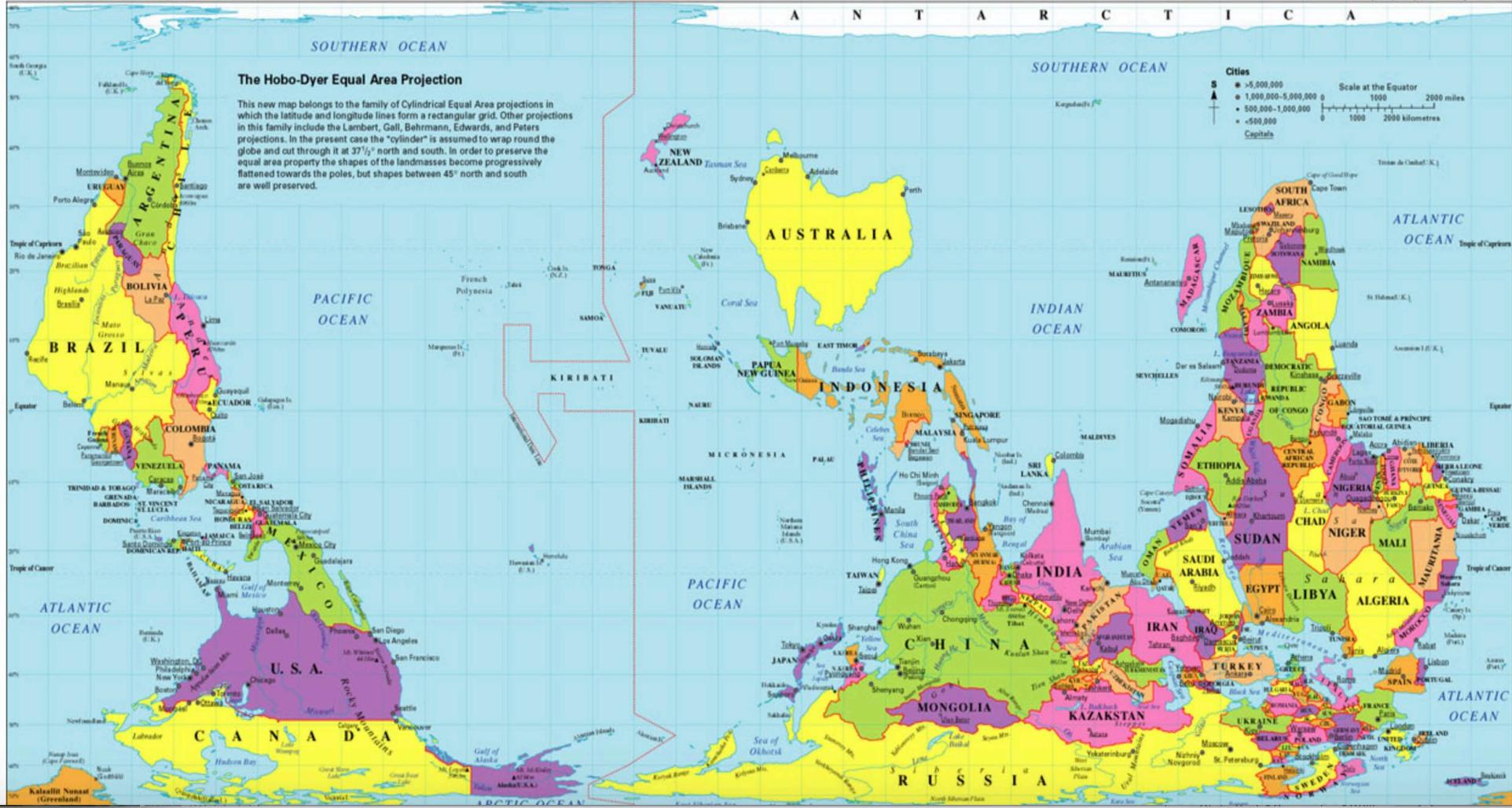


# Dying in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## What choices do we have?

Peter Saul

Australia





Darwin to Perth	4396km
Perth to Adelaide	2706km
Adelaide to Melbourne	726km
Melbourne to Sydney	887km
Sydney to Brisbane	972km
Brisbane to Cairns	1748km



