PROGRAM OF RESEARCH:

DEFINITIONS AND STEPS

WHAT IS A PROGRAM OF RESEARCH?

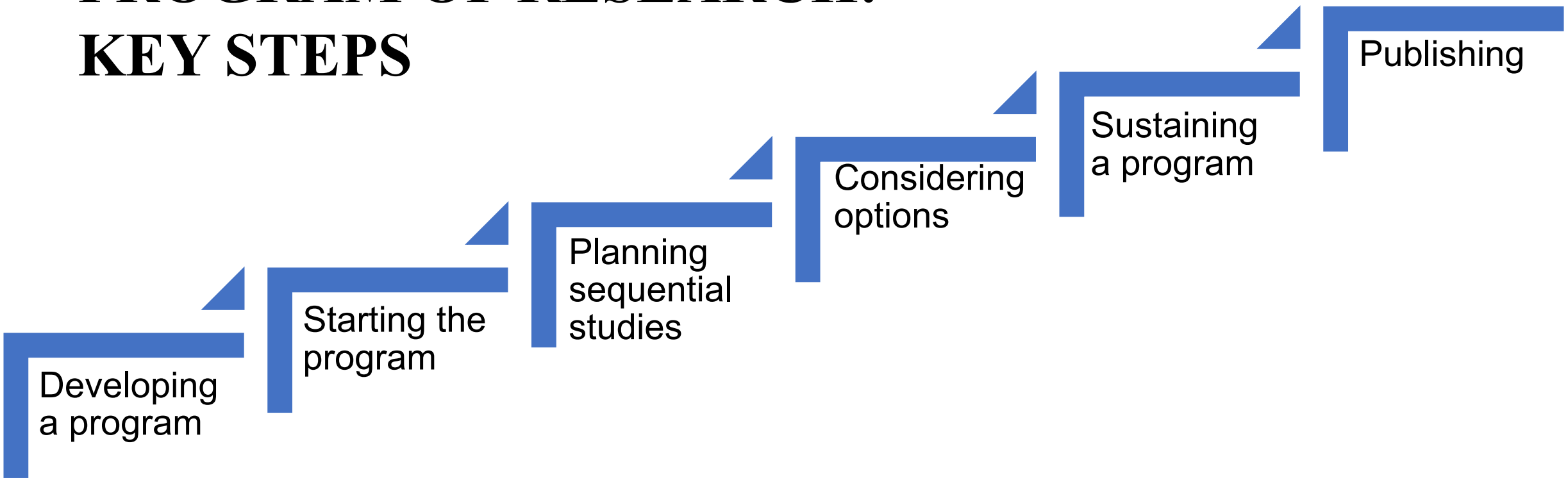
Sustained, systematically planned series of studies
Addresses a specific gap in knowledge of a topic
Knowledge driven, not method limited
Each study is complete in itself
Each successive study builds on previous studies
Logical progression of knowledge to fill the identified gap

Definitions

Author (Year)	Definition
Pranulis (1991)	A series of related studies aimed at addressing a particular knowledge gap that is significant to the scientist's discipline.
Fitch (1996)	A series of studies conducted in a topic area such that logical progression of knowledge is revealed.
Sandelowski (1997)	Comprising planned, purposeful, and substantive and/or theoretically linked studies with demonstrable significance for the public welfare.
Parse (2009)	Visible testimony demonstrating a coherent pattern of knowledge development about a particular phenomenon.
Holzemer (2009)	Designed to build knowledge over time that can contribute to improved outcomes of health care. It is grounded theoretically and is linked to rigorous research methodologies.
Morse (2010)	Addresses a large programmatic aim, and consists of a series of planned, interrelated, interconnected projects, each complete in itself, and each contributing stepwise to meeting the overall aim.
Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (Canada) (2013)	A sustained research enterprise that includes one or more projects or other components, and is shaped by broad objectives for the advancement of knowledge. It might be undertaken primarily by one investigator and encompassed within a single research career, or it might mobilize a team of researchers during a specific period.

