

Successful  
Implementation

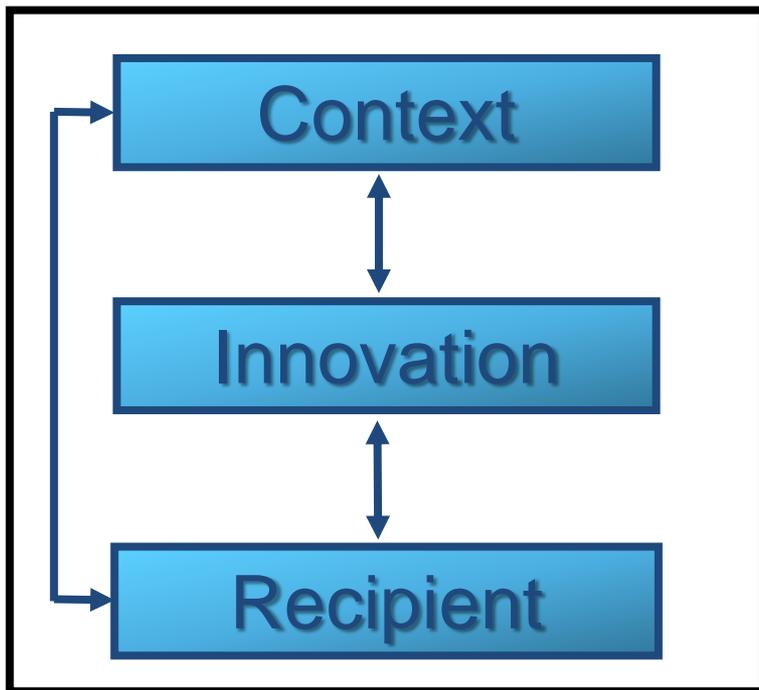
Recipient

- Motivation
- Values and beliefs
- Goals
- Skills and knowledge
- Time
- Resources and support
- Local opinion leaders
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Power and authority

