Creating Graduate Programs

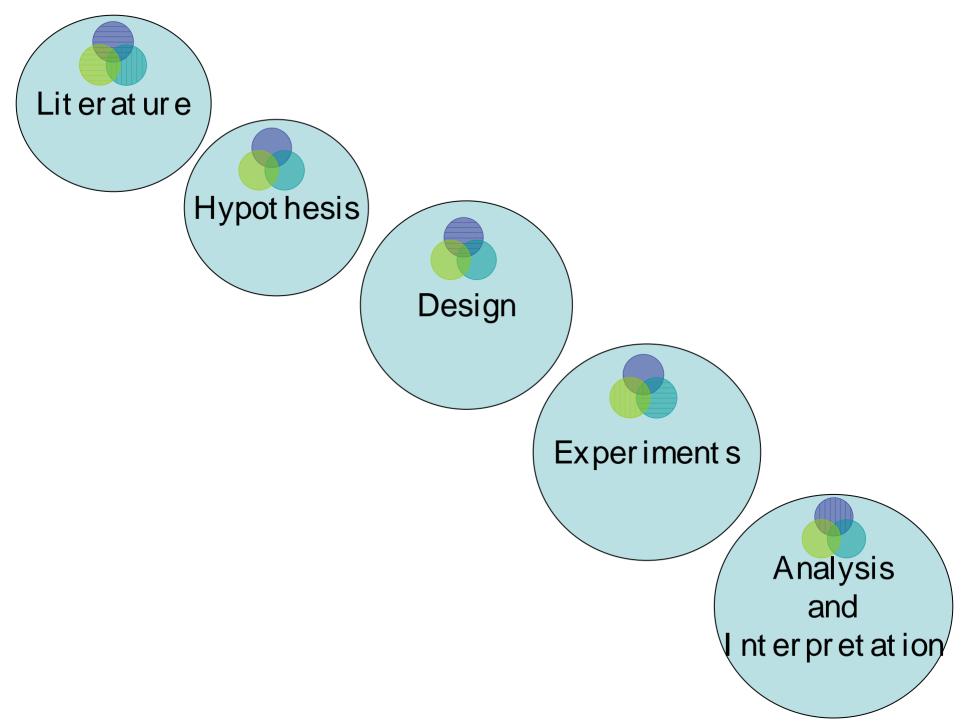
A Bit of Background

- Guat emala and Nicar agua mid 80's
 - Through the lens of a parasite ecologist, a nutritionist, and a pediatric gastroenterologist
- Colombia early 90's
 - Centro de Investigaciones Multidisciplinarias en Desarrollo (working with social scientists)
- Nutrition-infection research program
 Interdisciplinary training of young researchers
- McGill School of Environment
 - Developing a truly transdisciplinary graduate curriculum

Effective Interdisciplinary Collaboration

- Mutual respect
- Shared goals
- Appreciation of different realities

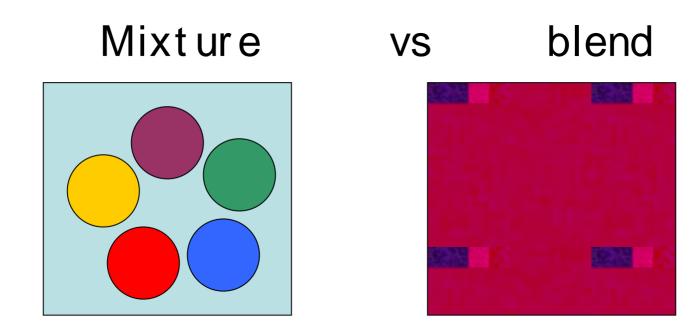
Nemat odes Zinc I mmunit y **Deficiency**



How to Meet the Special Challenges

- Interdisciplinary programs take longer
 - Of ten requires more course work
 - Longer time to develop research proposal
- Value of "ad personam" degrees
- Challenge of multiple supervisors and multiple research environments

Transdisciplinarity



A Transdisciplinary Graduate Curriculum

- What formation does a student need to truly succeed in a transdisciplinary manner?
- Is transdisciplinarity defined by ability to cite information from multiple disciplines?
- Or is it a way of thinking, an approach to learning, a way of experiencing the "world"?
- Should the structured learning opportunities (ie courses) focus more on skills as applied to content, rather than the content per se?

How to Meet the Special Challenges

- Breaking down assumptions
 - Role of supervisor
 - Degree of independence
 - Time expect at ions
 - Course expect at ions
- Modeling transdisciplinarity
 - I nt egr at ed cour ses
 - -Fully collaborative supervision of research