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HANDS-ON APPLICATION CAPACITY
BUILDING FOR YOUTH



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
Center for Global Health Practice and Impact



SCHISTOSOMIASIS

(BILHARZIA)



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SAVANNAH HEALTH SYSTEM INNOVATION LTD (SHSIL)

Background

Schistosoma is a genus of trematodes, commonly known as **blood flukes**. They are parasitic flatworms responsible for a highly significant group of infections in humans termed ***schistosomiasis***, which is considered by the World Health Organization as the second-most socioeconomically devastating parasitic disease (after malaria), with hundreds of millions infected worldwide (over 240 million people in 77 countries on 5 continents and killing 300,000 people annually in sub-Saharan Africa alone). There are 2 major forms of schistosomiasis – **Intestinal and Urogenital**.



Transmission



Water borne

**Widespread
in Poor
communities**

**Spread
through open
defecation
and urination**

Affected Population



Women



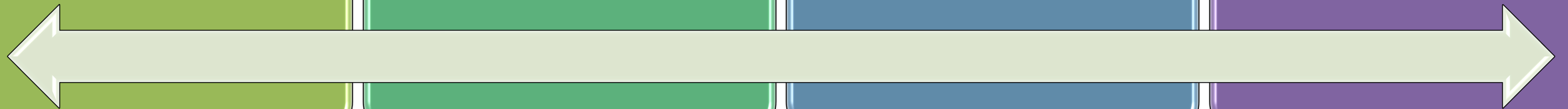
Children



Manual workers



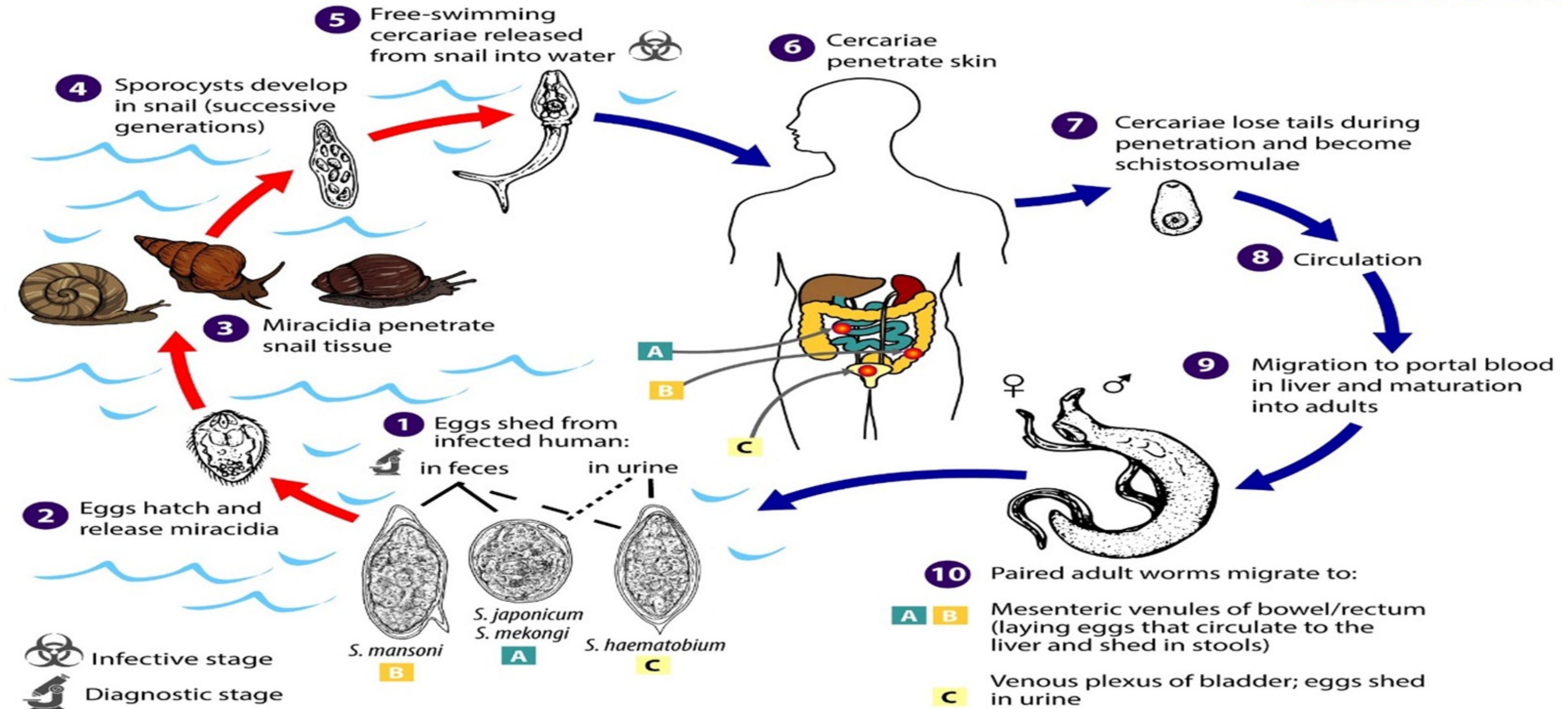
Fishermen



Schistosoma Life Cycle



Schistosoma spp.