Fraser Island  
Noosa  
Brisbane



# Area size comparison of Australia and Europe

Australia's area = 7,706,168 sq km  
Europe's area as shown = 3,483,066 sq km



Banda Sea

Papua New Guinea

Arafura Sea

Solomon Sea

Timor Sea

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Coral Sea

QUEENSLAND

**Australia**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Brisbane

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Perth

NEW SOUTH WALES

Newcastle

Great Australian Bight

Adelaide

Sydney

ACT

VICTORIA

Melbourne

Tasman Sea

TASMANIA



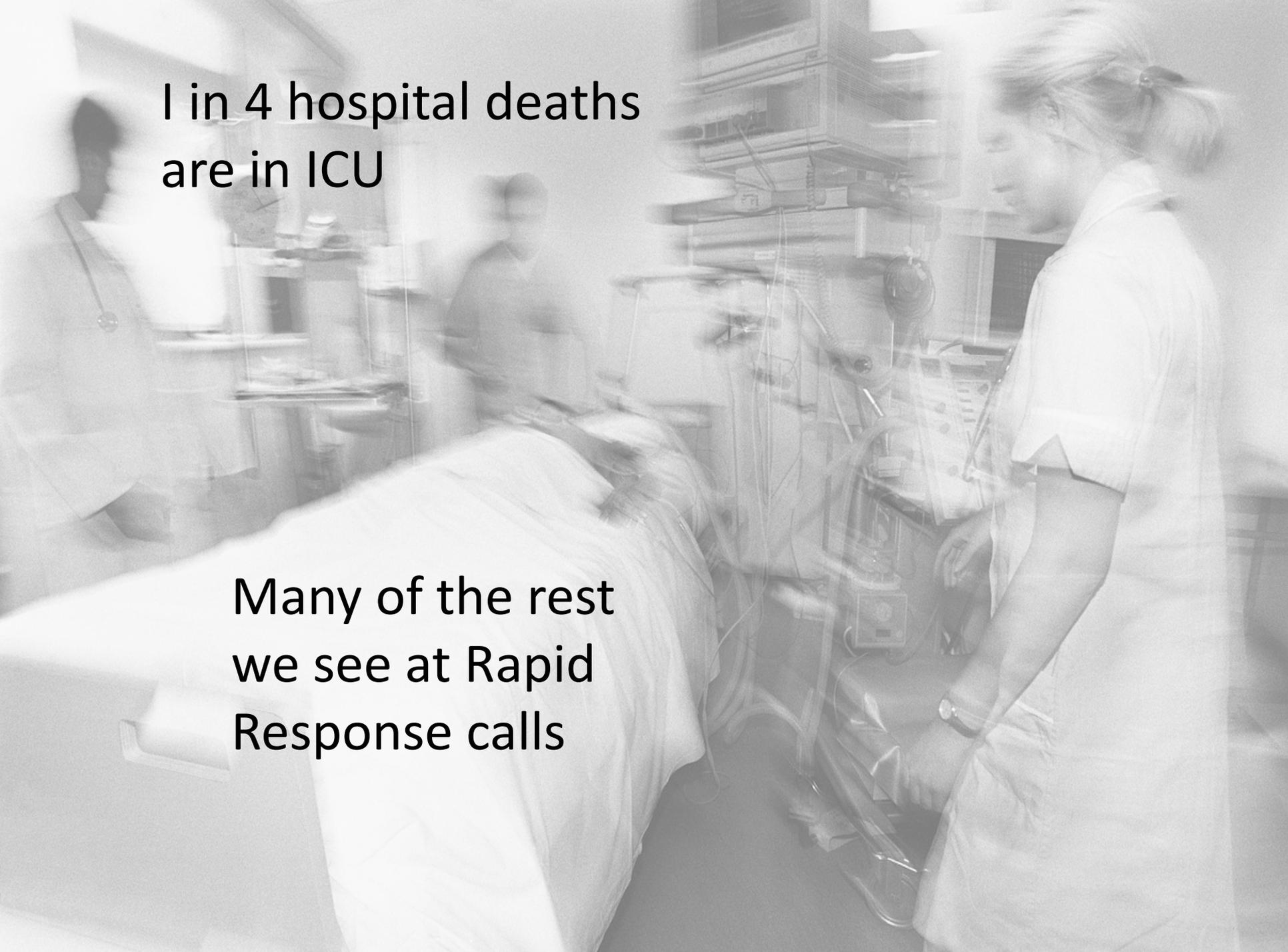


Daniel Rankmore



1 in 4 hospital deaths  
are in ICU



A blurred black and white photograph of an ICU setting. In the foreground, a patient is lying in a bed, partially covered by a white sheet. To the right, a nurse in a white uniform is standing and looking towards the patient. In the background, another person is visible, and there are various medical monitors and equipment on a stand. The overall scene is busy and clinical.

1 in 4 hospital deaths  
