

Children's Mercy Kansas City

## SHARE @ Children's Mercy

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Health Literacy Events

Health Literacy Challenges and Opportunities:  
Bringing Children's Mercy and Kansas City  
Together

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Apr 18th, 11:20 AM - 12:20 PM

### Health Literacy, Culture and Language

John Cowden

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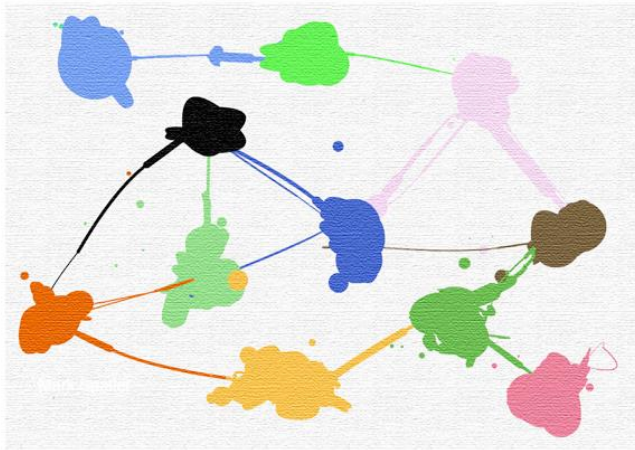


Part of the [Health Communication Commons](#), and the [Interprofessional Education Commons](#)

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Cowden, John, "Health Literacy, Culture and Language" (2018). *Health Literacy Events*. 12.  
<https://scholarlyexchange.childrensmercy.org/healthliteracy/workshop/Wednesday/12>

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Inseparable elements

Cultural constructs

Effects

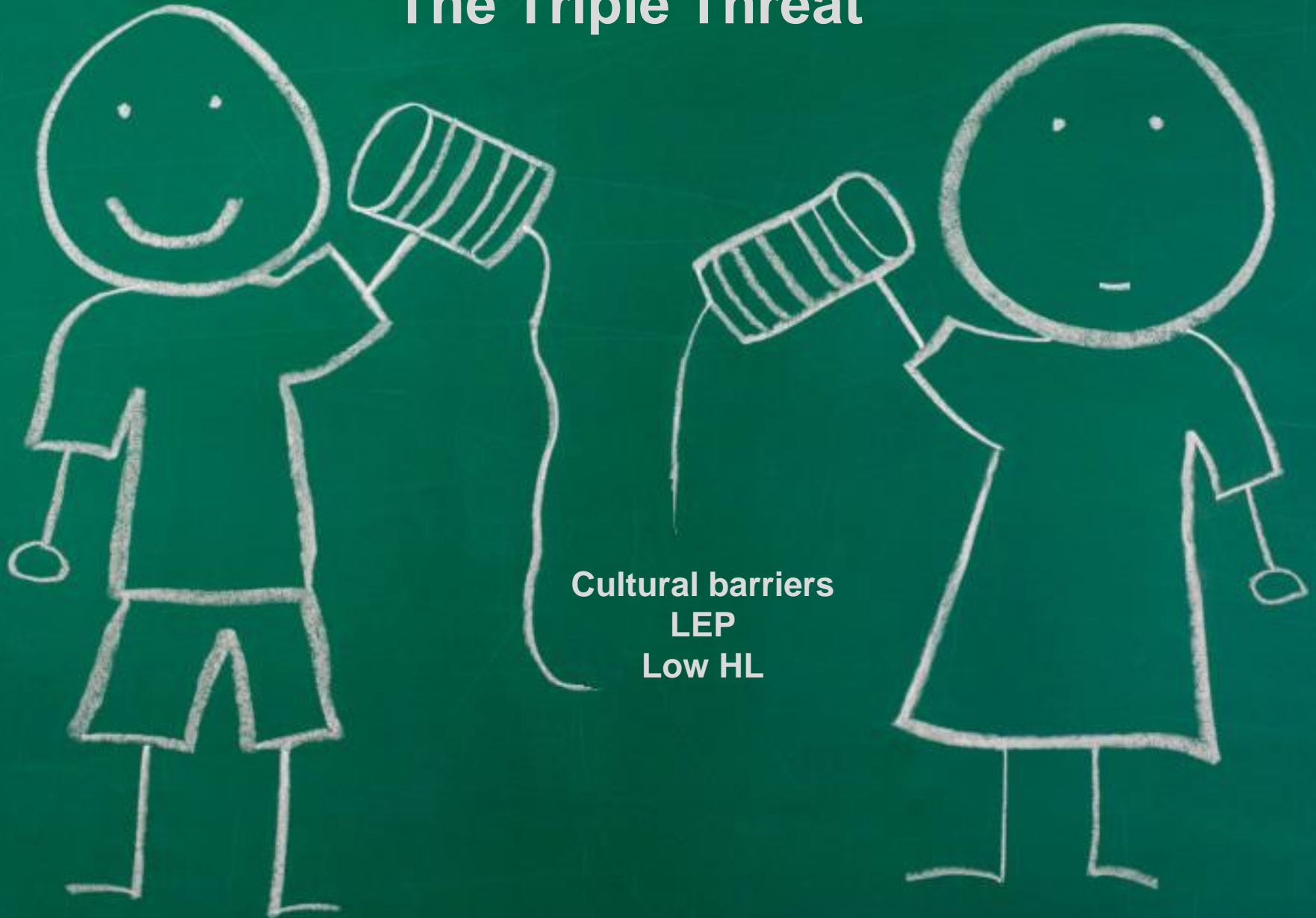
Let's act!

