

# **How to improve research funding and capacity building in a worldwide perspective**

## ***Latin American Initiatives***

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[www.cuidadospaliativos.org](http://www.cuidadospaliativos.org)





# ALCP

Asociación Latinoamericana  
de Cuidados Paliativos

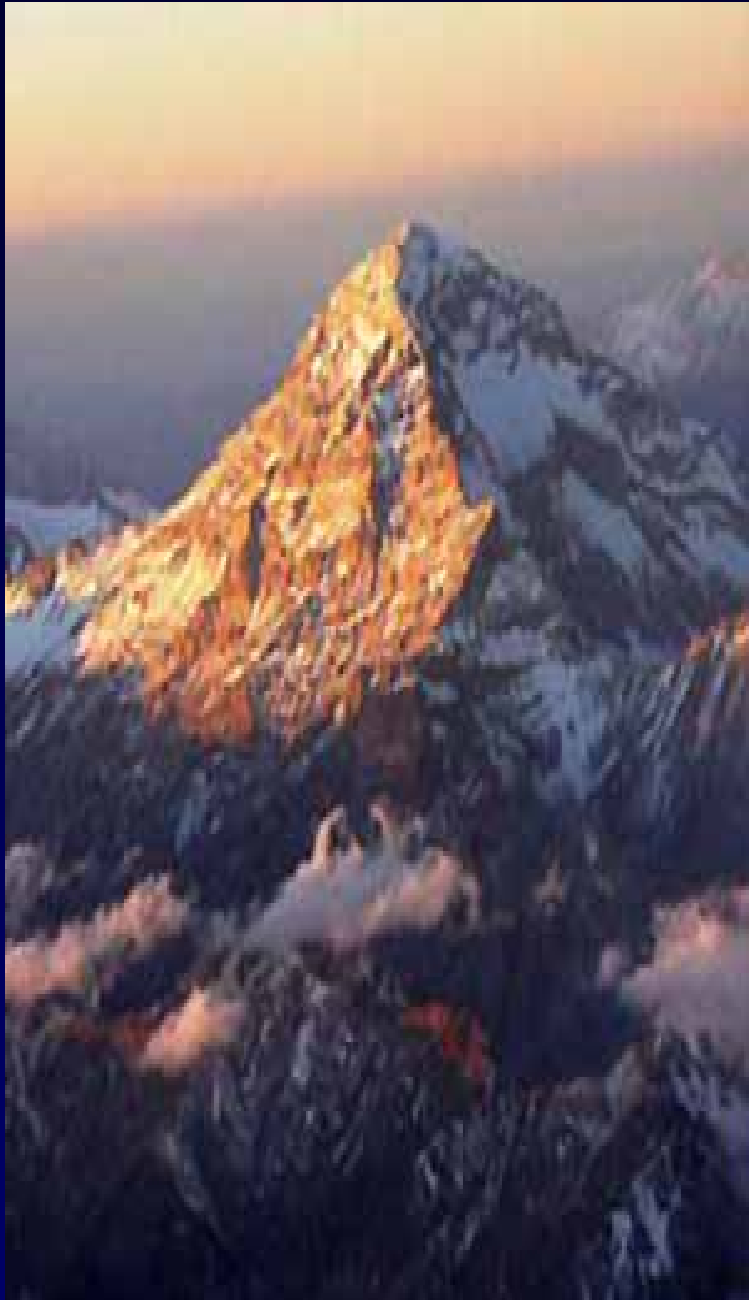


The population of Latin America is a composite of ancestries, ethnic groups and races, making the region one of the most — if not the most — diverse in the world.

*The World Factbook - Field Listing -  
Ethnic groups.  
Retrieved on 2008-02-20.*

