

GMM Dengue Control in a Social and Cultural Context

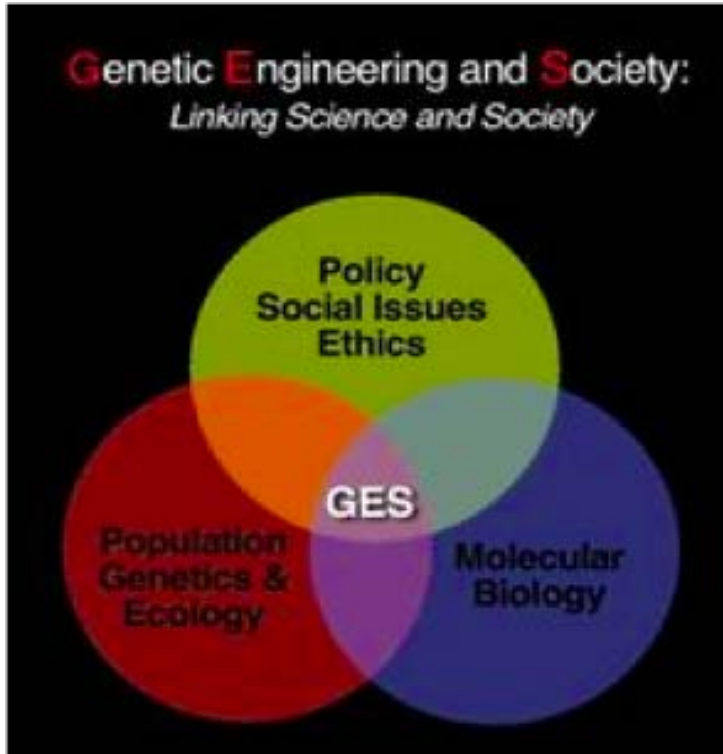
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Genetic Engineering and Society

The Case of Transgenic Pests



- Interdisciplinary program at North Carolina State University
- Funded through NSF IGERT grant
- Represented Fields
 - Biomathematics
 - Biology
 - Communication, Rhetoric, & Digital Media
 - Economics
 - Entomology
 - Forestry & Environmental Resources
 - Genetics
 - History
 - Public Administration
 - Sociology & Anthropology

GMM for Dengue Control

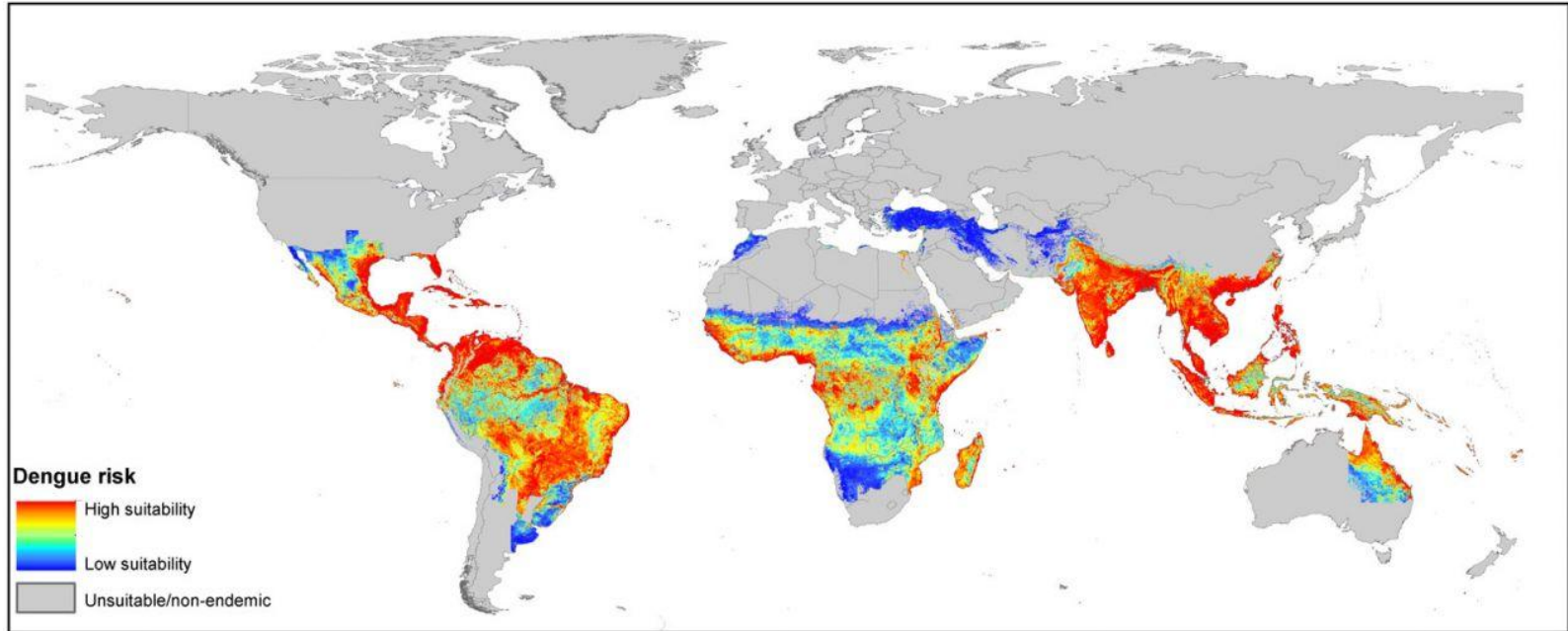
- Question
 - Should we use GMM to control dengue fever?
- Students
 - Tim Antonelli: Biomathematics
 - Amanda Clayton: Economics
 - Molly Hartzog Storment: CRDM
 - Sophia Webster: Entomology
 - Gabriel Zilnik: Entomology