are in ICU

Many of the rest  
we see at Rapid  
Response calls





W B Yeats

“Sex and death are the only things that can interest a serious mind.”



.....Also sport



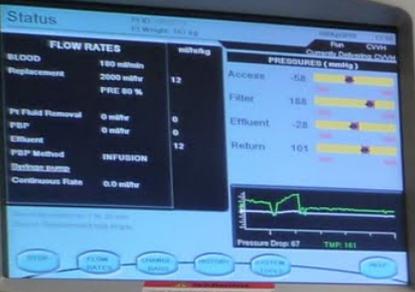


Aging  
Frailty  
Loss of capacity  
Hard decisions  
Dying





NORTHWEST  
KIDNEY CENTRE  
206 292 3045  
prismaflex



Difficult Airway

Prismaflo



HOSPITAL

OSP



How did we get here?

# Drivers of change

- Demographic shift
- Materialism
- Autonomy/rights
- Medical technology
- Denial (unawareness) of death
- Conspiracy

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Patients' Expectations about Effects of Chemotherapy for Advanced Cancer

Jane C. Weeks, M.D., Paul J. Catalano, Sc.D., Angel Cronin, M.S.,  
Matthew D. Finkelman, Ph.D., Jennifer W. Mack, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Nancy L. Keating, M.D., M.P.H., and Deborah Schrag, M.D., M.P.H.

- 70 - 80% expected a cure that wasn't going to happen
- The most popular oncologists were the most unrealistic

[< Previous Article](#)

[Next Article >](#)