# i-PARIHS Framework

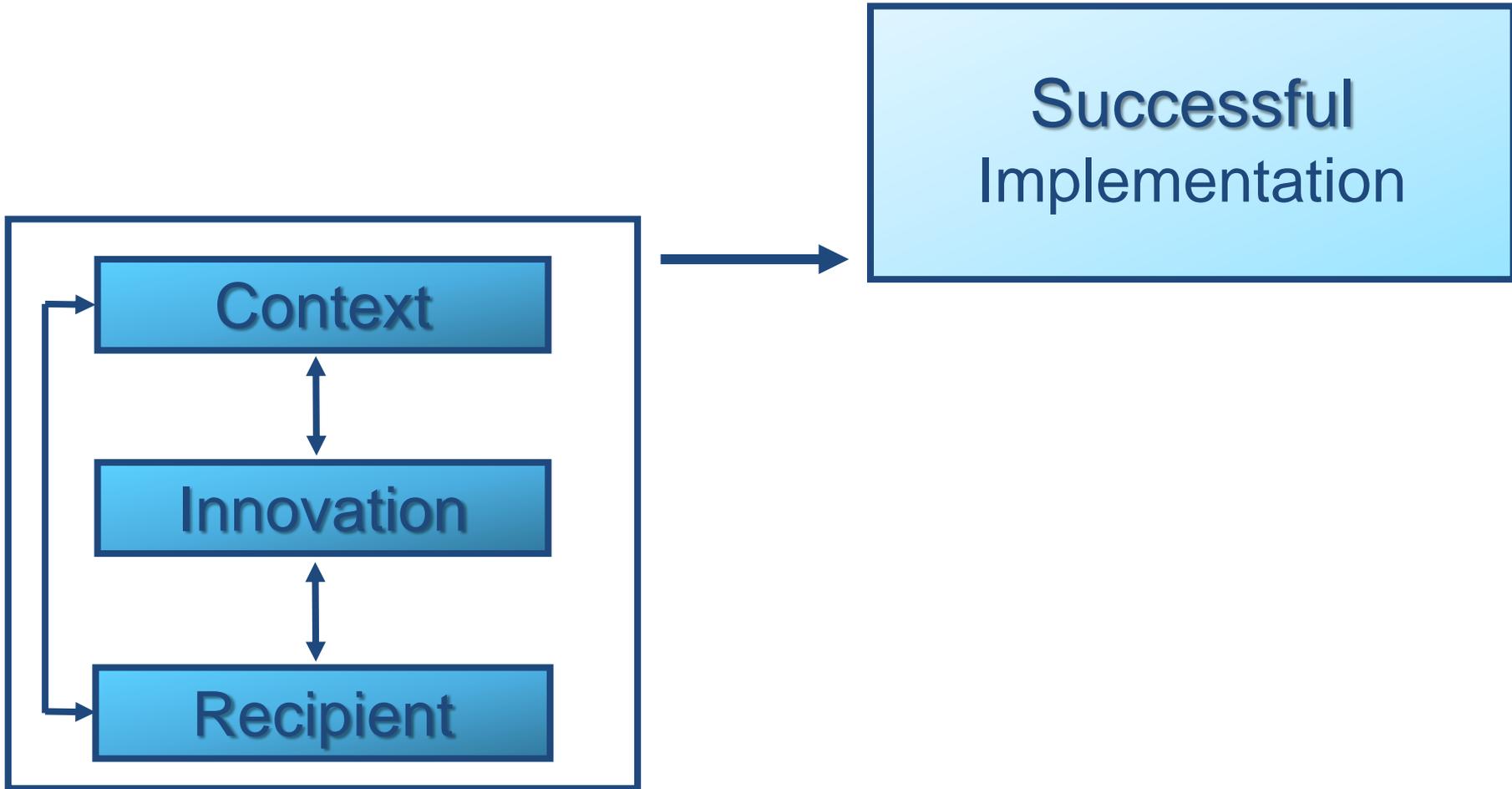


# i-PARIHS Framework



Successful  
Implementation

# i-PARIHS Framework



# Facilitation

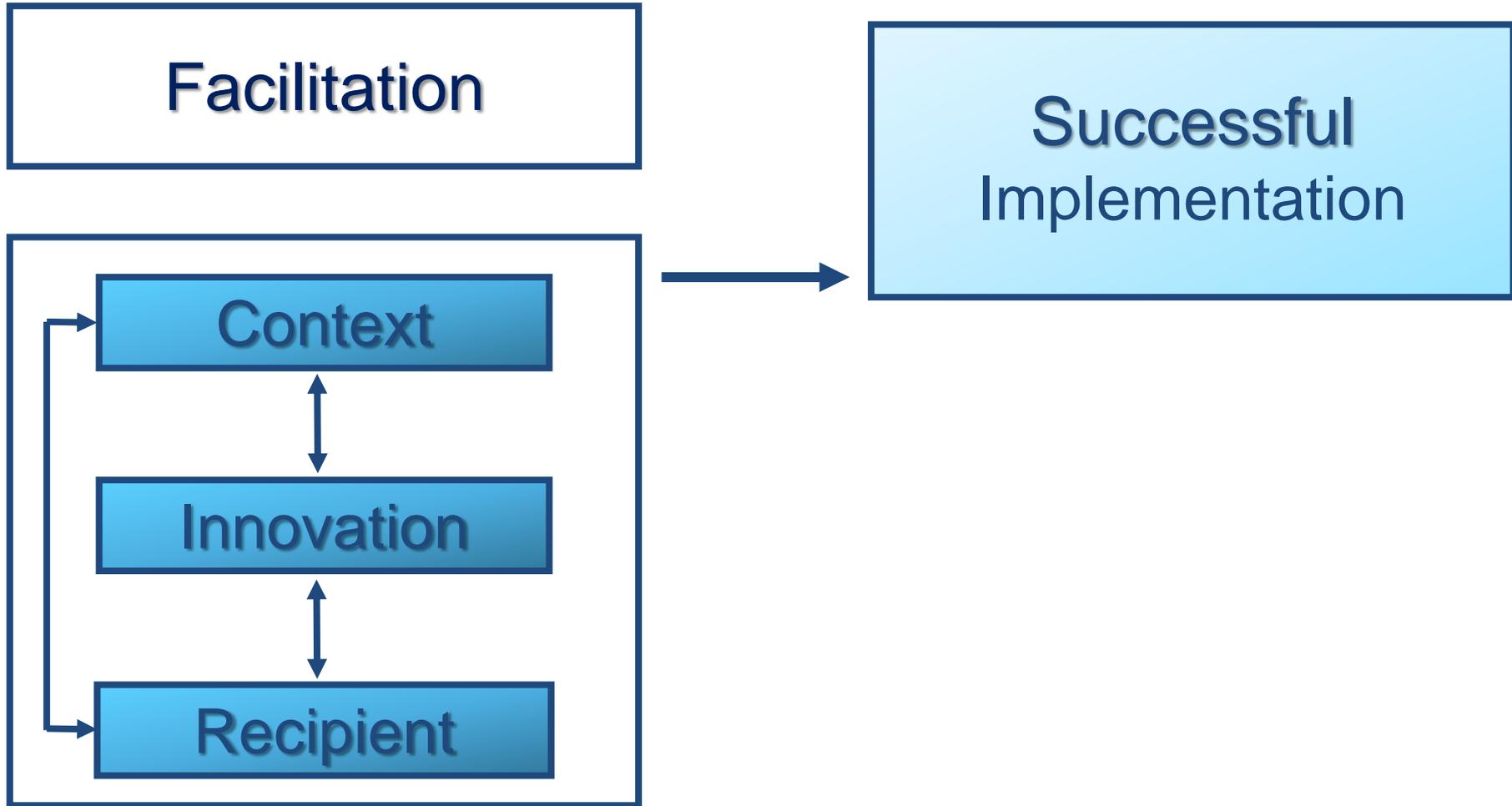
In i-PARIHS, **facilitation** is the 'active ingredient' that integrates action around the **innovation** and the **recipients** within their local, organizational and wider health system **context** to enable successful implementation.

