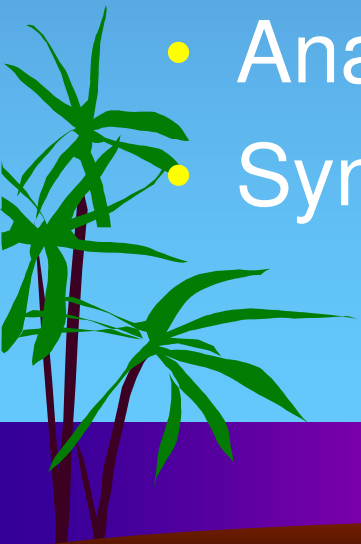


Knowledge Development in Nursing



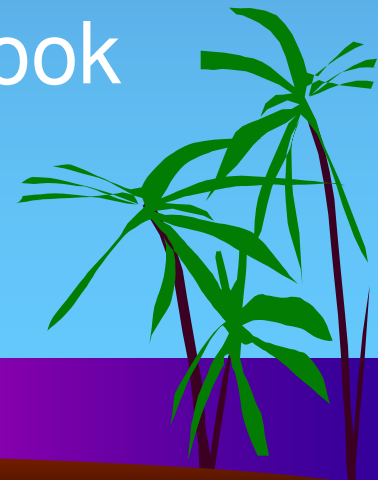
Strategies for Knowledge Development Found in the Nursing Literature

- Qualitative Research
- Quantitative Research
- Borrowed Theory
- Borrowed Concept
- Analysis of a Theory or Concept
- Synthesis of a Theory or Concept



Concepts are the Building Blocks of Knowledge

- A concept is a term or label given to phenomenon or group of phenomena (aspects of reality that can be consciously sensed or experienced)
- Examples: Adherence, Self-Esteem, Hope, Social Support, Courage, Book



Concepts

- A concept has properties
(For example, the properties of a “book”)
- There are feelings, values and attitudes associated with the word and with the perception of the thing



Concrete to Abstract Concepts

- Directly Observable
 - Height, weight, temperature
- Indirectly Observable
 - Hemoglobin level, cardiovascular fitness
- Inferred from Multiple Direct and Indirect observations
 - Self-Esteem, self-efficacy, wellness



Example of Concepts of Concern to Nursing

- Coping
- Hope
- Loss
- Social Support
- Anxiety
- Fatigue
- Uncertainty in Illness
- Self-Efficacy
- Courage
- Resilience
- Grief
- Pain
- Therapeutic Touch
- Families
- Self-Care



Concepts are Dynamic

- The definition and description of a concept will vary from one theorist to another
- The definition, description and meaning of a concept may change over time (Example: “Family” 1950 vs. 2006)
- The concept label may change (Example: “Compliance” vs. “Adherence”)



Theory

- Concepts are the building blocks of a theory
- A theory is a set of interrelated concepts, definitions, and relational statements and,
- Presents a systematic view of essential elements in a field of inquiry by specifying relationships among variables
- Theories are dynamic

