BEHIND MEMORY LOSS:

Disparities in the United States Alzheimer's Care System

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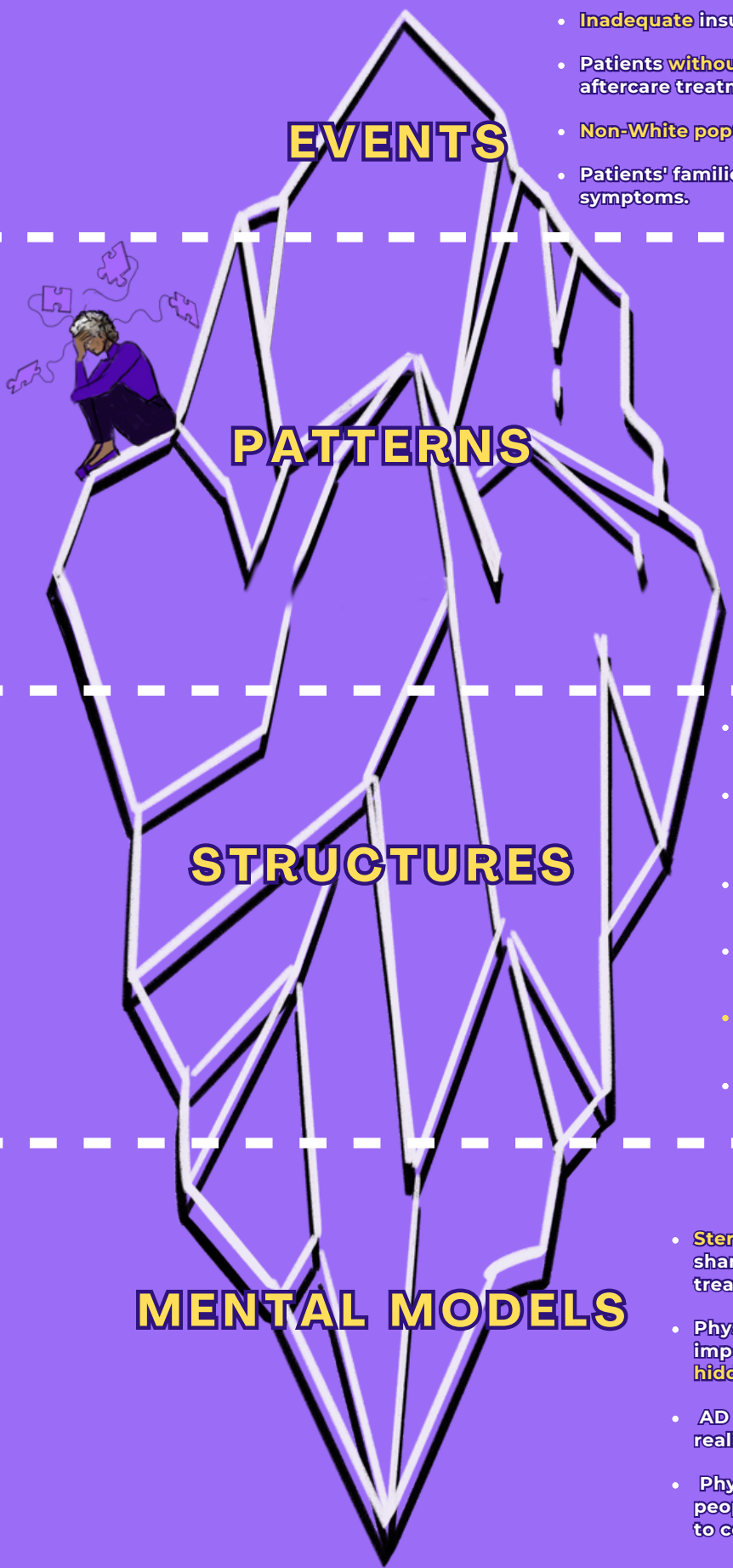
The Iceberg Model



EVENTS

- Inadequate insurance coverage for specific age groups.
- Patients without family support cannot provide the expenses for aftercare treatments.
- Non-White populations in Alzheimer's are often underdiagnosed.
- Patients' families are often overwhelmed on how to handle new symptoms.

PATTERNS

- Patients' medical insurance is not sufficient for their treatments (Medicare will often not cover expensive tests/treatments.)
- Lack of guidance and information to assist patients and their families.
- Many AD diagnostic tests have been developed in almost exclusively White AD population at early stage in the disease, these tests may not be representative of other populations.