Harvey G, Kitson A. *Implementation Science* 2016; 11:33

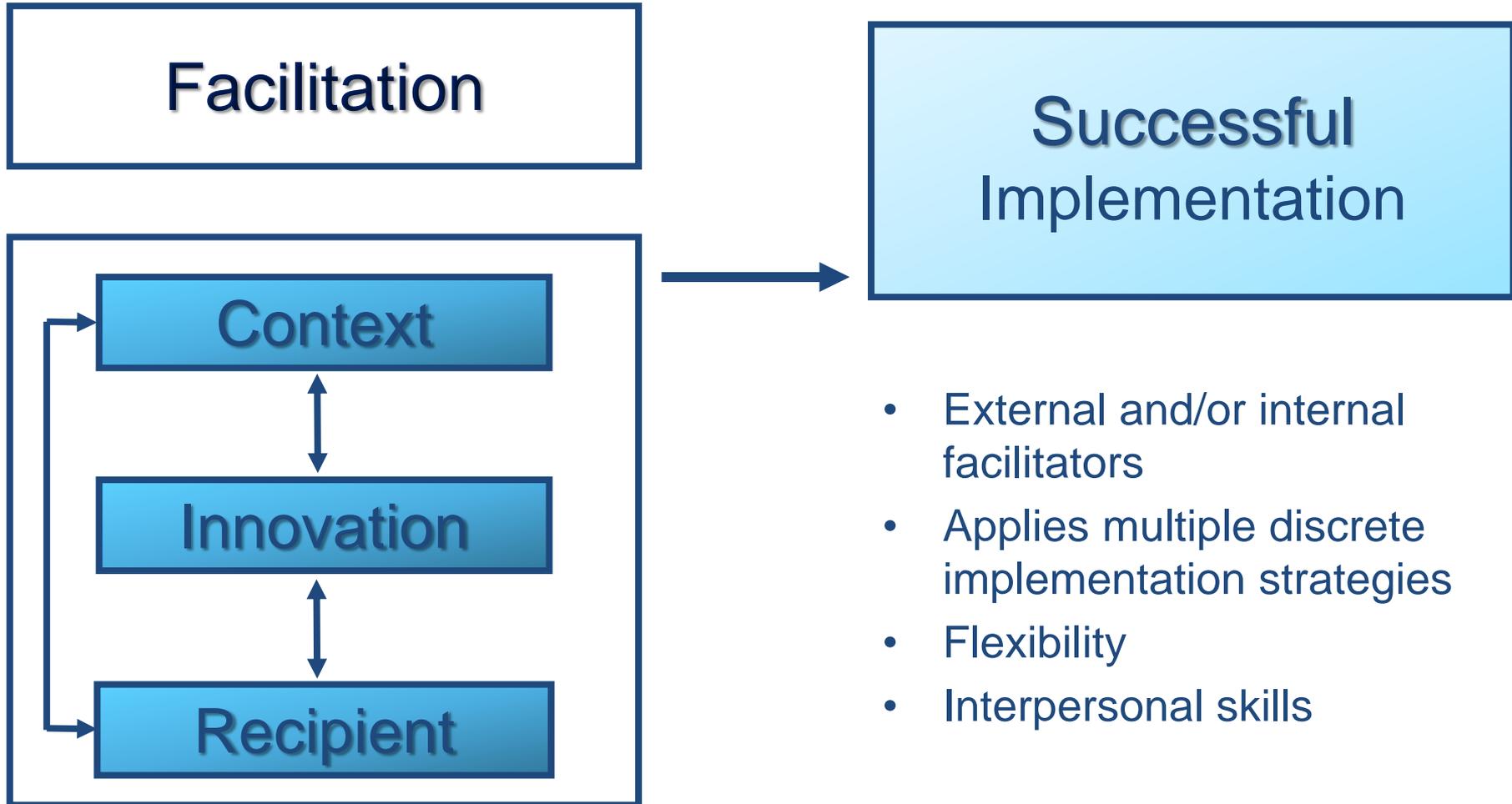
Process of interactive problem solving and support that occurs in a context of a recognized need for improvement and a supportive interpersonal relationship

