#### **Creating Graduate Programs**

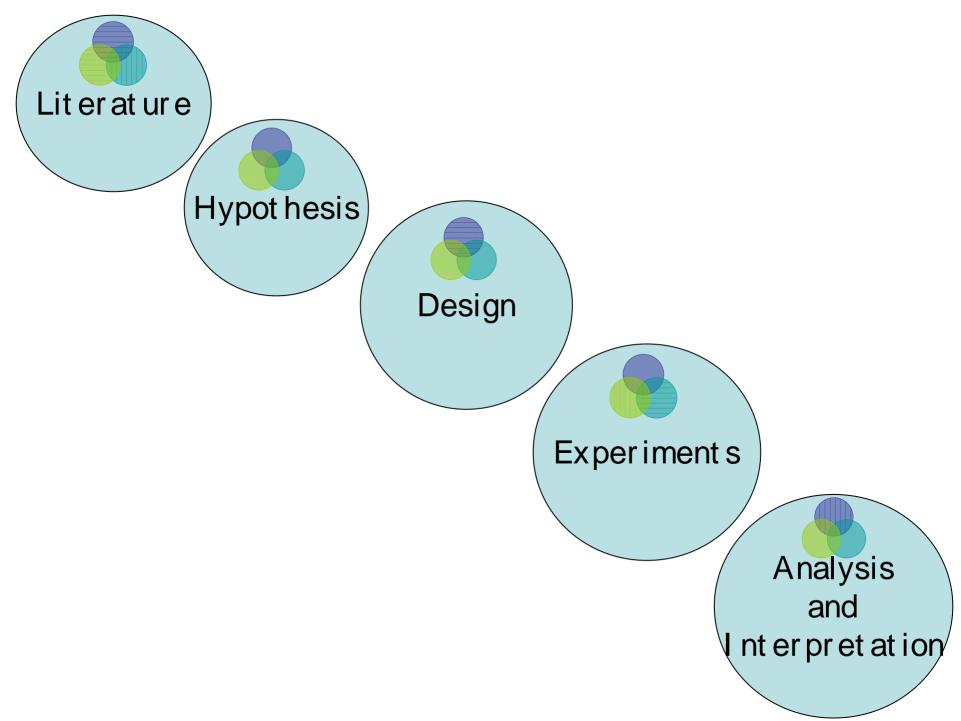
## A Bit of Background

- 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

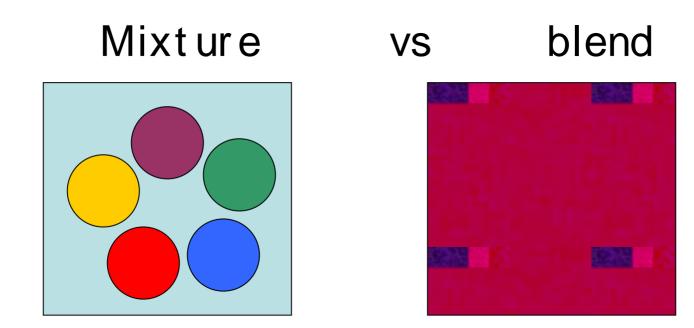
# Nemat odes Zinc I mmunit y **Deficiency**



#### 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