Photo Credit: [Muhammad Mahdi Karim](#)

Global Burden of Dengue

Distribution of global dengue risk (Simmons CP et al, 2012)



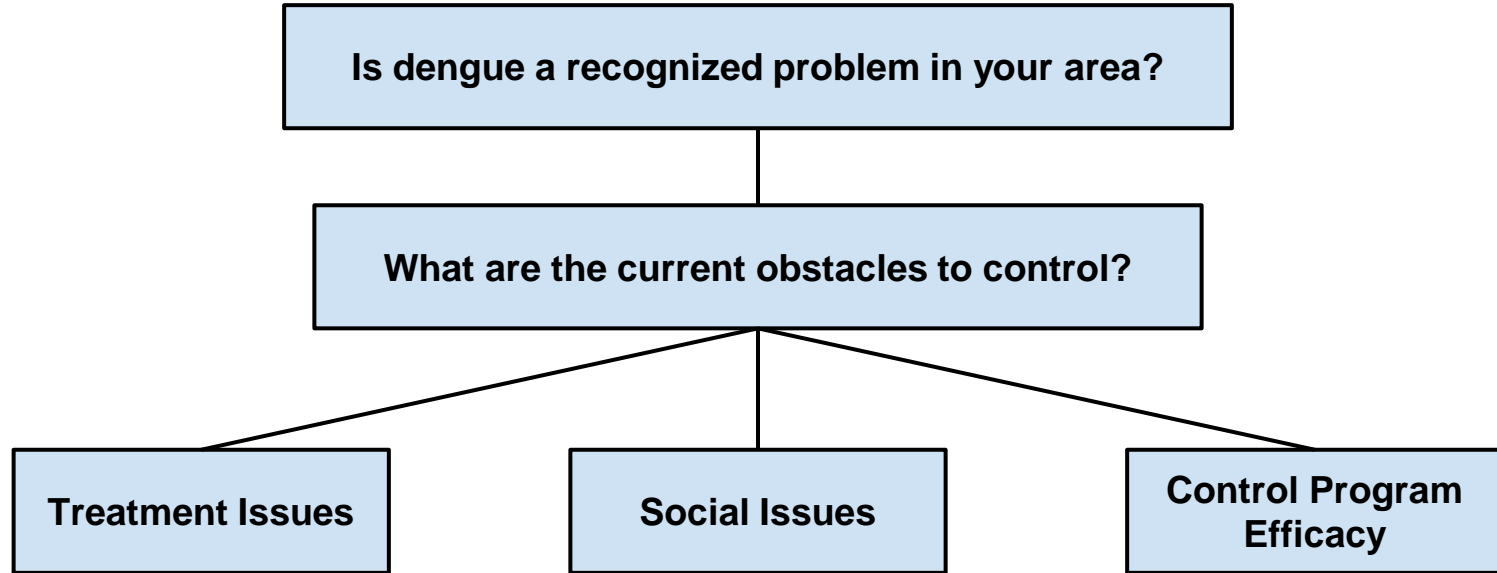
Aedes aegypti & Genetic Modification



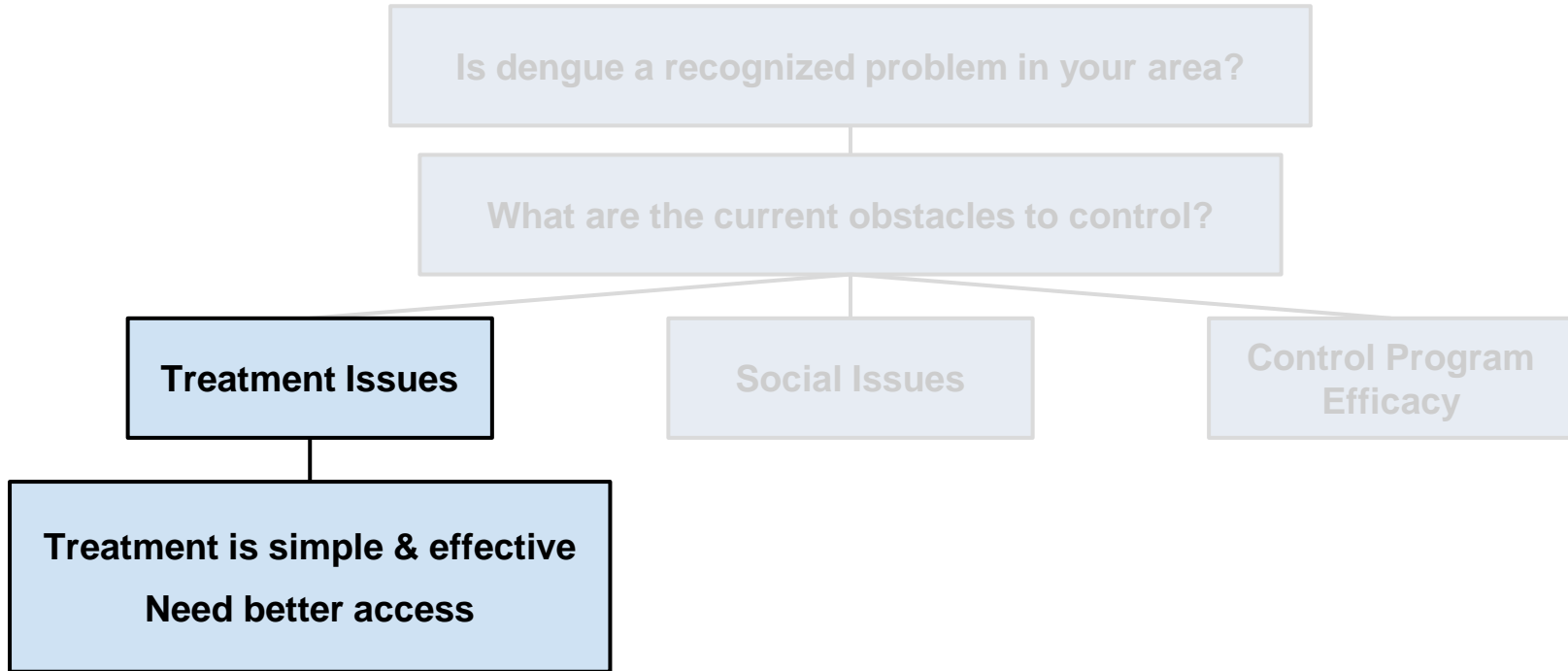
Photo Credit: James Gathany, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Dengue is transmitted by the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquito
 - Females bite during the day
 - Lay eggs in open water containers
 - Inhabit tropical urban areas
- GM Control Techniques
 - Population Suppression
 - Population Replacement

Should we use GMM to control dengue?



