# "FUTURE-PROOFING?"

Healthcare as a "System"
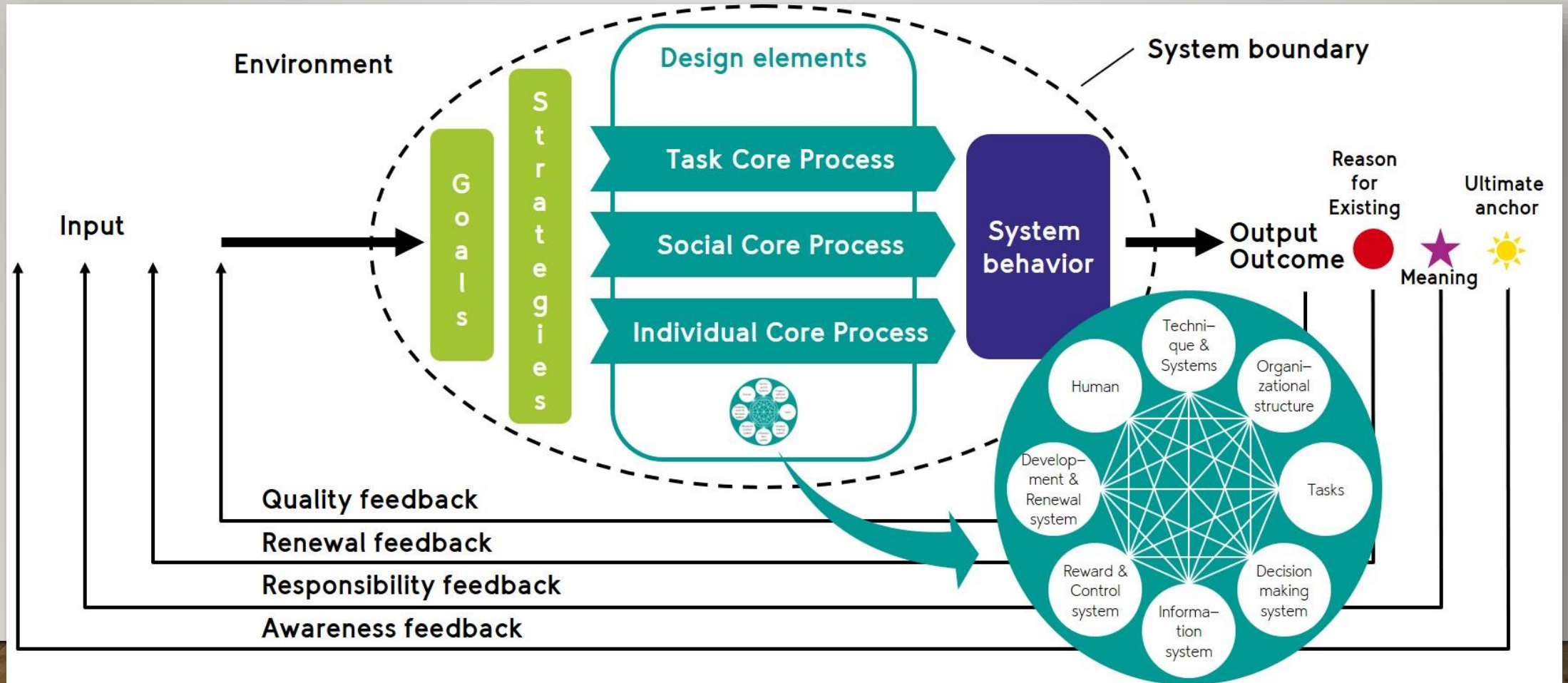
Tackling "Wicked Problems"
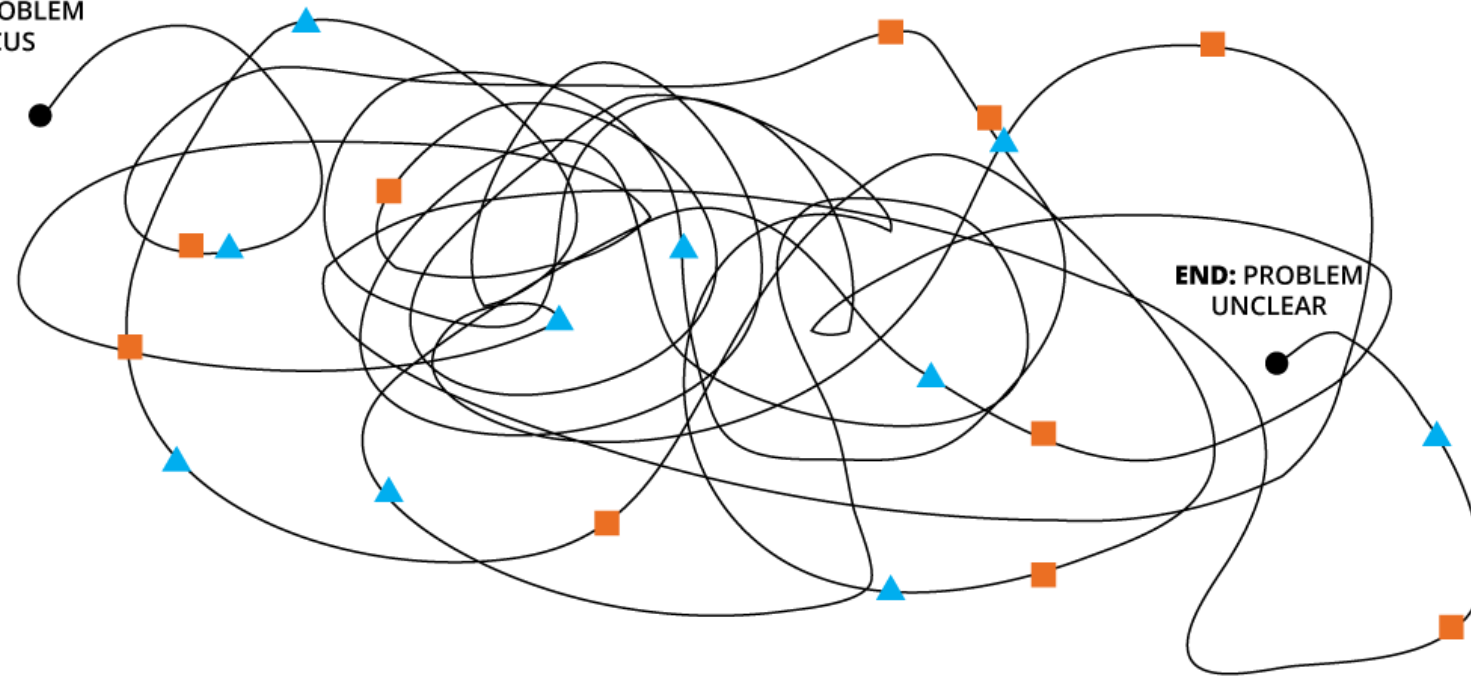
Futurists in a Pandemic