Powell, et al., *Implementation Science* 2015; 10:21

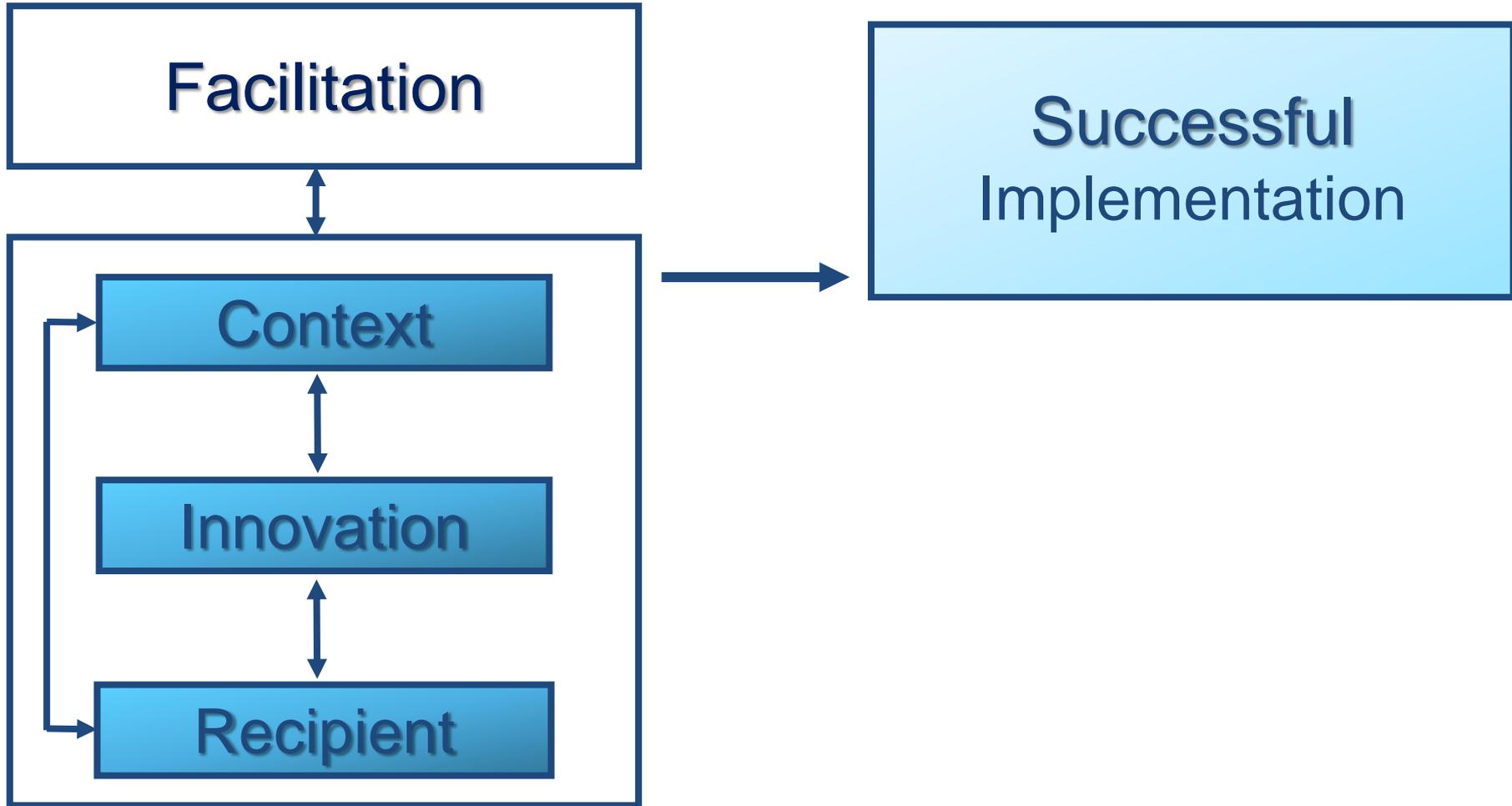
# i-PARIHS Framework



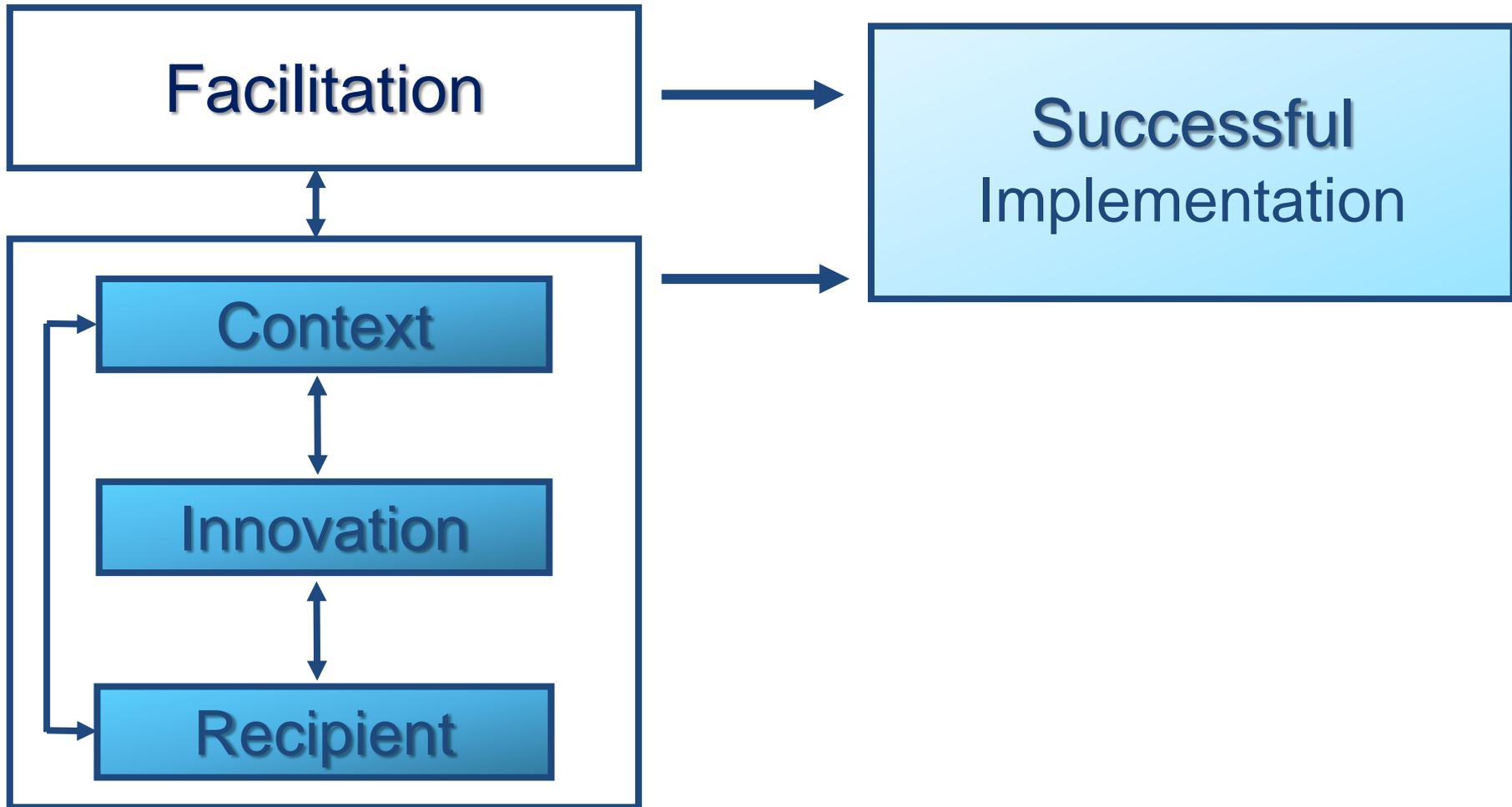
# i-PARIHS Framework



# i-PARIHS Framework



# i-PARIHS Framework



# Using i-PARIHS to guide implementation

- **Inform operationalization/focus of facilitation strategy**
  - Provides guidance on characteristics of positive facilitation and “good” facilitators
  - Help identify factors (domains/constructs) to assess, consider and address as a focus of the facilitation strategy
    - Formative evaluation (when done by facilitator): Inform questions for semi-structured qualitative interviews, focus groups with stakeholders
  - Provide guidance on facilitator roles in different phases

# i-PARIHS Phases of Facilitation



# Using i-PARIHS to guide evaluation

- Use i-PARIHS domains/constructs to inform data collection and analysis
  - e.g., instrumentation, qualitative interview / focus group guides, deductive coding of qualitative data
  - identify i-PARIHS domains/constructs in a given project (or across multiple projects) that had greatest influence on implementation success or failure, facilitation intensity, other...
- Inform the ongoing development and refinement of instruments to be used in conjunction with i-PARIHS and its core constructs

# RESOURCES

- Harvey G, Kitson A, (Eds.). *Implementing Evidence-Based Practice in Healthcare: A Facilitation Guide*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2015.
- Harvey G, Kitson A. PARIHS revisited: from heuristic to integrated framework for the successful implementation of knowledge into practice. *Implementation Science* 2016; 11:33.

# Questions/Comments?

**Contact Information:**

**Jeffrey L. Smith**

**QUERI for Team-Based Behavioral Health**

**Jeffrey.Smith6@va.gov**