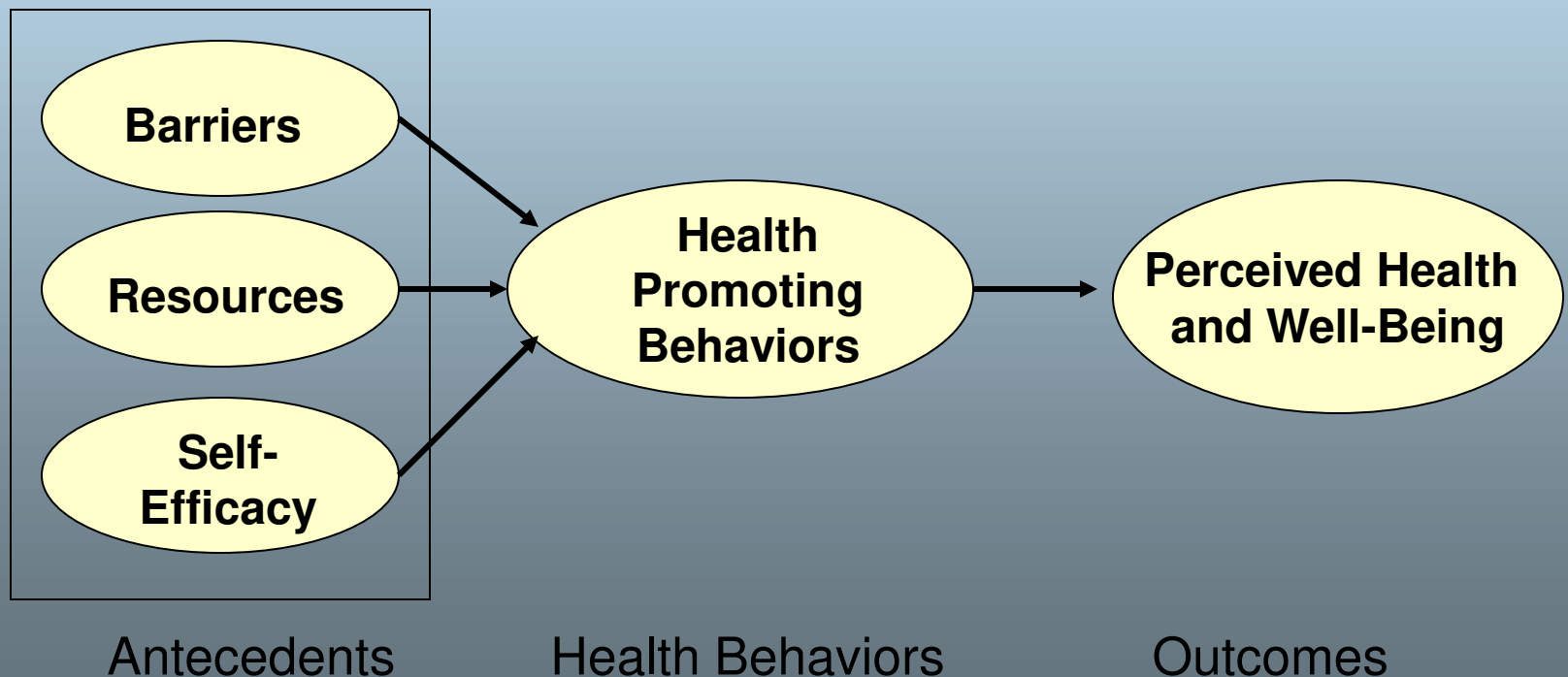


Alexa Stuiifbergen PhD, RN, FAAN

Promoting Wellness for Women with MS

Stuiifbergen, Becker, Rogers, Timmerman, & Kullberg (1999)

The Journal of Neuroscience Nursing, 31 (2), 73-79.



The Purpose of Theories

- To guide practice, research, and education
- Provides a language for talking about the nature of nursing practice
- Enhances communication



Relational Statements

(Also Called Propositions)

- Relational statements describe how one concept is related to another concept
- Found in the theoretical literature
- According to Bandura (1997), **self-efficacy** is the most predictive factor of **perseverance** in a new behavior