Original Investigation | May 2015

# Patient Perception of Physician Compassion After a More Optimistic vs a Less Optimistic Message

## A Randomized Clinical Trial **FREE**

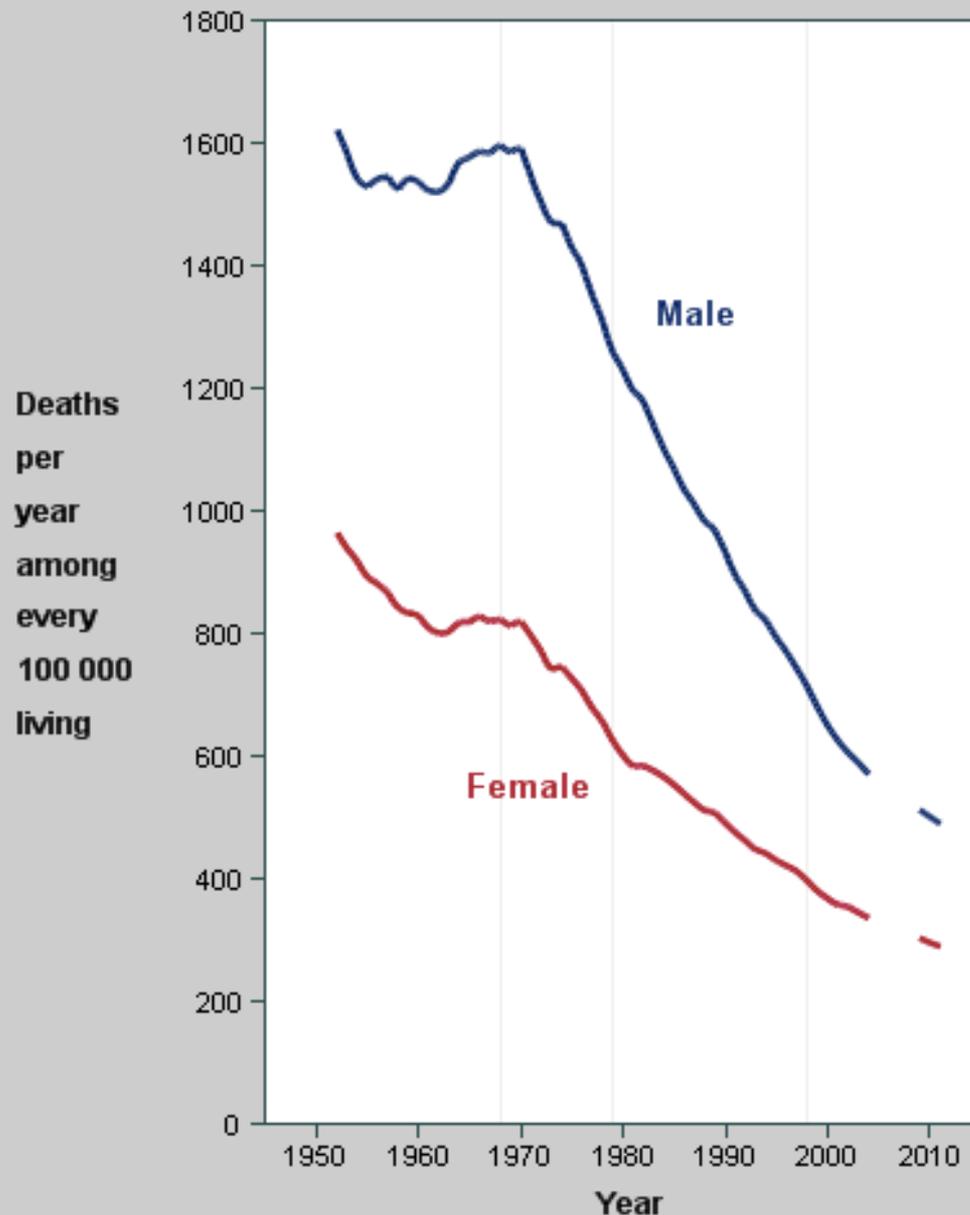
Kimberson Tanco, MD<sup>1</sup>; Wadih Rhondali, MD<sup>1,2,3</sup>; Pedro Perez-Cruz, MD<sup>4</sup>; Silvia Tanzi, MD<sup>5</sup>; Gary B. Chisholm, MS<sup>6</sup>; Walter Baile, MD<sup>7</sup>; Susan Frisbee-Hume, RN, MS, CCRC, OCN<sup>1</sup>; Janet Williams, MPH, CCRP<sup>1</sup>; Charles Masino, BA, MS<sup>1</sup>; Hilda Cantu, BS<sup>1</sup>; Amy Sisson, MS, MLS<sup>8</sup>; Joseph Arthur, MD<sup>1</sup>; Eduardo Bruera, MD<sup>1</sup>

**Conclusions and Relevance** Patients perceived a higher level of compassion and preferred physicians who provided a more optimistic message. More research is needed in structuring less optimistic message content to support health care professionals in delivering less optimistic news.

# Drivers of change

- **Demographic shift**
- Materialism
- Autonomy/rights
- Medical technology
- Denial (unawareness) of death
- Conspiracy

