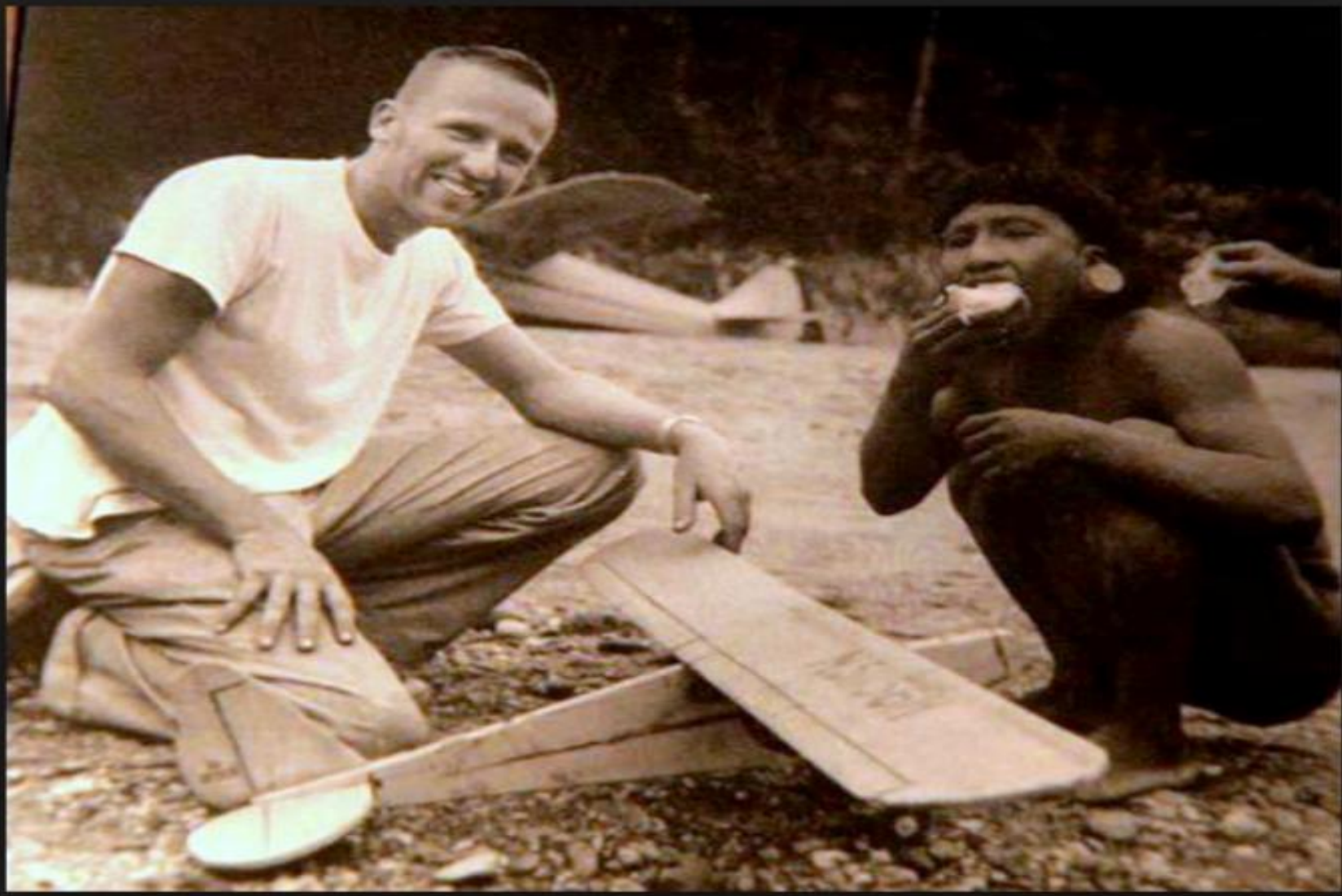


Empowerment and Capacity-Building:

Lessons learned through partnership with Indigenous leaders in the
jungles of South America













When helping hurts...

We want to do the tooth thing and
the doctor thing....and then we
want to teach others like us around
the world to do the same.

Emancipatory Knowing

is the ability to recognize social and political problems of injustice and inequity, to realize things could be different, and to enact change.

Chinn & Kramer, 2011

Hegemony

“is the dominance of certain ideologies, beliefs, values, or views of the world over other possible viewpoints”

Chinn and Kramer (2011), p.66

Making room for questioning the hegemony

Why are things the way they are?