Beck. Developing a program of research in nursing

PROGRAM OF RESEARCH: KEY STEPS



DEVELOPING A PROGRAM OF RESEARCH

FIND THE GAPS

FORM YOUR TEAM

STARTING A PROGRAM

KNOWLEDGE-BASED NOT METHOD-LIMITED

SYSTEMATIC, CONTINUOUS INQUIRY

EACH STUDY SHOULD ILLUMINATE NEXT STEPS

FIVE MINDS FOR THE FUTURE

Choose & understand important topics and gaps in discipline

Disciplined mind

Synthesizing mind

Effective synthesis and meta-synthesis of literature

Break new ground and consider new ideas and ways of thinking

Creative mind

Respectful mind

Welcome differences within group to understand and work effectively with others

Conceptualize how workers can serve purposes beyond self-interest

Ethical mind

UNCOVERING RESEARCH IDEAS

Gaps in knowledge

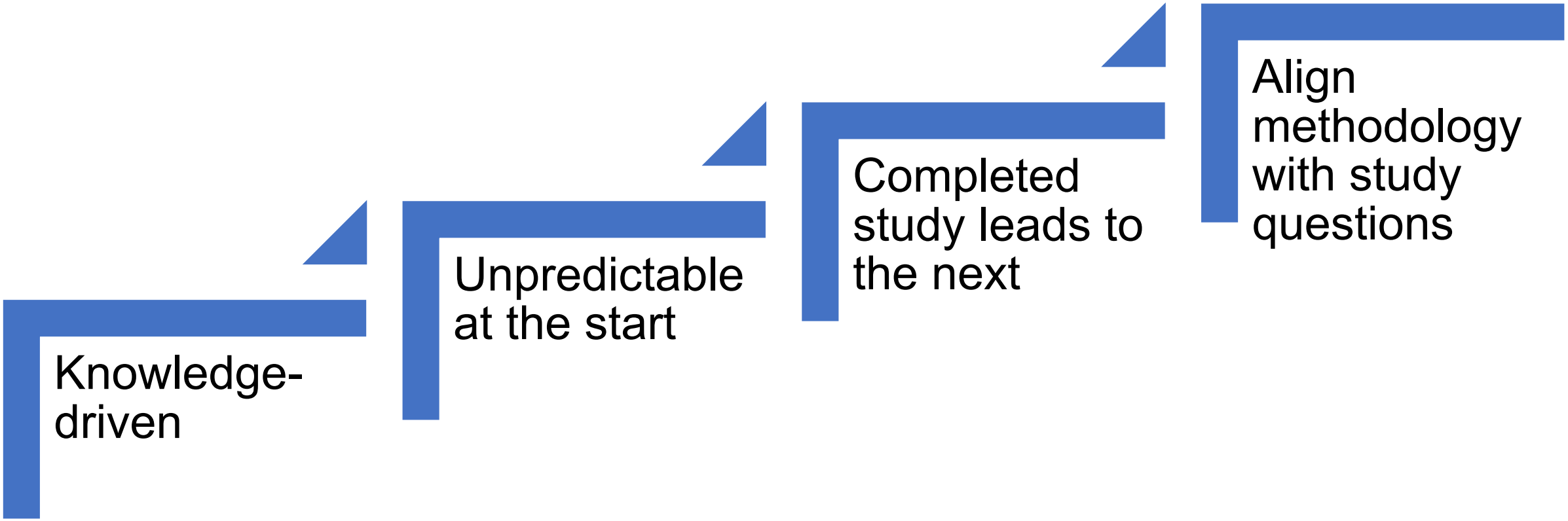
Contradictions in findings

