

Palliative Care Research in Latin America

Current status and challenges

Dr. Roberto Wenk

Latin American Association for Palliative Care

CURRENT STATUS

“Evidence based” side of the coin

Number of publications on Palliative Care
Medline, searched in February 10, 2005

Total found: 54,521

Authors from Latin America: 81 (< 1 %)

DeLima L, 2005

CURRENT STATUS

“No-evidence based” side of the coin

Indeterminate # of regional papers regionally published in general media and medical and PC journals, and presented in regional and national PC meetings

2004: 7th Latin-American PC Congress = **95 papers**
Montevideo, Uruguay

2006: 8th Latin-American CP Congress = **84 papers**
Isla Margarita, Venezuela

CURRENT STATUS

Most important barrier:

**Palliative Care is not recognized as a discipline
in 80% of Latin American countries**

Negative impact on research activity:

- limited resources
- limited availability of trained researchers and training opportunities
- limited knowledge and expertise

CURRENT STATUS

On- line survey

263 responders (1600 subscribers) from 17 countries

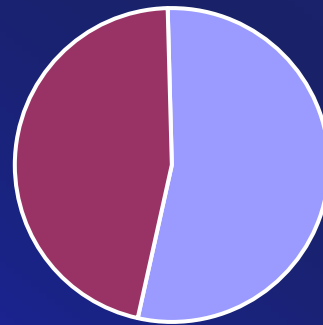
Demographic information: age, sex, disciplines, years since graduation, years working in PC

Research issues: training, support, methodology, type of research, barriers to conduct research

CURRENT STATUS

On- line survey

Research in PC
Last 5 years (n 259)



□ Yes □ No

CURRENT STATUS

On- line survey

RESEARCH (LAST 5 YEARS)	Total			
Training in research		NO	YES	
Yes	135	36	99	p<0.001
No	123	86	37	
NA	1		1	
Support from expert				
Yes	134	39	95	p<0.001
No	119	83	36	
NA	6		6	

CURRENT STATUS

On- line survey

Reported barriers to carry out research

Lak of funding	54 %
Inadequate knowledge and expertise	21 %
Lack of interest	15 %
Other	10 %

CHALLENGES

Regional data-base

Data collection process will start during 2006

It will develop in 3 stages over several years

Stage 1

Identification of regional providers. Contact information

Stage 2

Provider's demographics. Patient's demographics.
Services provided

Stage 3

Outcomes measurement and evaluation

CHALLENGES

Regional research task force

Objectives:

To increase communication among with research activity (to develop a network ??)

To formulate a research agenda according to regional needs

To develop protocols for multicentric studies, according to the research agenda and the available resources

To support those that conduct research (technical information, data analysis, software, grants, etc)

To monitor both offers and requests of technical assistance, and matching them and assuring the accomplishment of the projects goals and objectives of the research partners