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Palliative care in Eastern Europe

- Early stage of development "localized provision" (Clark D.)
 - Strong drive usually outside the main health care system
 - Charismatic leaders
 - Limited number of services, human and financial resources available
 - Limited or no connection with universities



- Delivering services at good standards
- Setting standards of care for the country
- Developing education programs
- Improving own knowledge and performance
- Lobbying and working with authorities to change legislation
- Insure stability and continuity of service



THERE IS LITTLE TIME AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH



Research culture

- Research not seen as integral part of medical practice
 - Romania 1 medical journal fulfills the criteria for type A journal



Training needs

 Lack of experience in research methodologies

Combined research methods



Information

- Difficult access to up-to-date information
 - Prices of journals and articles on-line are prohibitive
 - Language can be a barrier
- Funding?

Why research?

 To give palliative care the same status as other medical discipline have

To improve the care you give to your patients



Ways to overcome

- Training in research
 - Research summer school Prof. Clark
- Developing national centers of expertise
- Access to information
 - WHO initiative HINARI
- Joint studies
 - different priorities but there are also common needs
- Funding opportunities for joint research projects
- Academic status for PC



Conclusion

- Research in PC was neglected in most East European countries due to multiple tasks that staff involved in PC had to perform
- A research culture must be build up
- Training and Collaborative projects can help overcome these barriers



Nothing can stop an idea when the time has come

Victor Hugo