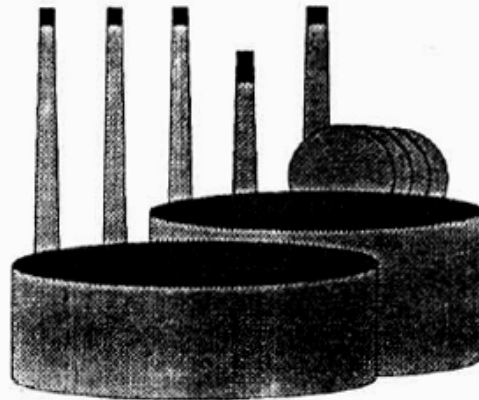


# THE WALK-THROUGH SURVEY

## Objective

To identify potential workplace health hazards and assess the presence of appropriate measures for their control.



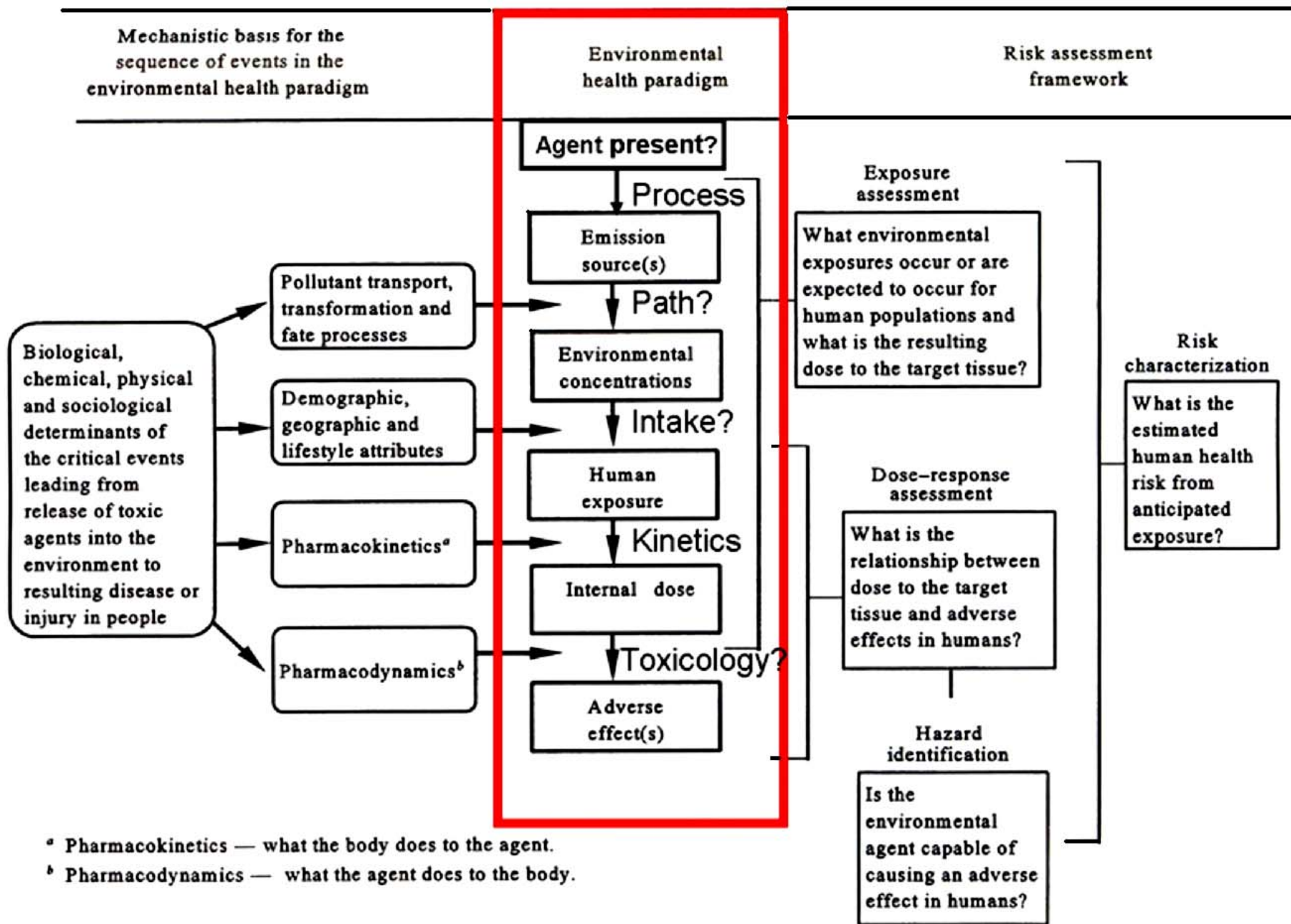


Fig. 4. An environmental health paradigm and its relationship to the risk assessment framework (Sexton et al., 1995c)

# THE WALK-THROUGH SURVEY

## General Principles

1. Keep a balanced perspective.
2. Understand the PROCESS thoroughly.
3. Understand the ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS thoroughly.
4. Identify KEY CONTACTS.
5. There's more than one way to skin a cat.

# THE WALK-THROUGH SURVEY

## Pre-visit Steps

1. Become familiar with the particular industry.
2. Be familiar with general process information and size of the plant or establishment.
3. Review pertinent standards and sampling methods.
4. Be familiar with visitor/general safety issues.

## **WALK-THROUGH SURVEY**

### **Tips to a Systematic Approach**

- 1. Develop a list of all starting, intermediate, final and waste stream materials involved in each process/operation observed.  
(Check any MSDS before the site visit)**
- 2. For a given material, assess physical state, conditions of use and existence of controls (safety devices, PPE, engineering controls, etc.).**
- 3. Estimate daily exposure duration or work schedule.**
- 4. Assess workplace conditions: temperature, ventilation, labeling, housekeeping, lighting, general appearance of workers.**
- 5. Develop a process flow diagram.**
- 6. Prepare a hazard checklist.**

## **WALK-THROUGH SURVEY**

### **Tips to a Systematic Approach**

- 7. Observe off-production areas and their maintenance: break areas, restrooms, eating facilities, etc.**
  
- 8. Inquire about garbage and waste disposal procedures, emissions, etc.**

## **WALK-THROUGH SURVEY**

### **Tips to a Systematic Approach**

#### **(Occupational Medicine)**

- 1. Occupational health management and staffing (including credentialing).**
- 2. Communication with IH and Safety.**
- 3. Communication with management and labor.**
- 4. Facilities and equipment.**
- 5. Are job descriptions available?**
- 6. Types of medical evaluations performed.**
- 7. Diagnosis and treatment of occupational and non-occupational injury and illness.**
- 8. Medical surveillance and preventive programs.**
- 9. Status of substance abuse policy and programs.**
- 10. Employee health counseling, education and training.**

# **WALK-THROUGH SURVEY**

## **Tips to a Systematic Approach**

### **(Occupational Medicine)**

- 11. Line manager counseling, education and training in occupational health.**
- 12. Critical event planning (is a disaster plan in place?)**
- 13. Are modified duty assignments available?**
- 14. What is the level of first aid services?**
- 15. Is there access to an employee assistance program? How does it work?**
- 16. How is the storage of medical records handled?**
- 17. Is there access to the literature?**



## GENERAL REPORT FORMAT

