

Psychosocial Research in EAPC Congresses 2000 - 2007.

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Introduction

- Palliative Care definition
- European Association for Palliative Care
- EAPC – IPOS collaboration

Palliative Care definition

Palliative care is the active, total care of the patients whose disease is not responsive to curative treatment. Control of pain, of other symptoms, and of social, psychological and spiritual problems is paramount.

Palliative care is interdisciplinary in its approach and encompasses the patient, the family and the community in its scope.

Palliative care affirms life and regards dying as a normal process; it neither hastens nor postpones death. It sets out to preserve the best possible quality of life until death.

European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC)

Established in 1988, with 42 founding members and following important initiatives by Professor Vittorio Ventafridda and the Floriani Foundation.

Aim: to promote palliative care in Europe and to act as a focus for all of those who work, or have an interest, in the field of palliative care at the scientific, clinical and social levels.

By 2008 the EAPC counted:

- individual members in 40 countries
- collective members from 41 National Associations in 25 European countries

This represents a movement of more than 50.000 health care workers and volunteers working or interested in palliative care.



European Association for Palliative Care

Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) recognised by the Council of Europe



EAPC – IPOS Collaboration

Aim

Offer an overview of the psychosocial research presented in the European Palliative Care Congresses between 2000 and 2007.

Material and Methods

- A systematic review among the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) congresses books and websites have been developed.
- Selection criteria were: Abstracts including any psychosocial term in the title.
- No exclusion criteria were considered.
- The descriptive analysis included: total number of abstracts submitted, total number of psychological abstracts, main topics, type of methodology used and originality of research



Results (I): Attendants

Country	Forum Berlin 2000	Congress Palermo 2001	Forum Lyon 2002	Congress The Hague 2003	Forum Stresa 2004	Congress Aachen 2005	Forum Venice 2006	Congress Budapest 2007
Total Attendants	342	1842	525	1585	720	1904	1037	2004
N° of Countries	35	54	36	58	38	55	51	69
Unknown	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Europe	292	1671	489	1431	664	1789	891	1760
Asia	13	52	8	11	15	31	24	98
America	29	57	11	44	38	58	87	91
Africa	0	4	11	5	2	4	2	9
Oceania	2	18	4	23	8	22	33	46

Results (II): Subjects

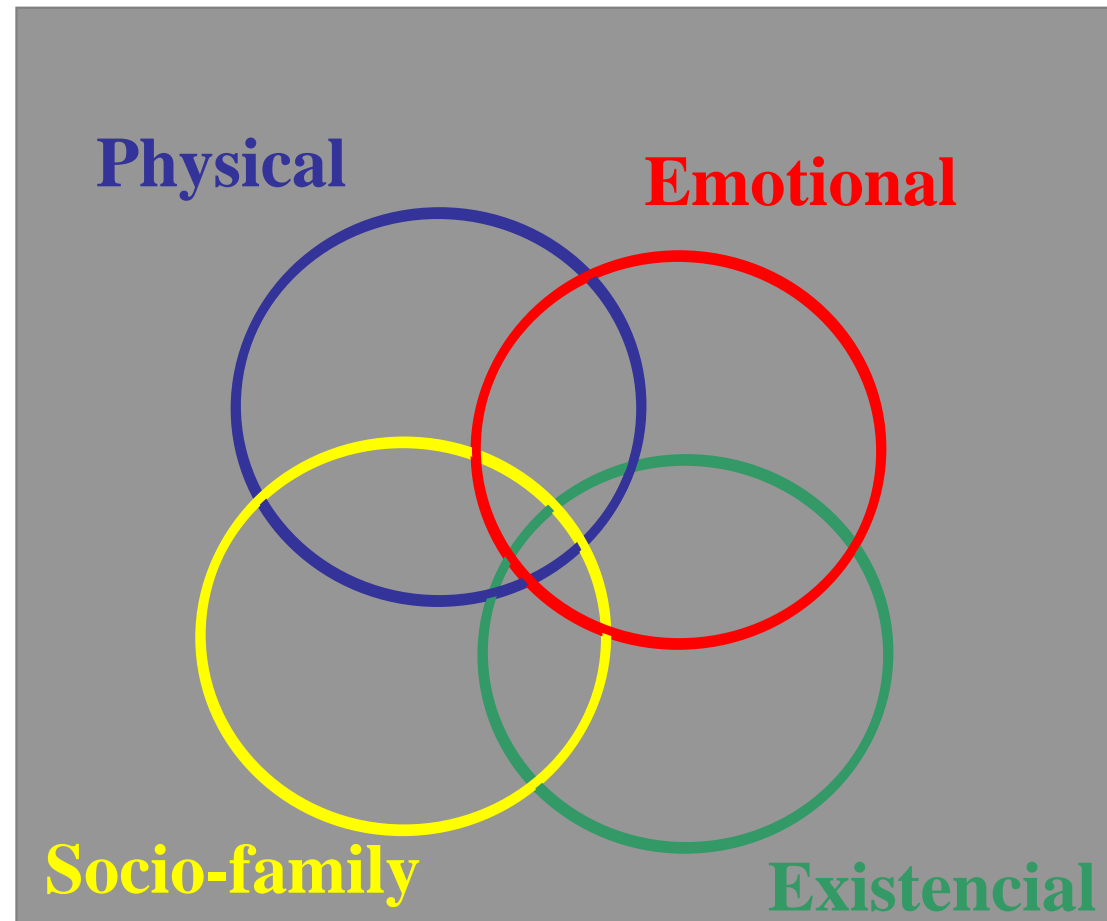
Main subjects	Forum Berlin 2000	Congress Palermo 2001	Forum Lyon 2002	Congress The Hague 2003	Forum Stresa 2004	Congress Aachen 2005	Forum Venice 2006	Congress Budapest 2007
Bereavement	0	19	3	28	14	15	24	26
Family	2	15	9	13	5	13	10	11
Communication	2	15	1	10	4	2	11	9
Anxiety and Depression	5	6	4	9	9	4	10	12
Meaning	0	1	0	0	2	5	0	14
Professionals-Team	0	13	0	10	1	9	3	11
Delirium	0	4	0	2	1	1	2	15
Psychotherapy	2	2	0	4	2	3	2	6
Psychoncology	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Distress	1	0	0	1	3	1	2	6
Symptoms	0	2	0	0	4	0	5	5
Others	0	8	6	11	6	6	6	13
% of the total	10.7%	12.9%	8.7%	12.8%	15.9	16.8%	14.1%	13.3%