Financial Crisis

Global Pandemic

Extreme Weather Event

Rogue AI

Large Scale Multi-nation War

Discover Aliens

ELE Asteroid Strike

Radical Climate Change

PLAYING GAMES – THE THING FROM THE FUTURE

Futurists' Toolkit for Re-imagining Health Systems

OUTLINE NOTES

- Plurality of the future
- Mutability of the future
- Aversion to "prediction" of the future
- Dystopian images of the future vs Utopian
- "Running away from" vs "Running towards"

OUTLINE NOTES

Healthcare as a "System"

- Curiosity about components and interactions
- Desire to model
- Then to explore alternative future states – "scenarios"
- The optimization of the system may require active sub-optimization of the components
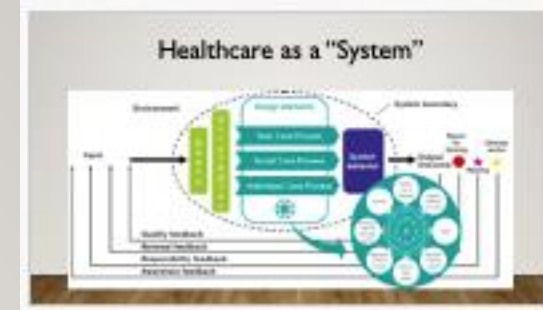
OUTLINE NOTES

- Public health as a "system within a system"
- Analysis-based approaches to problem-solving vs synthesis-based/holistic approaches
- Tendency of the system to return to base state

Tackling "Wicked Problems"

OUTLINE NOTES

Futurists in a Pandemic
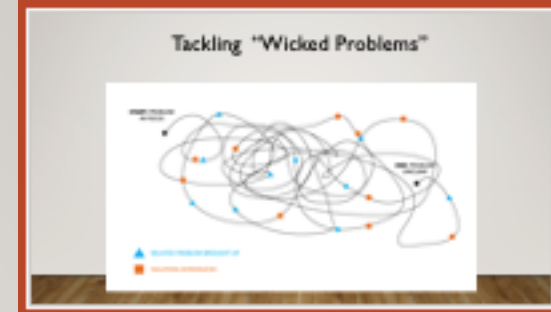
- Pandemic as an instance of a large impact event
- Instructive benefit of gaming out society's response to such large impact events
- In retrospect the pandemic response reveals low level of foresight based response planning (more focus on recovery)
- Gaming exposes system vulnerabilities
- Gaming exposes over-optimizations or fragility that arises from excessive complexity

OUTLINE NOTES

Futurists' Toolkit for Re-imagining Health Systems

- Practical implication based on 2011 futures research
- Application of Futures techniques: Environmental Scanning, Systems Thinking, Causal Layered Analysis and Scenario Planning
- Prime the minds of system designers for true collaboration, even across competing positions in the system
- Precedent in the political history of South Africa

Q&A NOTES

- **"How to kick off":** integrated conversation with system actors, power or societal action (cf "disruption" in business)
- **"Scenarios on Covid":** Institute for Futures Research – Dr Morne Mostert webinar circa April. Highlighted two driver dimensions, viz. covid virulence continuum and health system response continuum. Also CLA on Covid conducted in North America exposed some interesting core beliefs about pandemics in general. Opened the door to considering "non-traditional" and "non-technical" approaches to pandemic resilience i.e. designers should explore other medical traditions to inform a more context-compatible health system.