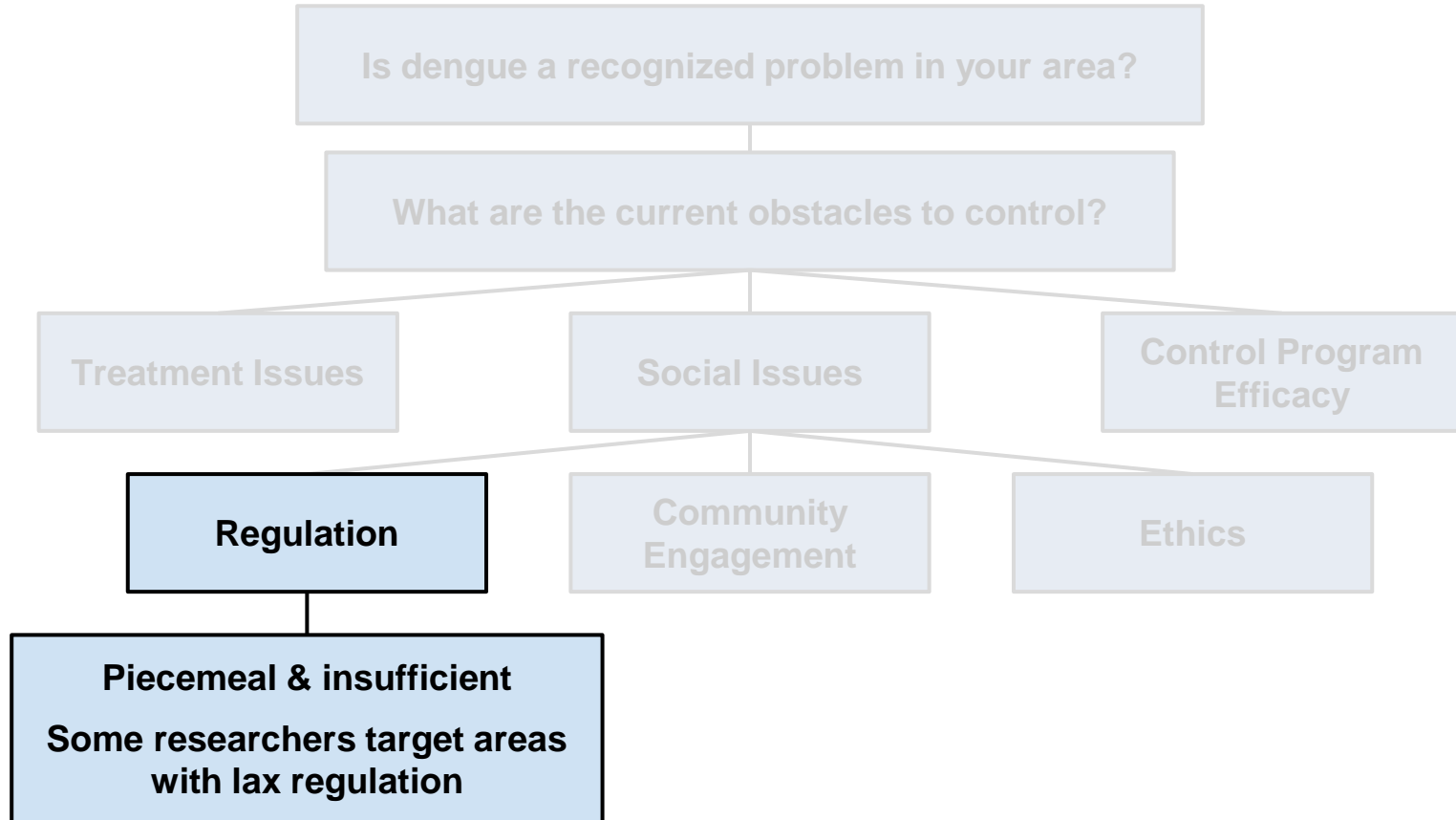
Should we use GMM to control dengue?