# Population

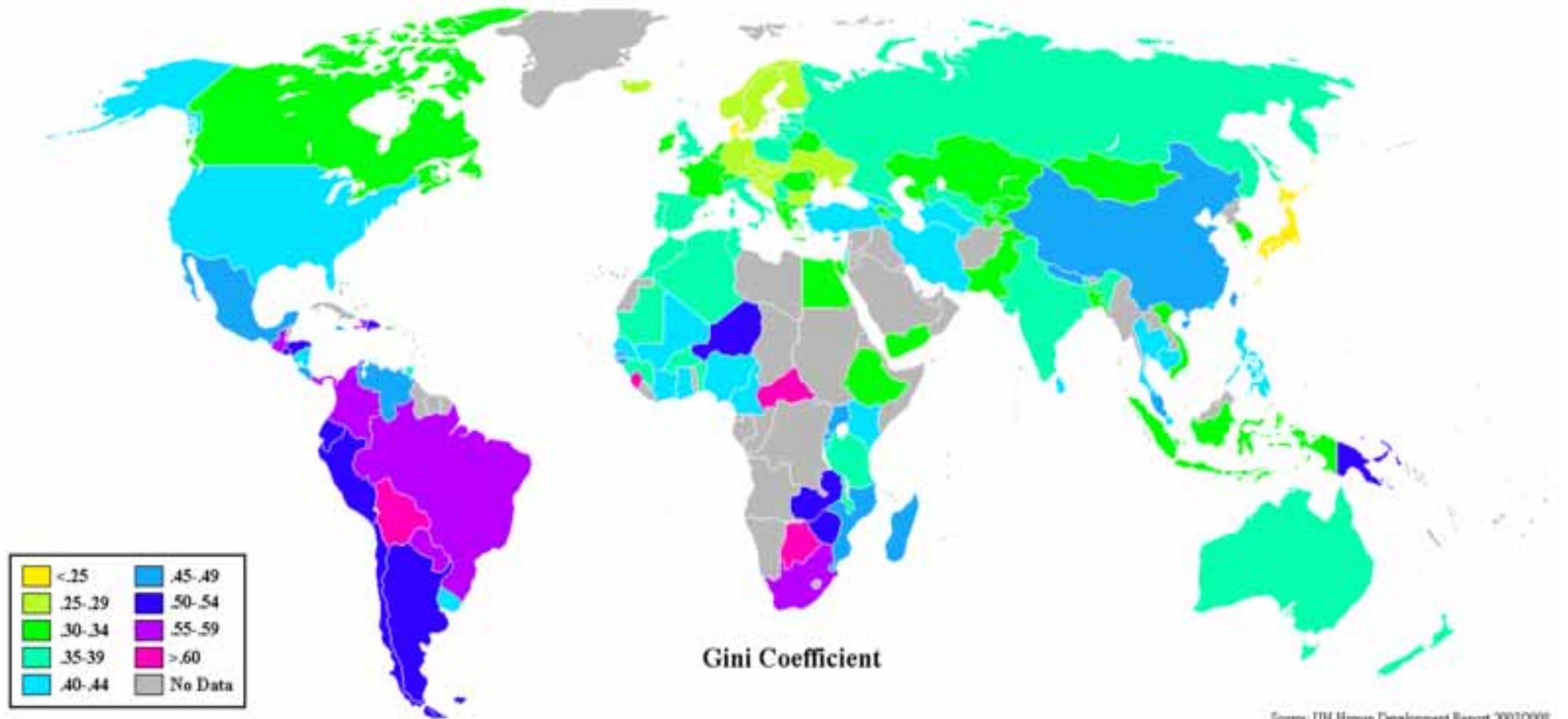
- Total 562,461,667
  - White 33.8%
  - Mestizo 27%
  - Mulato 15.2%
  - Amerindian 10.9%
  - Black 4.9%
  - Mixed 8.3%





