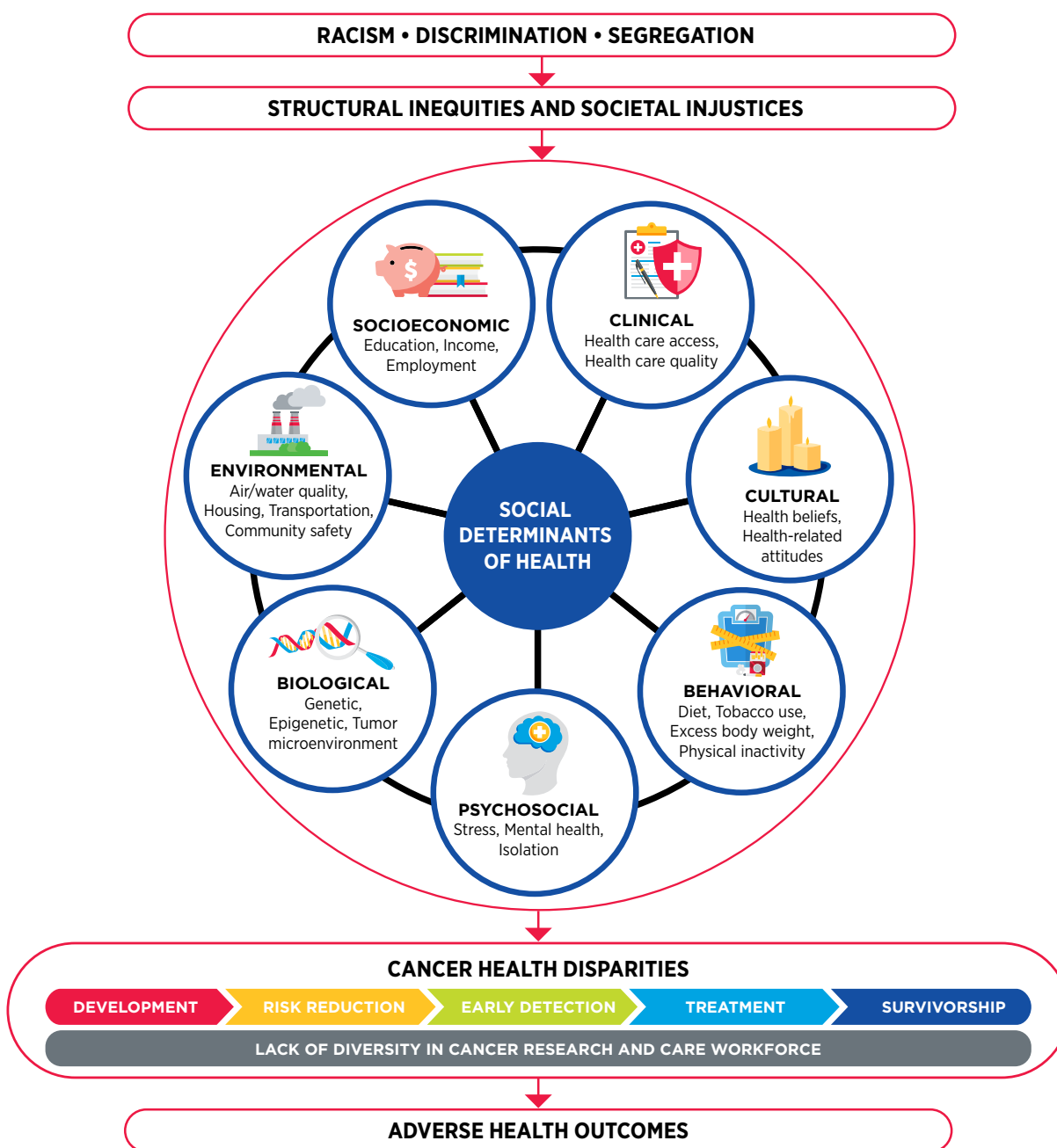


FIGURE 5

Why Do U.S. Cancer Health Disparities Exist?



Complex and interrelated factors—called social determinants of health (SDOH)—drive cancer health disparities. The National Cancer Institute defines SDOH as the social, economic, and physical conditions in the places where people are born and where they live, learn, work, play, and get older that can affect their health, well-being, and quality of life. SDOH have a major influence on people's health, well-being, and quality of life. In the United States, centuries of structural racism and systemic inequities have perpetuated and exacerbated adverse

differences in SDOH for racial and ethnic minorities and other medically underserved populations. The circle in the figure depicts key SDOH and how they interconnect and intersect, both at societal and community levels and at the individual level. Selected examples of the multilevel factors comprising SDOH are highlighted. Collectively, these factors impact every stage of the cancer continuum, leading to worse health outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities and other underserved populations (shown at the bottom).