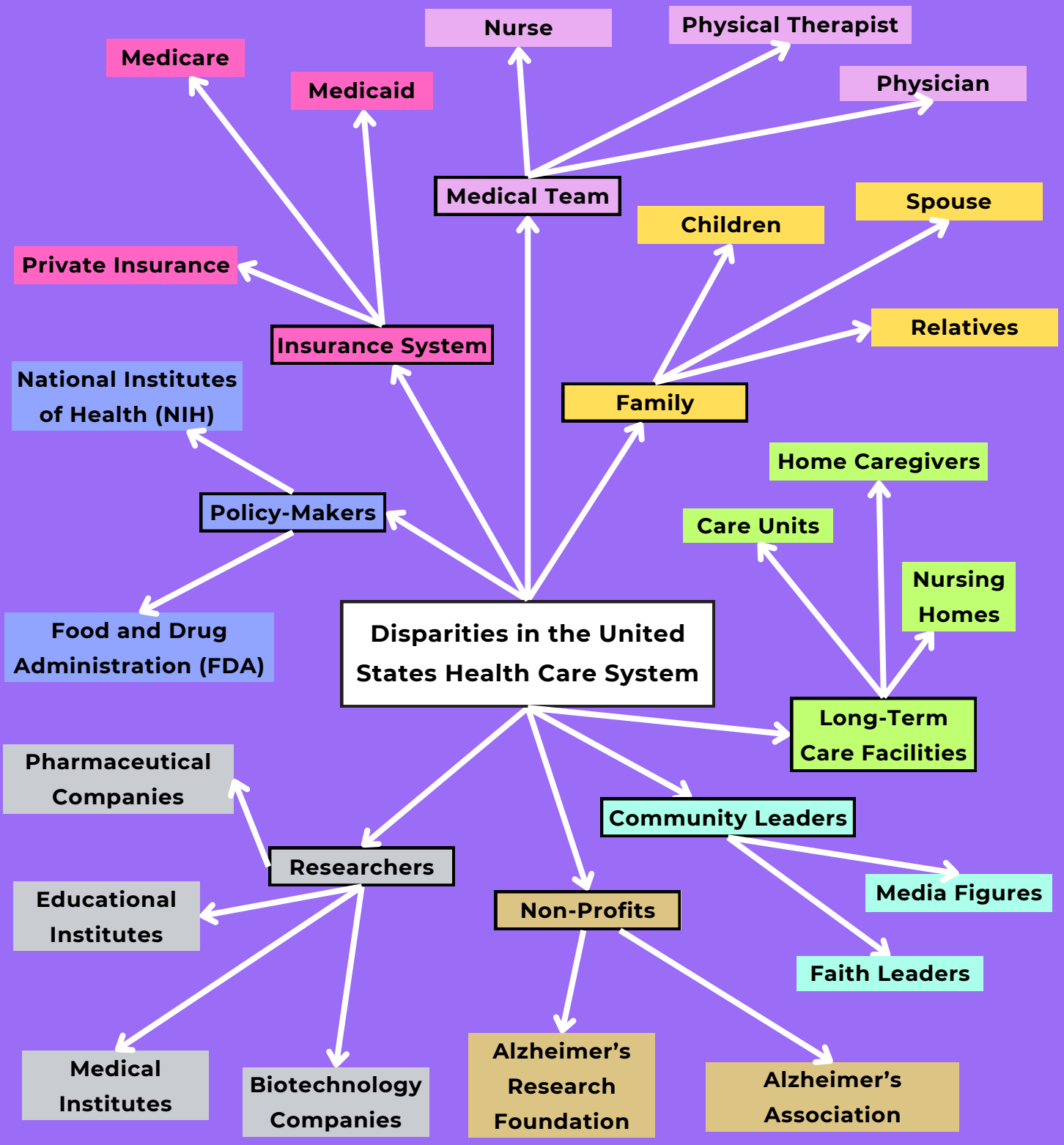
STRUCTURES

- Insufficient funding from National Institutes of Health (NIH) for high stake research programs.
- U.S. Healthcare and insurance structures usually do not include AD aftercare as part of what is covered for patients.
- Serious physical issues or comorbidities often overshadow AD at healthcare screenings.
- Knowledge gaps in minority communities regarding the progression of AD.
- Lack of awareness for seeking Alzheimer's testing, especially in younger populations.
- Cultural incompetence between doctors and patients.