# Gini Coefficient

## World Human Development Report 2007-2008



Source: UN Human Development Report 2007/2008

*Human Development Report  
Office, 2008*



# The Social Context of Latin America

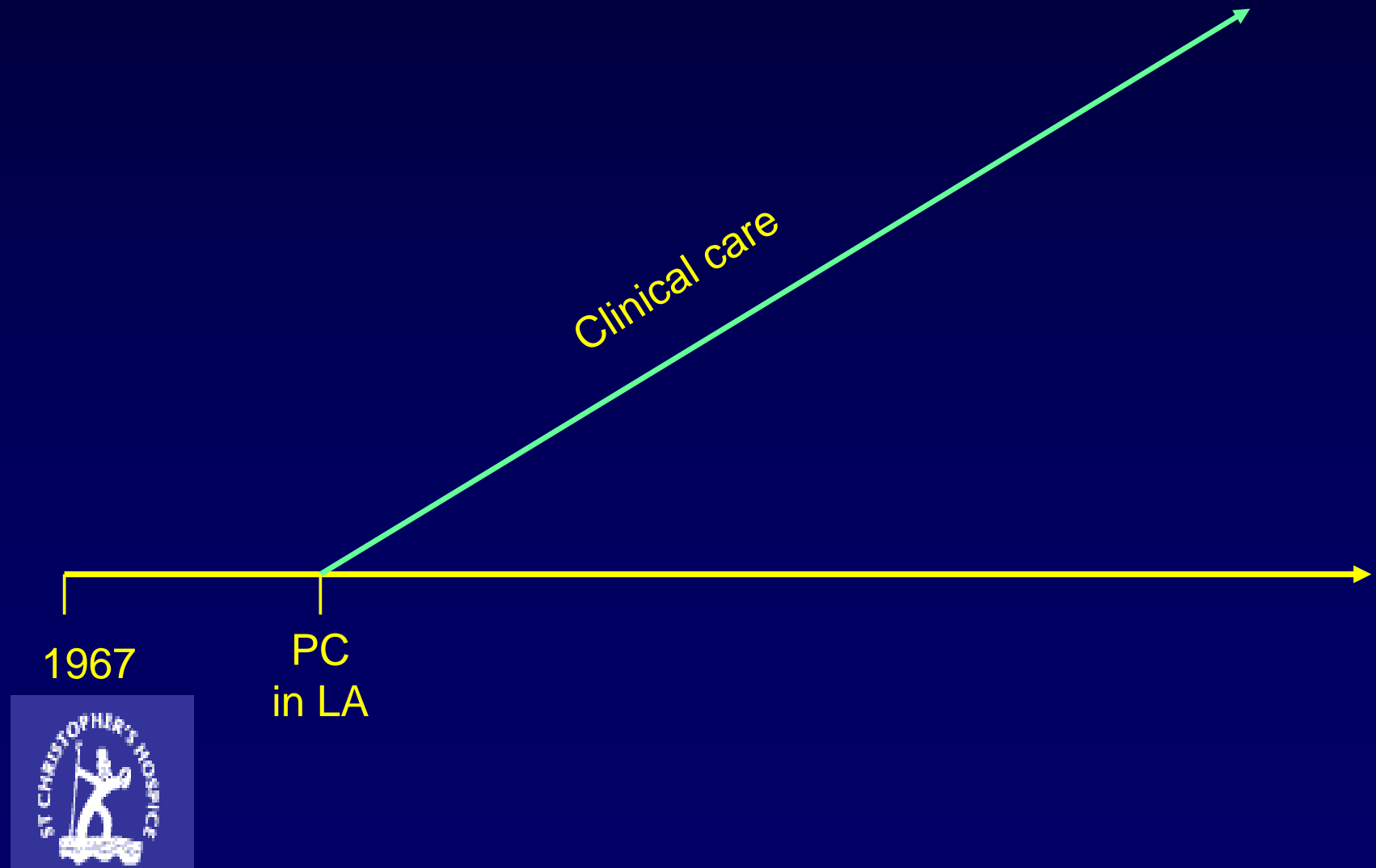
- Latin America is the most unequal region in the world
- Nearly 25% of the population lives on less than 2 USD a day (World Bank)