Results (III): Type of research

Type of research	Forum Berlin 2000	Congress Palermo 2001	Forum Lyon 2002	Congress The Hague 2003	Forum Stresa 2004	Congress Aachen 2005	Forum Venice 2006	Congress Budapest 2007
Questionnaires	1	8	6	15	11	13	19	16
Retrospective	3	7	1	6	2	5	9	9
Prospective	4	3	3	3	1	6	14	13
Qualitative	0	10	3	7	8	21	20	20
Case report	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	2
Assessment	1	2	0	3	12	2	5	15
Randomized	1	1	0	3	6	4	4	5
Diagnosis	0	2	1	3	0	3	2	2
Audit Results	0	2	0	5	0	0	1	2
Others	2	45	6	18	13	14	8	26

Limitations

Palliative Care



Actual EAPC related Research Projects

- EPCRC Project on assessment and classification of depression in Palliative Care
- International Palliative Care Family Caregiver Research Collaboration (IPCFRC)

EPCRC Project on assessment and classification of depression in PC

Background

European Union – funded Sixth Framework project 2006-2009

Objectives

To improve classification and assessment of depression by computer assisted approach

- To develop internet-based guidelines for assessment and treatment depression
- To develop a long lasting European collaborative in palliative care cancer research

Institutions

10 participating centres in 6 European countries: UK, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and Norway. The collaborative is coordinated from the Pain and Palliation Research Group at the Norwegian University for Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway, led by Professor Stein Kaasa

International Palliative Care Family Cargiver Research Collaboration

www.ipcfrc.unimelb.edu.au

Mission:

To develop a strategic approach to palliative care research planning related to family carers of people requiring PC by an international partnership and information exchange

Objetives:

- Promote international opportunities for interdisciplinary research, collaboration and publication
- Communicate outcomes of recent family carer research studies and funding opportunities
- Develop: consensus, strategic alliances, educational resurces, assessment of interventions, reserach instruments...

Institutions

Centre for PC Education and Reseach St Vinces ans U Melburne; Centre for Palliative Care Foundation (Australia); St Christopher's Hospitce; International Observatory on End of Life Care, Lancaster University

www.ipcfrc.unimelb.edu.au

Conclusions

1. There is an important and constant presence of psychosocial research among palliative care congresses.
2. Since now, the descriptive analysis has been the most important methodological approach to research in psychosocial aspects in the EAPC congresses
3. We have the great opportunity to work together to develop a better framework to treat suffering

Invitation

aspc-austria

aspc-austria



11TH CONGRESS
OF THE EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION FOR
PALLIATIVE CARE
7th – 10th MAY 2009

VIENNA AUSTRIA



For further information please visit: www.eapcnet.org/vienna2009

