

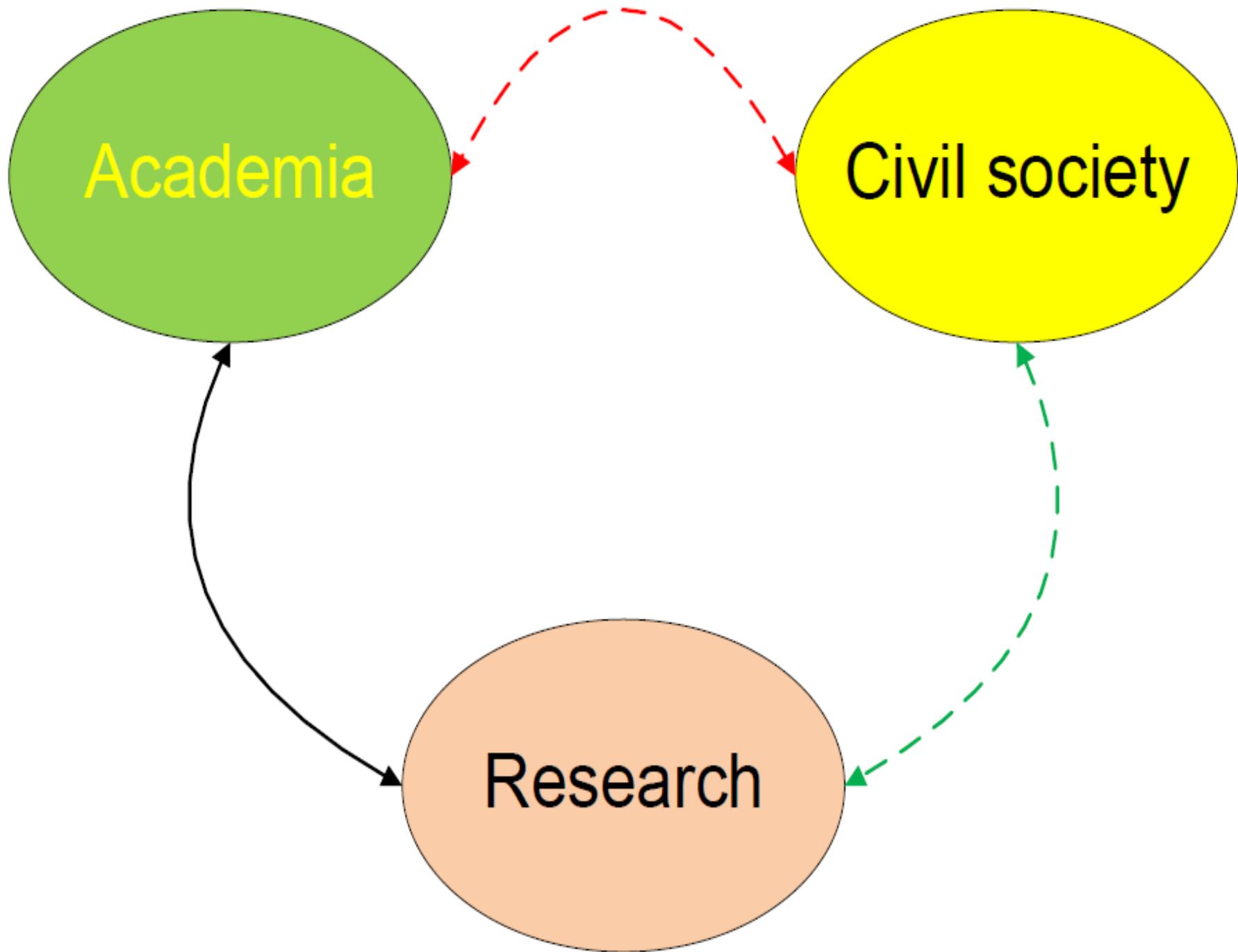


# **Academia, Research and Civil Society**

**By**

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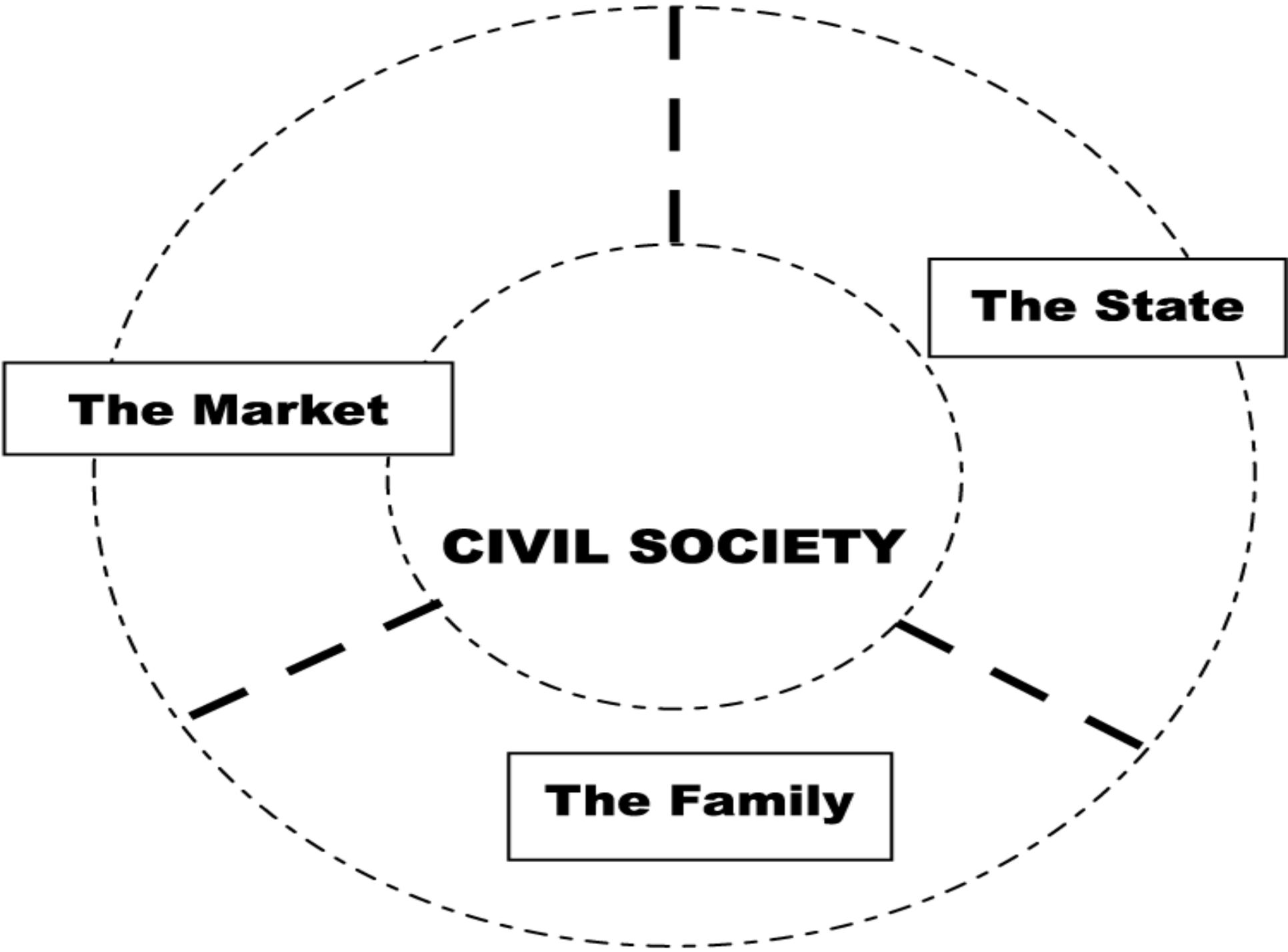
Healthy Caribbean 2012  
The Wyndham Hotel  
Kingston Jamaica  
*May 29, 2012*



# Civil Society

- Arena outside family, state, and market
  - **Where people associate to advance common interests**
  - **Movers and shakers of public opinion**
- Requires reliable and valid information for
  - **Health education**
  - **Advocacy**
  - **Communicating messages to constituents**
  - **Programme development**





**The Market**

**The State**

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

**The Family**

# Academia

- A community of students and scholars engaged in higher education and research
- The intellectual class
- Use of the word 'academia' has its roots in ancient Greece and North Africa



# Research

- Descriptive, observational or experimental
- Helps to provide answers and solutions to hypothetical problems
- Complex in design
- Methodical and structured in its approach
- Strives for excellence and recognition
- Well-suited to academia



# Academia vs. Civil Society

## Academia

- **More concerned** with detail, excellence and examination on specific public health areas
- Specific solutions to abstract problems
- Publishing and dissemination to a limited audience
- Structure and process

## Civil Society

- **More concerned** with the greater good for society
- Real life solutions to public health problems
- Getting the message to the widest possible audience
- Outcomes



# Academia Needs Civil Society

- Needs civil society to harness public opinion on areas of public health concern