*Economic Commission for Latin  
America and the Caribbean  
(ECLAC, UN)*

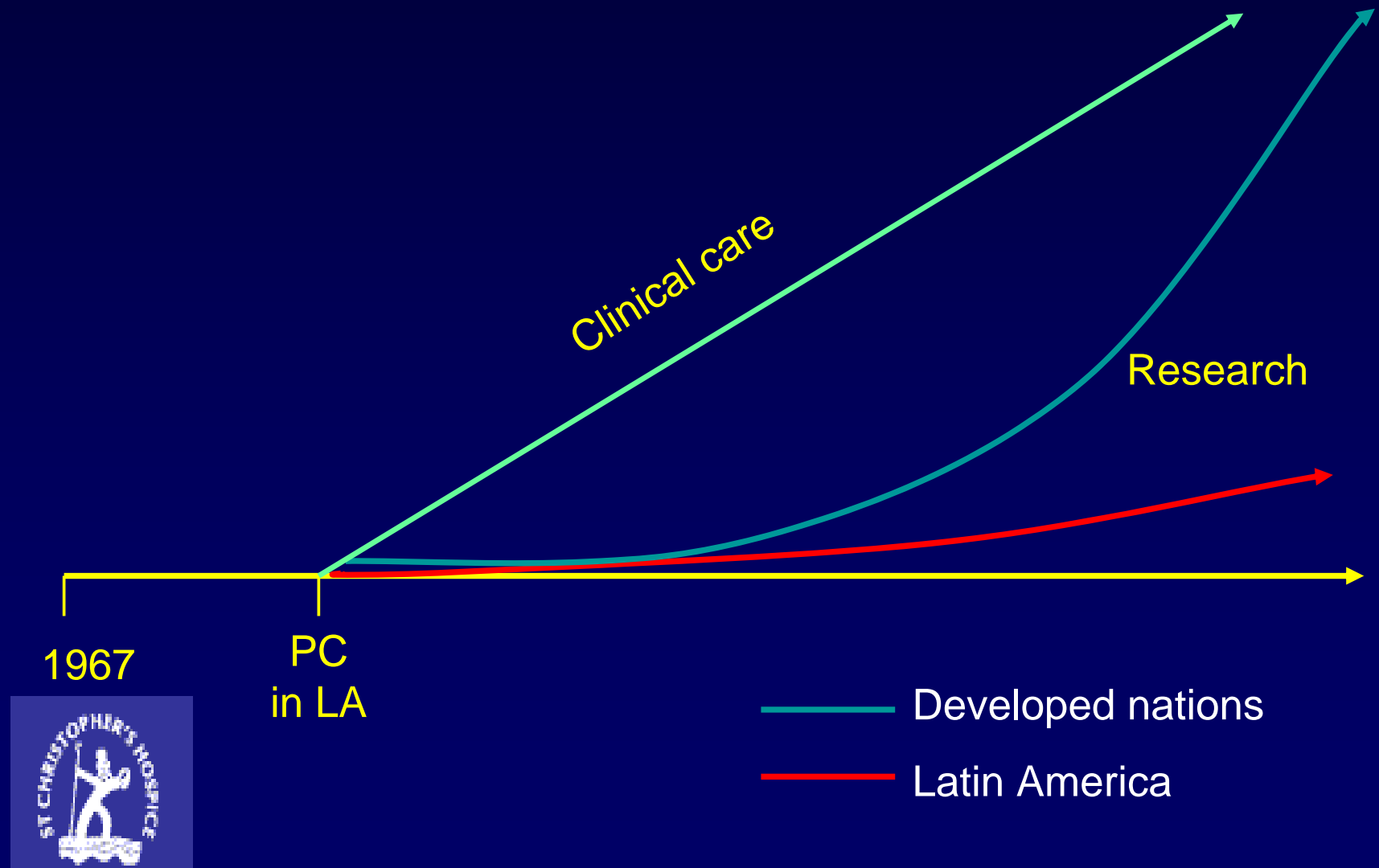
# Research Capacity Indicators

Countries	Expenditure on R & D (Millions PPP)	Expenditure on R&D per capita population (in U\$S)	Publications in Medline
Argentina	2, 150. 05	57.49	1,811
Brazil	13, 775. 04	75. 85	7,221
Chile	1, 238. 87	76. 98	786
Mexico	4, 205. 21	39. 94	2,201