# Health Literacy, Culture and Language

**John (JC) Cowden, MD, MPH**  
**Medical Director, Office of Equity and Diversity**  
**Children's Mercy Kansas City**



# “The Triple Threat”





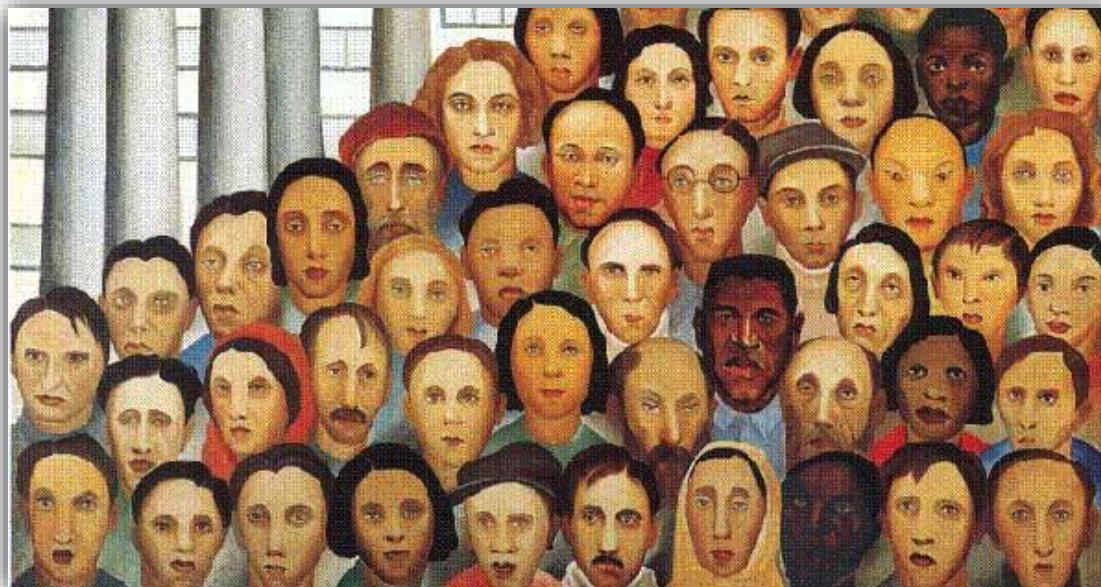
Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 1 Apple (125 g)	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 65	Calories from Fat 2
%	
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 0g	0%
Saturated Fat 0g	0%
Trans Fat	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 1mg	0%
Total Carbohydrate 17g	6%
Dietary Fiber 3g	12%
Sugars 13g	
Protein 0g	
Vitamin A 1%	Vitamin C 10%
Calcium 1%	Iron 1%

\*Percent Daily Values are based on a diet of 2,000 calories a day. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

# Health Literacy

“...obtain, process, and understand...”





# Culture

**“...learned, shared and transmitted knowledge of values, beliefs, and lifeways...”**





# Language

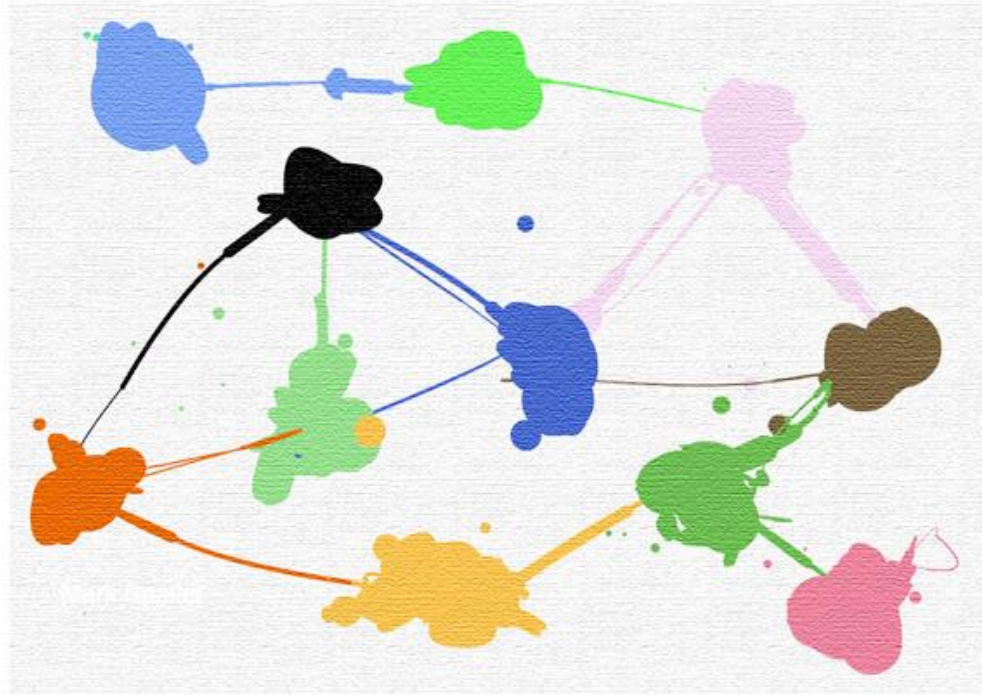
“...body of words...common to a people...”



# LEP

## Limited English Proficiency





# Interrelationships





Magico-religious

Biomedical

Deterministic

# Cultural Constructs



Familism vs individualism

Time orientation

High context vs low context

# Cultural Constructs



Reading and writing

Listening and speaking

Numeracy

Critical thinking and decision making

# Effects of Culture and Language



Self assessment

Patient assessment

Professional education

Interdisciplinary collaboration

Patient advocacy

Educational materials

**What can we do?**





# Conclusions