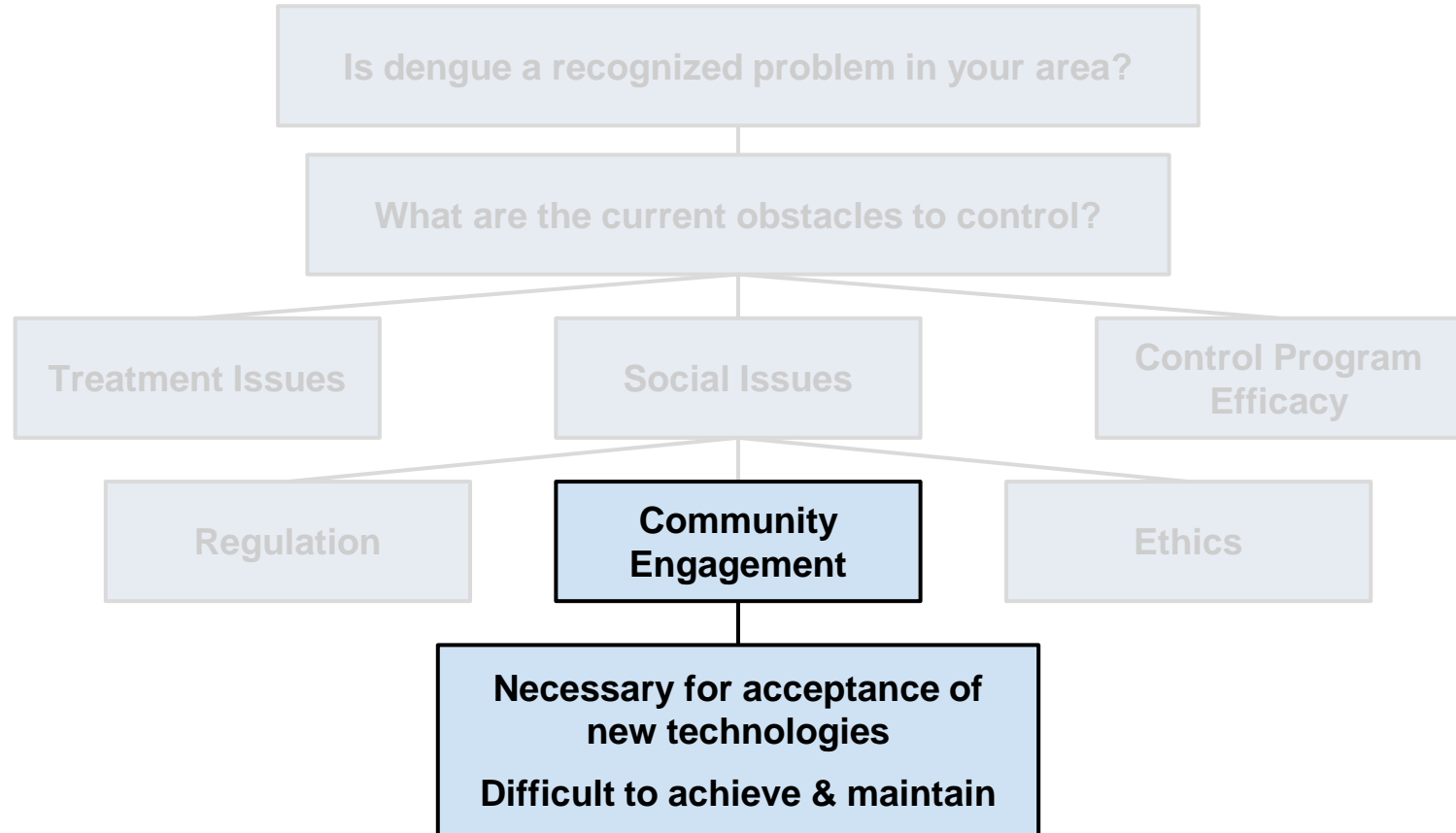
Should we use GMM to control dengue?