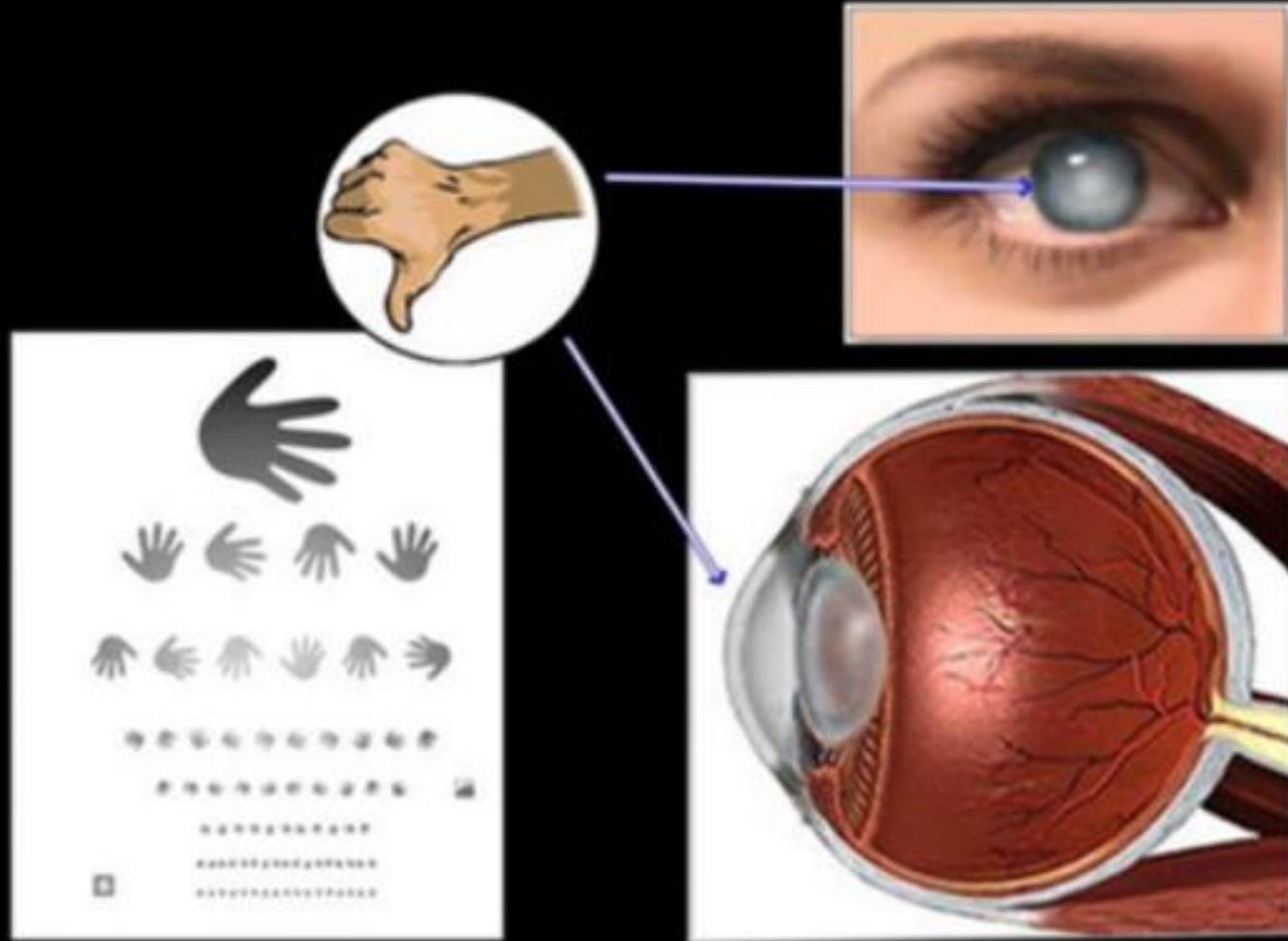
Who benefits? Who has the power?

When care begins to disempower and limit capacity we need to question the way things are done.

Lessons I learned from working with the Waodani

#1

Be careful to not misjudge ability when
what you are truly seeing is difference.





The Doctor Thing





The Tooth Thing



The Flying Thing



...they became a change agent in
how medical missions are
approached globally.





The Waodani pushed us to think outside of the box.

#2 Be willing to risk and encourage questions



#3 Acknowledging Strength and Knowledge



#4 Take the time to listen
and then to act.



#5 Recognize that
they
may do things
differently



#6 Relinquish sole decision making power and entrust it to others



#7 Actively build bridges and trust



Celebrate Cooperative Accomplishments



Ways my daily practice has changed...

I recognize the power I hold
as nurse and the
vulnerability of my patient.



The importance of physical positioning

Daily I ask myself:

How do my actions
empower/disempower?

How do my actions build
other's capacity?

If Indigenous leaders from the Amazon
can, with support, enact change, what
change is possible in your sphere of
influence?

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References

Chinn, P.L. & Kramer, M.K. (2011). Integrated theory and knowledge development in nursing (8th Ed). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier Mosby.