- To motivate individuals and groups to participate in research, enable them to take part and reward them for their efforts
- To fund specific areas of research and explore financial support through their access to higher tiered organizations



# Academia Needs Civil Society

- Stewardship, co-ordination and leadership
- Programmatic approach vs project response
- For support
  - **Field work, administration, lobbying governmental agencies**



# Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

- Collaborative approach to research
- Equitably involves all partners in the process
- Recognizes unique strengths
- Uses qualitative and quantitative methods to understand complex public health issues
- Vehicle and opportunity for more effective translation of research into action re: NCDs



# An Example of CBPR

- Diabetes foot amputations in Barbados
- Hennis et al Case Control Study 2004
- Diabetics with LEA (205)/ Diabetics without LEA (104)
- Inadequate footwear independently triples the risk for LEA
- Have there been effective communication of results to governmental agencies and civil society?



# The “Get the Message” Campaign

- CDRC assisted with writing and review of health tips (PSA)
- Attended meeting in an advisory capacity
- Co authored an editorial in the West Indian Medical Journal targeting the medical community
- CDRC will continue to engage the HCC with documentation and data collection that will allow for publications



# How to Narrow the Gap?

- Collaboration
- Co-operation
- Partnership and alliances
- Sensitivity
- Reciprocity
- Understanding public health issues of greatest concern
- Ability to understand each other's strengths and weaknesses



**Thank You**  
**ANY QUESTIONS?**