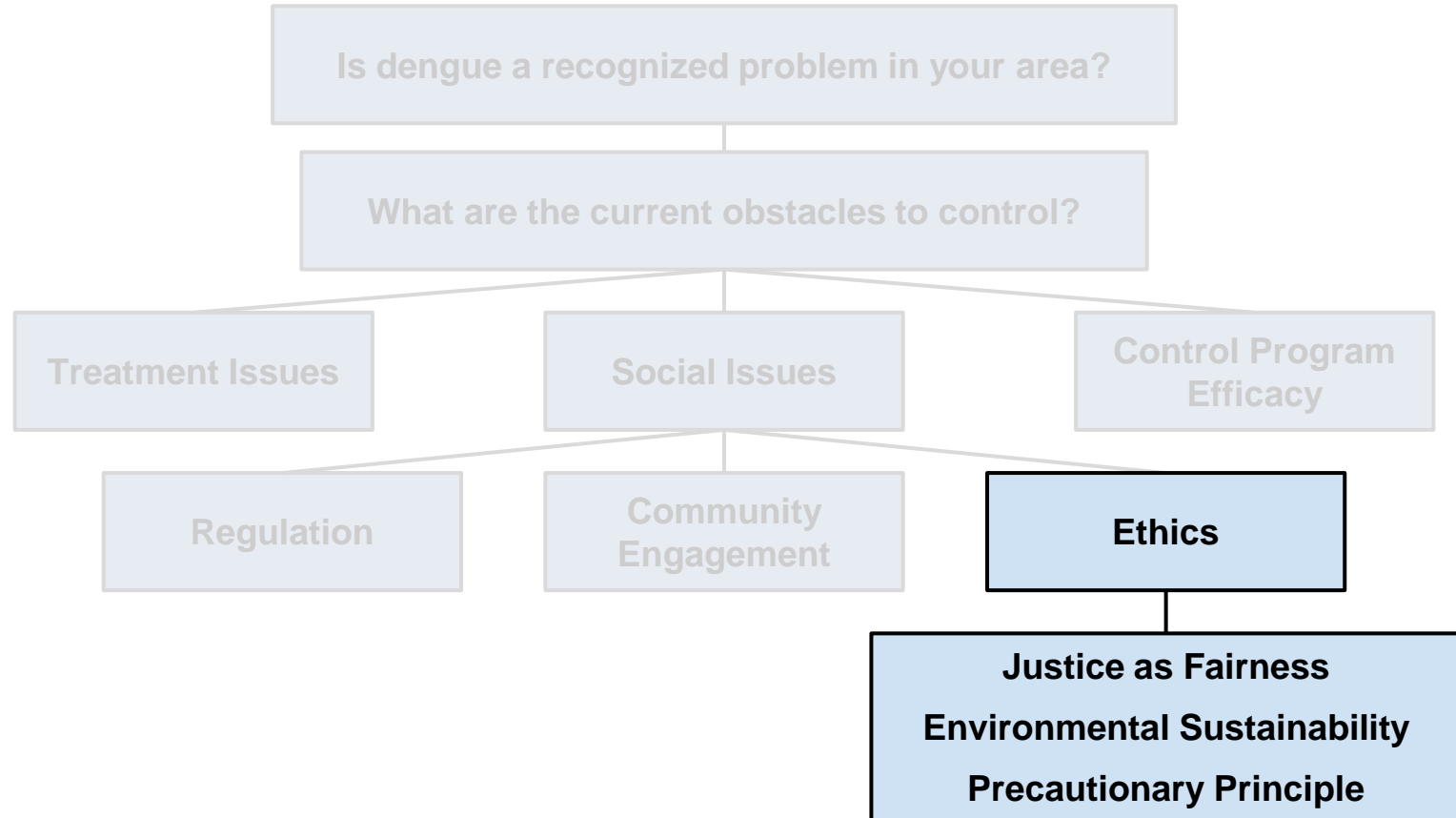
Should we use GMM to control dengue?