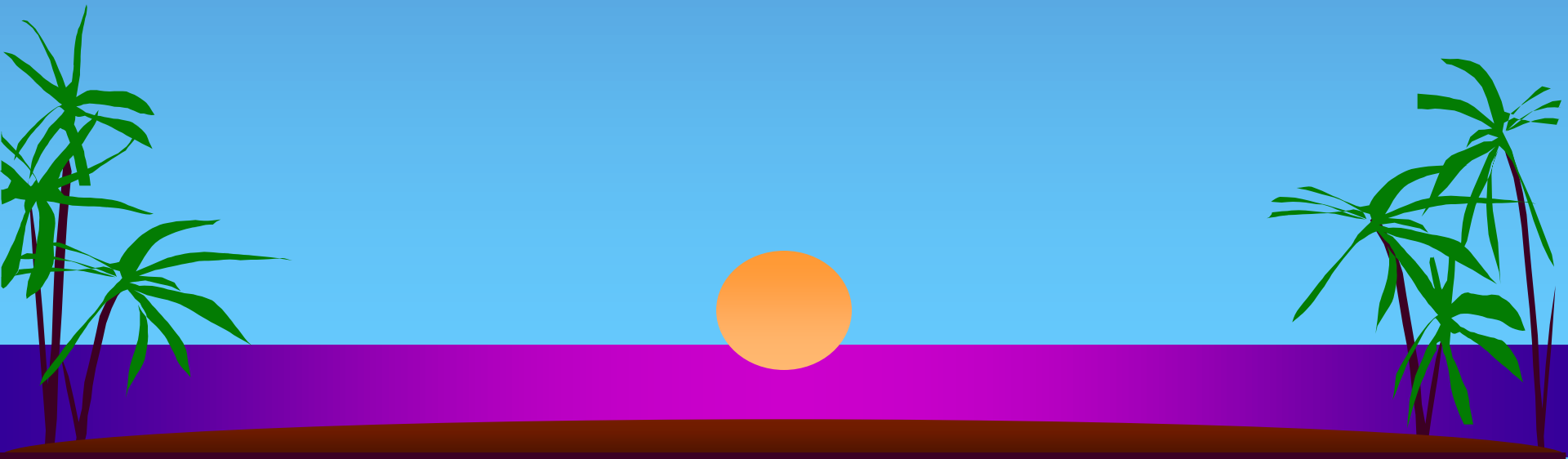
Relational Statements can also be Found in Research Studies

- There is an inverse relationship between level of disability and self-esteem.
- There is a positive relationship between self-efficacy and adherence to wellness behaviors in non-insulin-dependent diabetics.



Levels of Theory

- Descriptive
- Explanatory
- Predictive



Descriptive Theory

- Beginning description in a new area of interest
- Describes two or more concepts
- Does not specify exactly how concepts are related
- Qualitative research often is used to develop new knowledge



Explanatory Theory

- Explains specific relationships between concepts (positive or inverse)
- There is a positive relationship between **problem-focused coping** and **well being** (Lazarus & Folkman, 1984)
- There is an inverse relationship between level of **disability** and **self-efficacy** (Fraser, 2005)



Predictive Theory

- Predicts relationships between concepts
- Well developed theory
- Researched extensively
- **Self-efficacy** is the most predictive factor of **perseverance** in a new behavior (Bandura, 1997)