# Palliative Care through the years



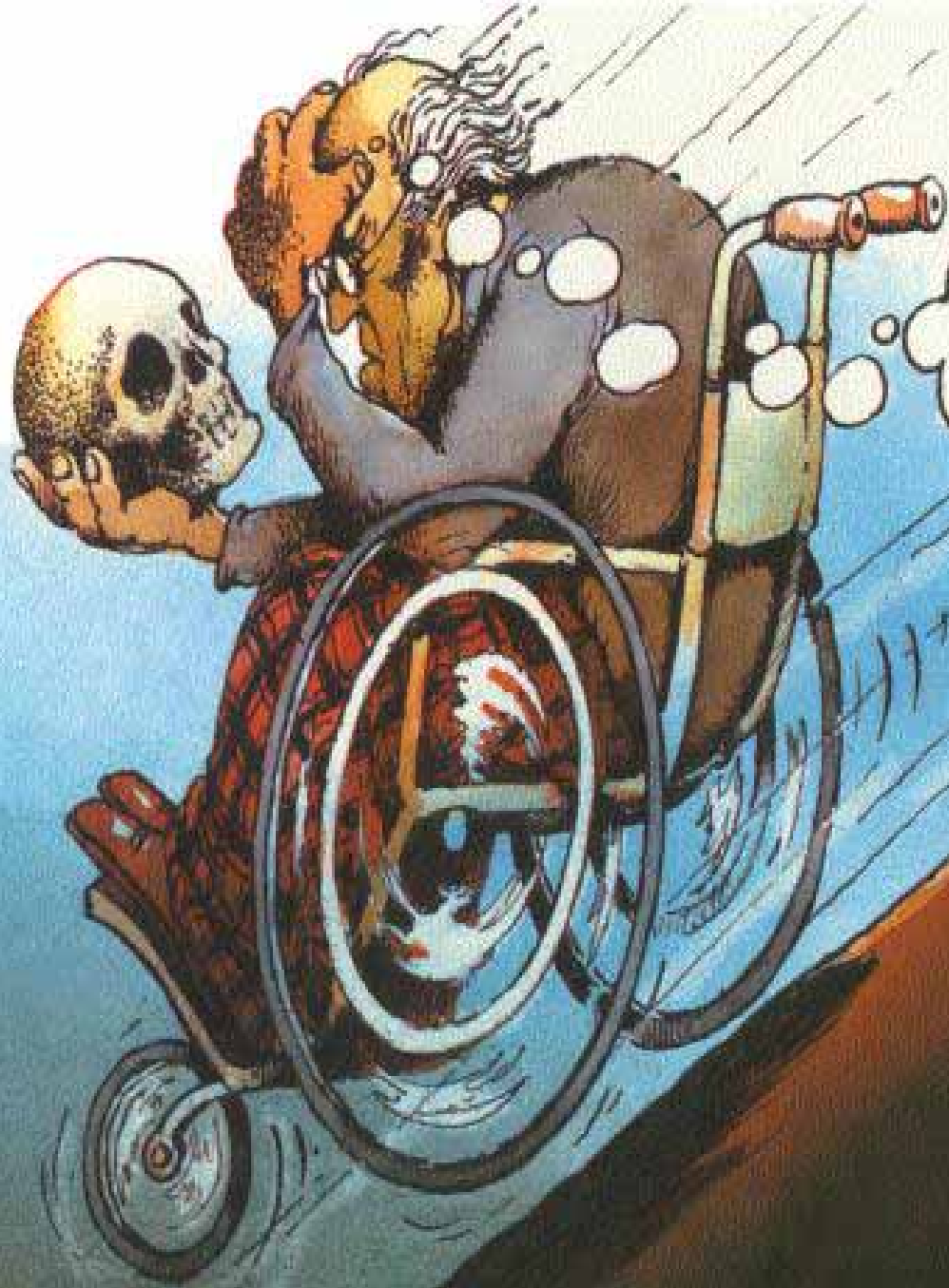
# Palliative Care *[and research]* through the years



# Researching PC in Latin America

- Number of papers on Palliative Care (Feb, 2005)
- Total found: 54,521
- Authors from Latin America: 81 (< 1 %)

*De Lima L et al, 2005*



To be  
or not to be,  
that is  
the question.

St. P. K.

# The way forward

- Why scarce research? (survey)
- How to improve?
  - » Capacity building



# The way forward

- Why scarce research?
- How to improve?
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# Palliative care research survey

- Posted 1500
- Respondents n=263 (17.5%)
- < 5% participated in research (in the last 5 years)

# Who conduct research in LA?

*Positive predictor factors to conduct research:*

- Training in the field (OR 3.46; CI 95% 1.71-6.98)
- Support from an expert (OR 3.03; CI 95 % 1.51-6.10)

# Research and Mentorship

Research activity in the past 5 years (n 258)	Trained in research? (n 258)			Mentorship from expert? (n 253)		
	Yes	No	p	Yes	No	p
Yes	99	37	< 0.01	95	36	< 0.01
No	36	86		39	83	

# Obstacles to research

- Lack of funding (54%)
- Insufficient knowledge and expertise (21%)
- Lack of interest (15%)

# PC research in LA

- Limited resources
- Minimal expertise
- Scarce availability of trained researchers
- Scarce training opportunities

# The way forward

- Why scarce research? (survey)
- How to improve?
  - » capacity building
- Seeking for support!!!



# Capacity building

- Research Task Force (ALCP)
- Educational activities
- Tools development
- Promotion of involvement in doing research
- Support for abstract submission (IV Congress)

# Venice Declaration (2006)

- Identify, develop and implement effective strategies to improve palliative care research in developing countries.
- Identify palliative care research priorities in developing countries according to the needs of specific patient populations, and take into consideration the regional, socio economic and cultural contexts.
- Identify funders and help mobilize resources to support palliative care research in the developing world

# Capacity Building

1. Building skills and confidence
2. Developing linkages and partnerships
3. Ensuring research is 'close to practice'
4. Developing appropriate dissemination activities
5. Investing in Infrastructure
6. Sustainability

**It takes two to  
dance Tango**





It takes both