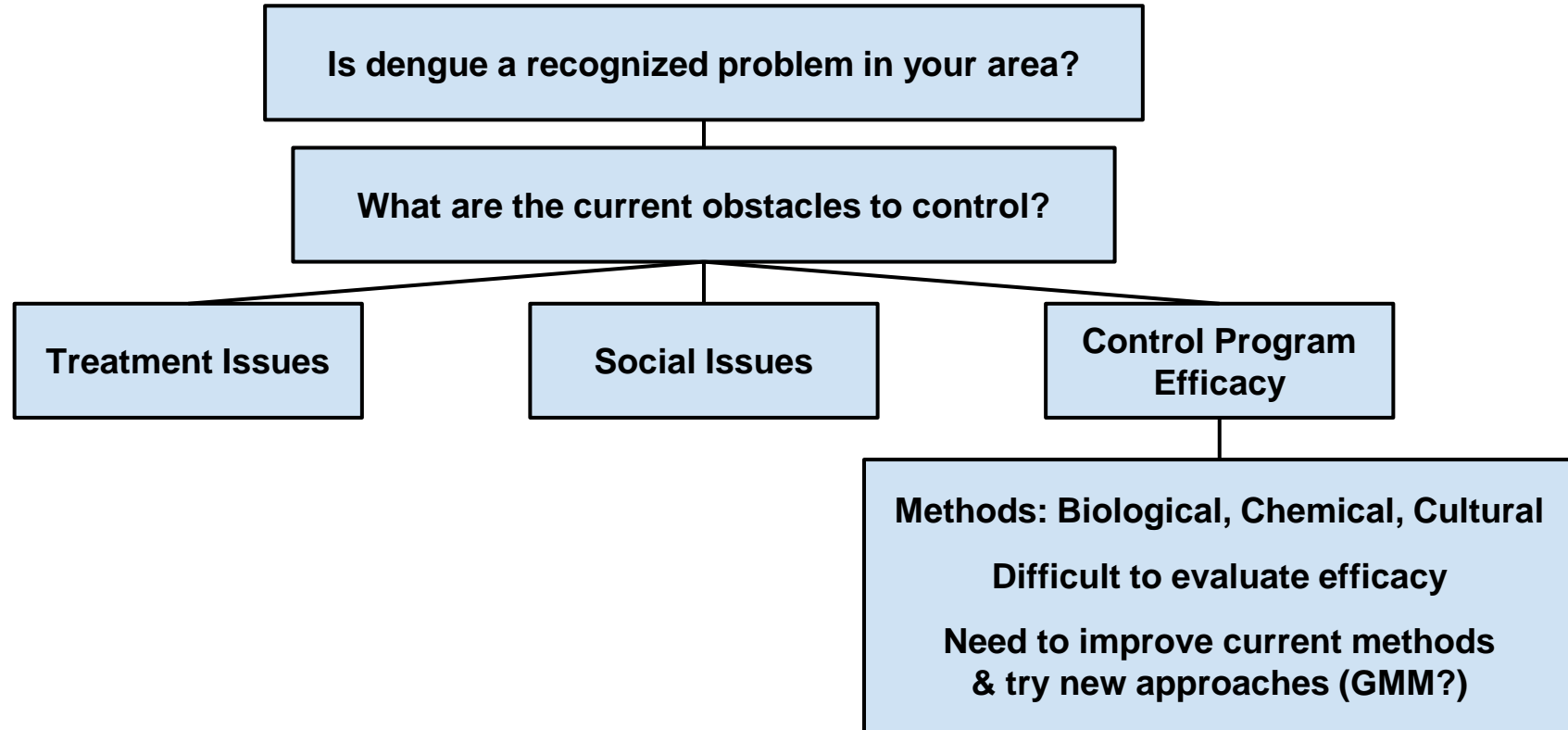
Should we use GMM to control dengue?



Should we use GMM to control dengue?



Should we use GMM to control dengue?



So...should we use GMM to control dengue?

- Conclusion 1: Not right now...
 - Focus on treatment instead
 - GMM may not be better than current controls
 - Regulation & support not yet in place
 - Potential risks not fully explored

So...should we use GMM to control dengue?

- Conclusion 2: Yes BUT ONLY...
 - With caution
 - Need site-specific risk assessments
 - As part of a broader control strategy
 - Not a “silver bullet”
 - On a case-by-case basis
 - Need open community engagement

So...should we use GMM to control dengue?

- Research on GMM control techniques should continue regardless of its use for dengue control
 - Implications for malaria, chagas, west-nile, etc.
- Need to maintain an open dialogue with all interested publics throughout all processes
 - Research, policy, regulation, implementation, etc.

Thanks!



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