HOSTS



Human , cattle, dogs, cats,
rodents, pigs, horses, and goats.
(main host)



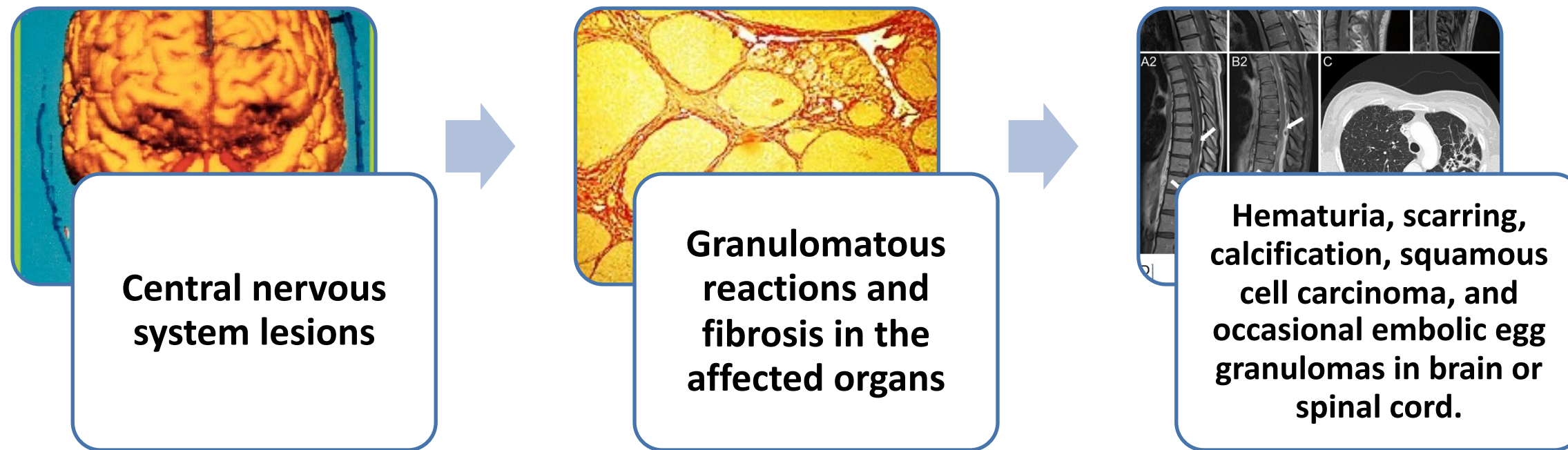
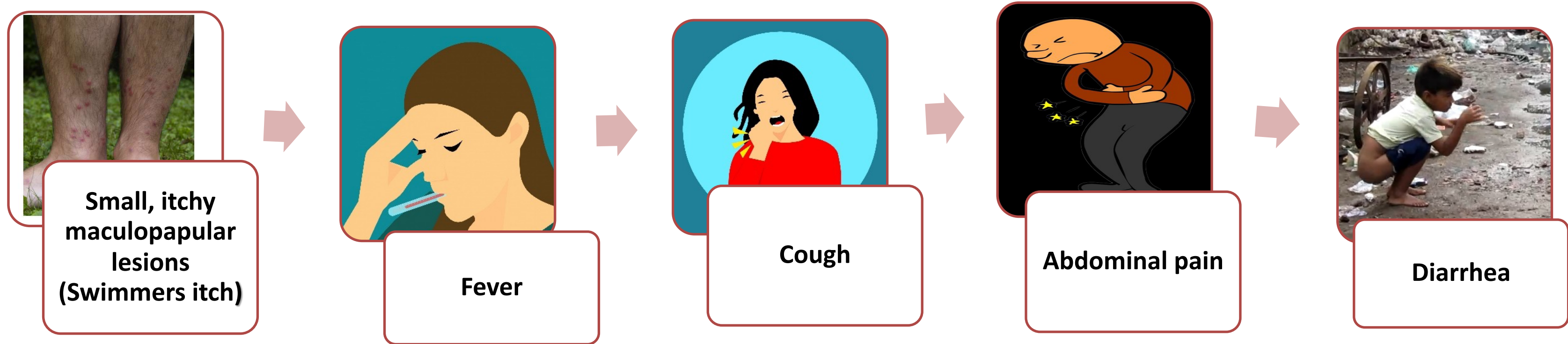
Certain types of freshwater snail
(intermediary host)

Human Schistosomiasis

- 👉 Infection is widespread in poor communities.
- 👉 9 out of 10 infected people live in Africa.
- 👉 Nigeria has the highest burden of schistosomiasis in the world.



Clinical Presentation



Prevention

No vaccine is available.

Avoid swimming or wading in freshwater when you are in countries in which schistosomiasis occurs.

Swimming in the ocean and in chlorinated swimming pools is safe.

Drink safe water.

Vigorous towel drying after an accidental, very brief water exposure may help to prevent parasites from penetrating the skin.

Control



Portable water



Adequate sanitation



Snail control



Periodic, targeted treatment with praziquantel.

Treatment

➡ Praziquantel Tablets

- ➡ Used to treat infections caused by Schistosoma worm.
- ➡ Can be used by adults and children who are at least 1 year old.

Do you know?

- SCHISTOSOMIASIS disables more than it kills.
- The number of deaths due to schistosomiasis is difficult to estimate because of hidden pathologies such as liver and kidney failure, bladder cancer and ectopic pregnancies.
- Urogenital schistosomiasis may have long-term irreversible consequences, including infertility.
- Transmission occurs when people suffering from schistosomiasis contaminate freshwater sources with faeces or urine.
- People become infected when larval forms of the parasite – released by freshwater snails – penetrate the skin during contact with infested water.

- **Say No to Unclean water**
- **Say No to poor hygiene**
- **Say No to Schistosomiasis**
- **Say No to NTDs**



Images:

1. Image: learn.elimu.org
2. Image: www.scirp.org
3. www.counterview.net
4. Image: www.flickr.com/photos/worldbank/8000989113
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