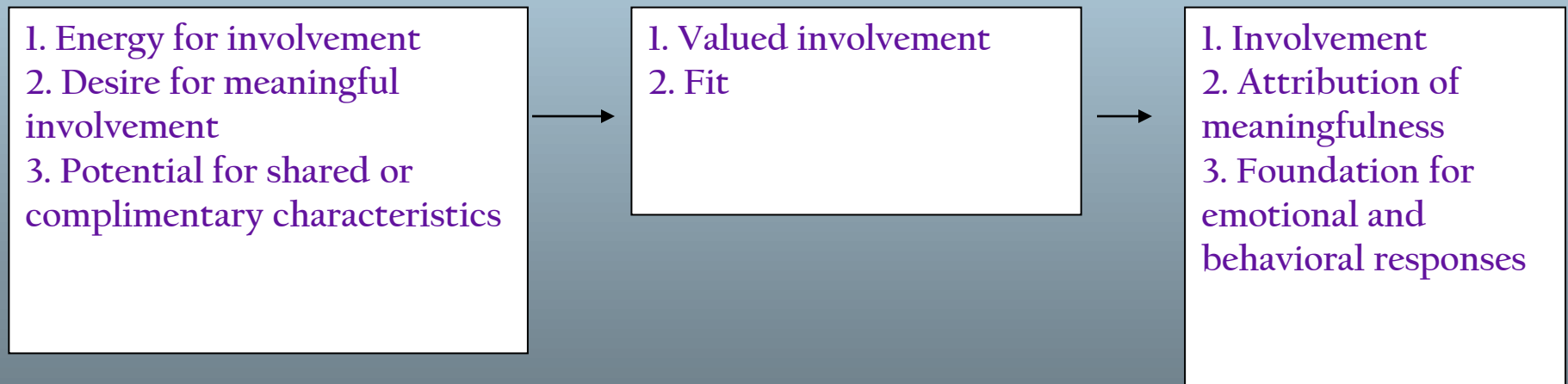


Models in the Nursing Literature

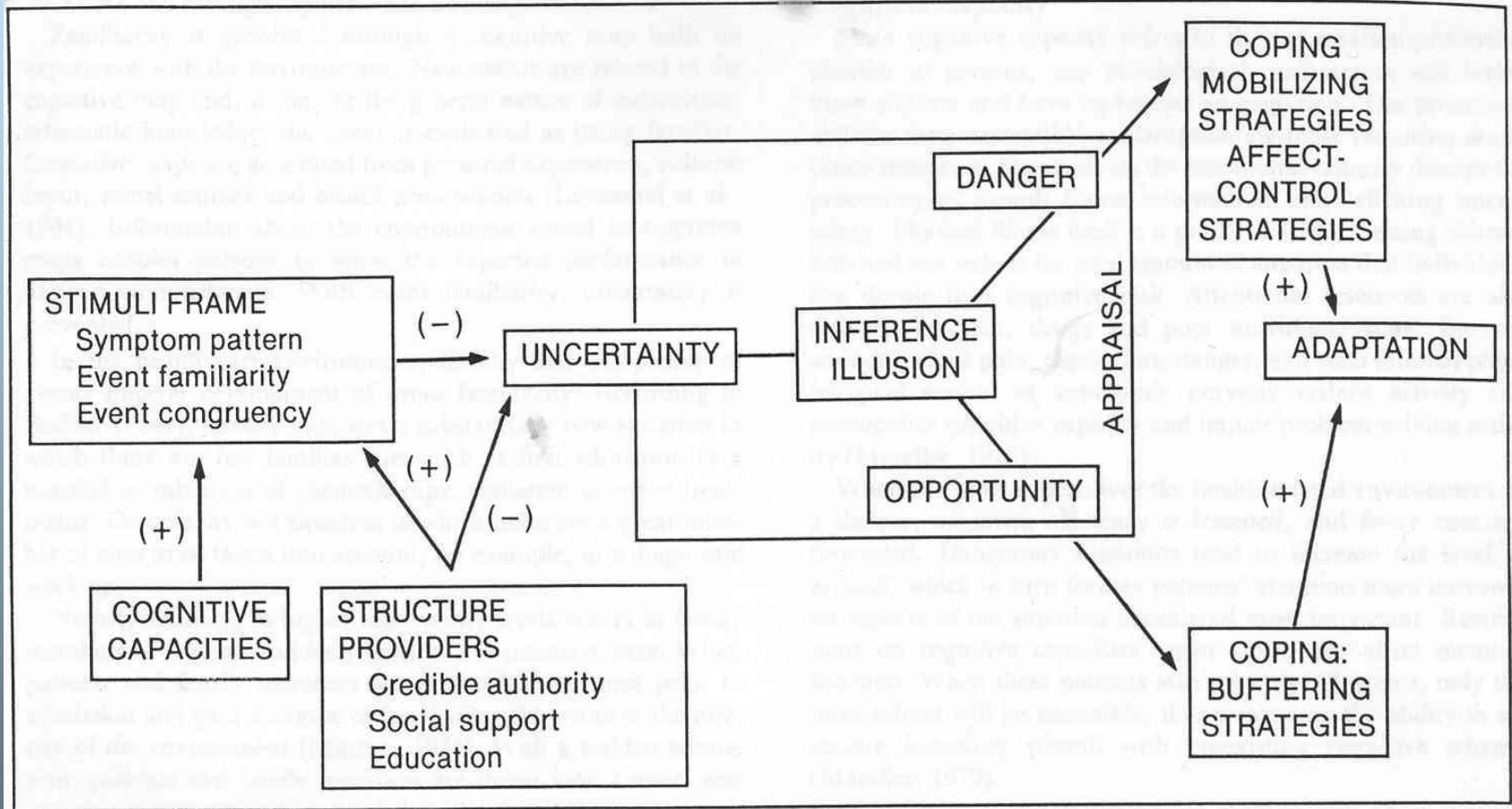


Sense of Belonging

Hagerty, Lynch-Sauer, Patusky, Bouwsema, and Collier (1992)