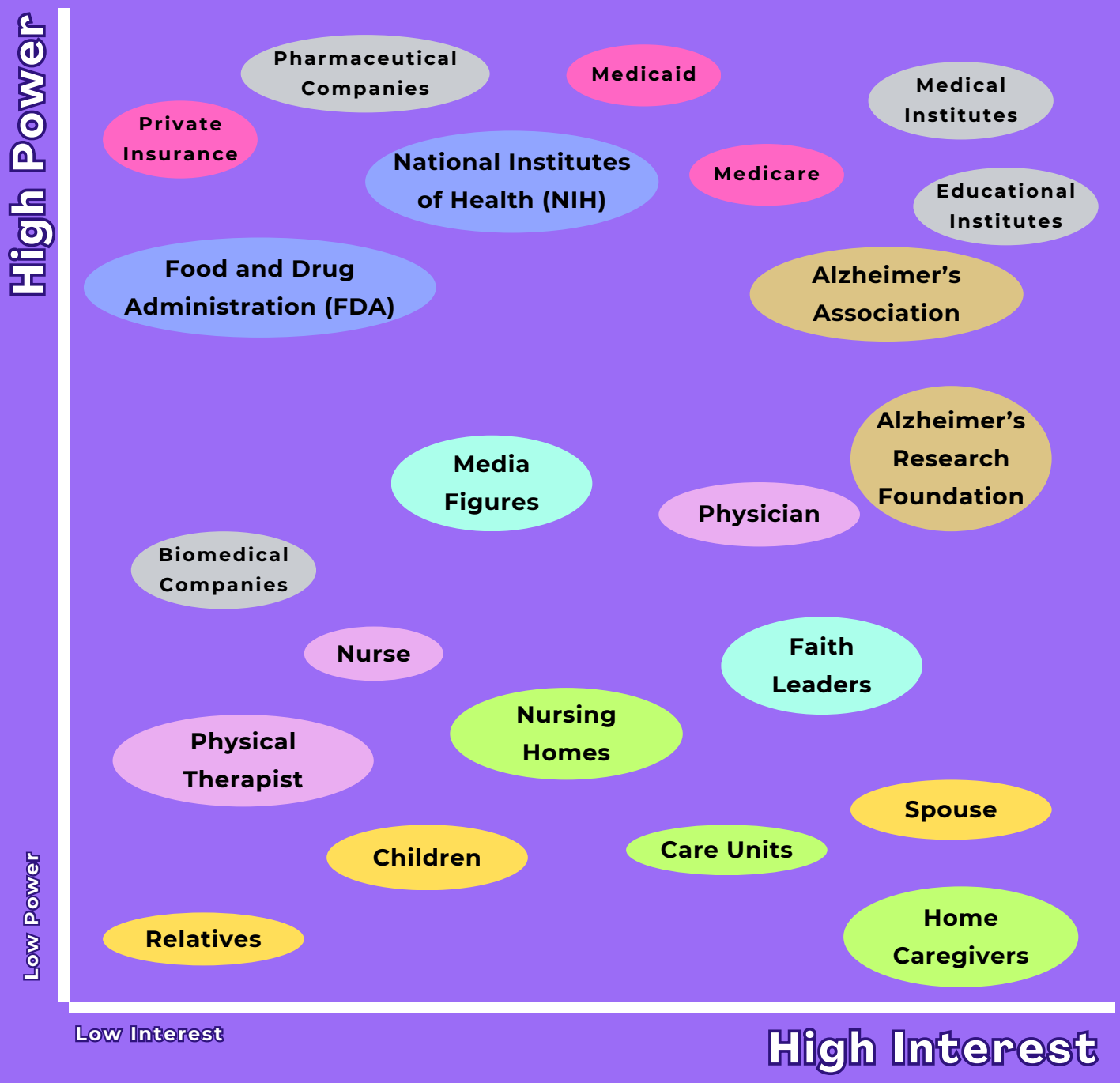
MENTAL MODELS

- Stereotypes and biases against AD (feelings of shame) inhibit people from reaching out to seek treatment.
- Physical ailments are often thought to be more important and are treated first compared to a more hidden disease like AD.
- AD is viewed as a disease for the elderly when in reality younger populations are also susceptible.
- Physicians hold off testing for AD in younger people however treating AD early is the best way to combat the disease.

Stakeholder Map



Power-Interest Map



Journey Map

Laboratory Tests

Symptoms

Pre-disposition

Payment or Insurance

Primary Care Consultation

Advocacy

Disclosure of results

Laboratory Examinations

Specialist Consultation

Acceptance

Medication and treatments

Depression

Physical therapy

Post-diagnosis

Bargaining

Gait and Independent Activity

Physical and Mental Exams

Denial

Anger

Checkups

Social abilities and personality changes

Nursing Home

Home Nurse or Caregiver

Death

Causal Loop Map