Perspectives that are underrepresented

Ideas from practice

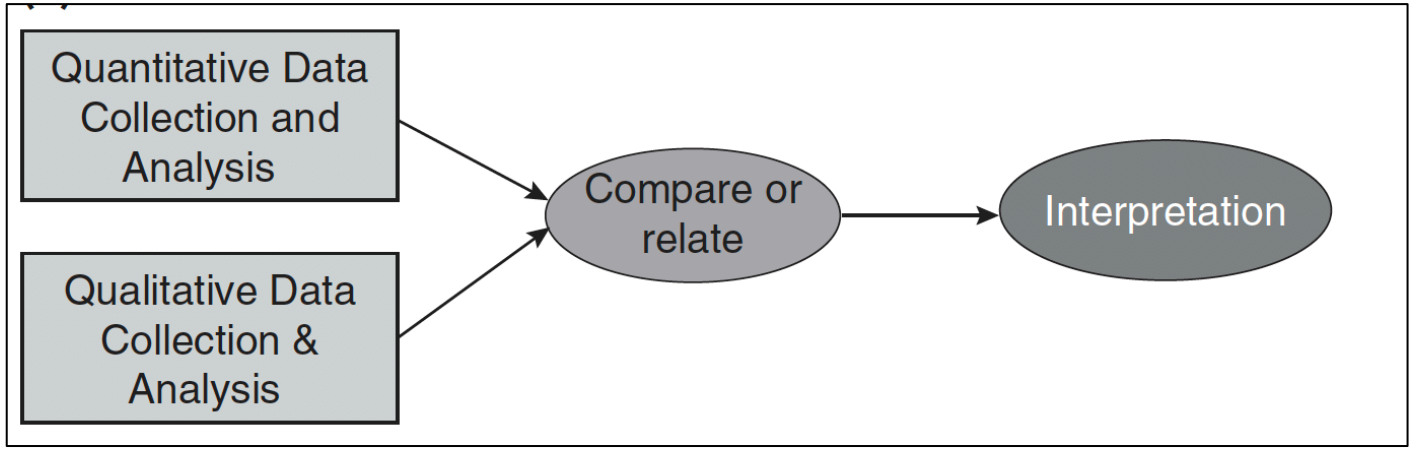
Unused data

PLANNING SEQUENTIAL STUDIES

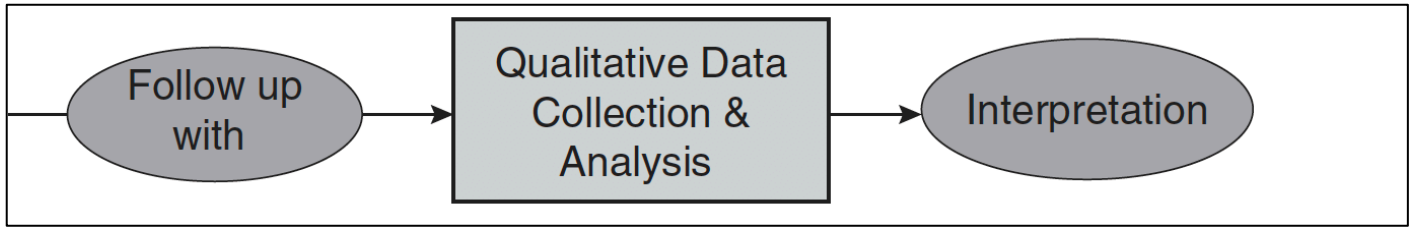


OPTIONS FOR MIXED METHODS

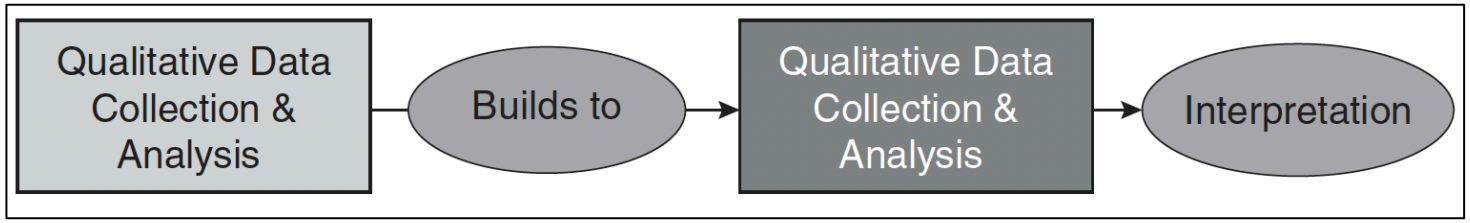
Convergent parallel design



Explanatory sequential design



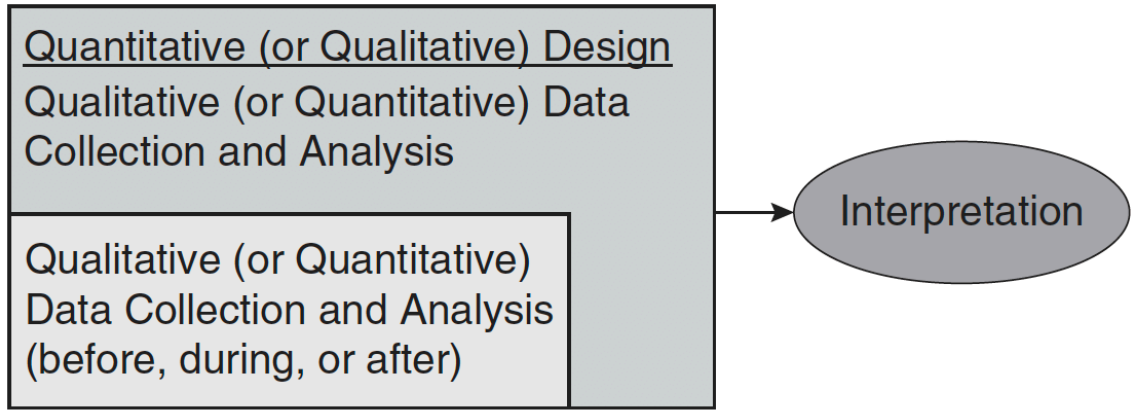
Exploratory sequential design



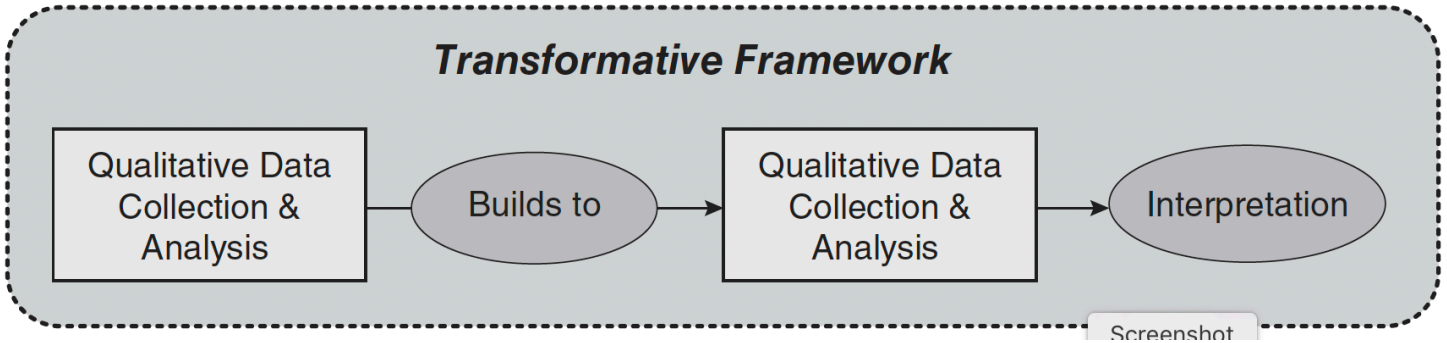
From Creswell and Plano Clark 2011

OPTIONS FOR MIXED METHODS

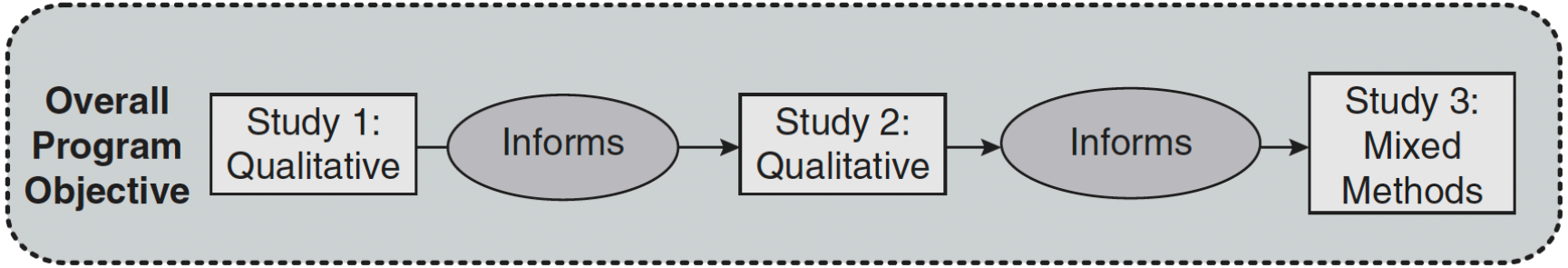
Embedded design



Transformative design



Multiphase design



From Creswell and Plano Clark 2011

SUSTAINING A PROGRAM OF RESEARCH

1. KNOW YOUR PASSION

2. ENSURE SIGNIFICANCE IN FIELD

3. KNOW LITERATURE IN YOUR FIELD

4. UNDERSTAND PRACTICE IN YOUR AREA

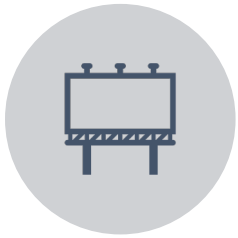
5. USE OUTCOMES MODEL FOR PROGRAM PLANNING

6. NURTURE INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLEAGUES

7. PUBLISH-BUILD FROM STUDY TO STUDY

8. HAVE FUN ALONG THE JOURNEY

WRITING THE STORYLINE



WHO IS YOUR AUDIENCE?

CHOOSE THE JOURNAL WISELY

KNOW JOURNAL STYLE AND REQUIREMENTS

WHAT IS THE STORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO NARRATE?

PRESENT THE DATA THAT ALIGNS WITH THE STORYLINE

References

- Cheryl Tatano Beck. Developing a program of research in nursing. Springer publishing company. October 2015.
- Tomlinson et al. Programmatic Research: A Collaborative Model. Journal Of Professional Nursing September-October 1986
- Beginning with the end in mind. Planning pilot projects and other programmatic research for successful scaling up. WHO