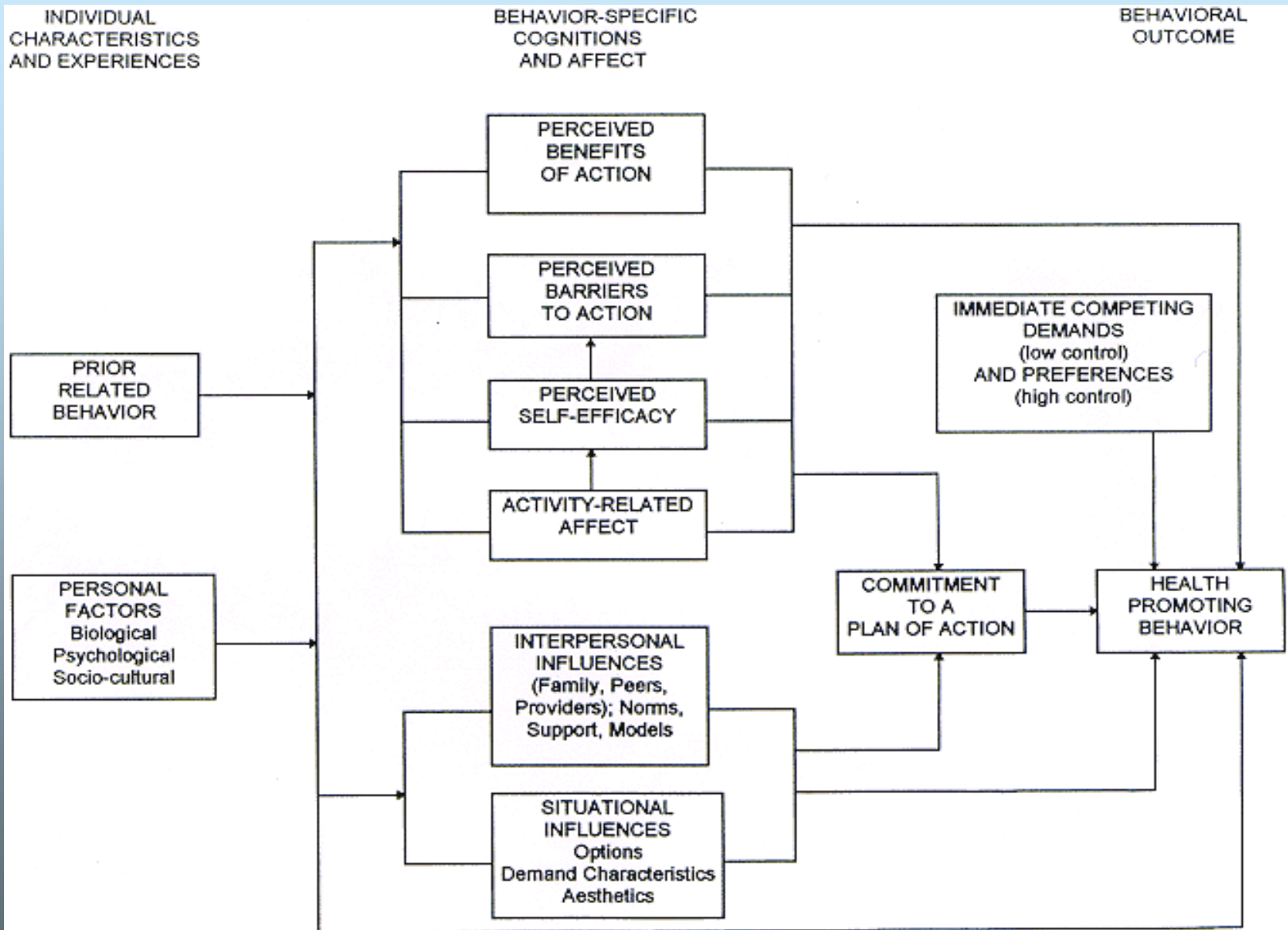


Model of Perceived Uncertainty in Illness



(Mishel, 1988)

Nola Pender's Health Promotion Model



Revised Health Promotion Model