## Mortality trends for all causes of death: age 35-69 years, Australia



### Male deaths from any cause at age 35-69 years in 2011:

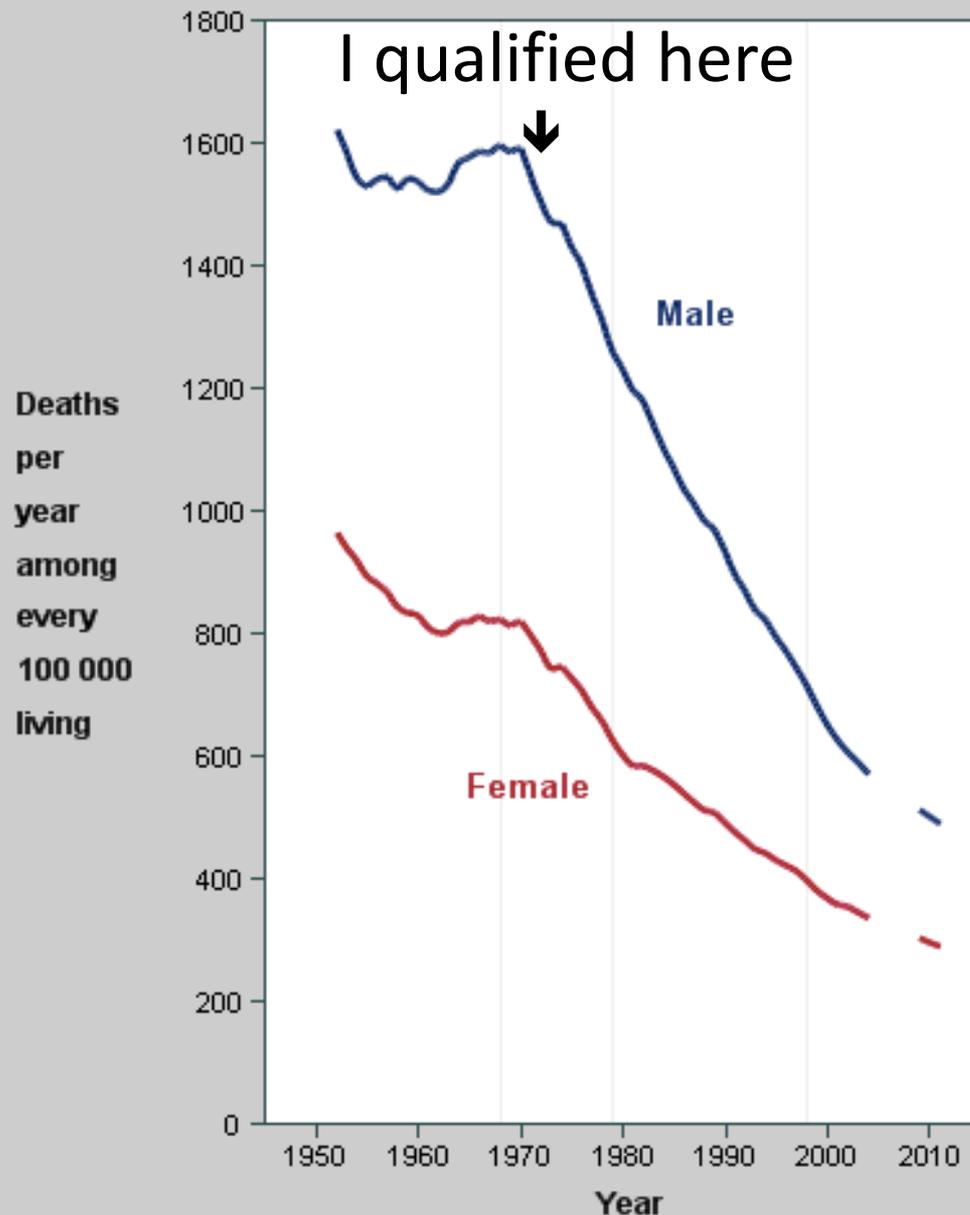
- 20 673 (27% of all male deaths)
- 491 out of every 100 000 males at this age, a rate which was:
  - 25% less than in 2000 (rate: 650)
  - 66% less than in 1975 (rate: 1427)
  - 68% less than in 1955 (rate: 1529)

### Female deaths from any cause at ages 35-69 years in 2011:

- 12 498 (17% of all female deaths)
- 291 out of every 100 000 females at this age, a rate which was:
  - 21% less than in 2000 (rate: 369)
  - 60% less than in 1975 (rate: 726)
  - 67% less than in 1955 (rate: 891)

Created: 17 May 2013, 3:41 pm  
Males & females, ages 35-69 years  
All causes  
Australia

## Mortality trends for all causes of death: age 35-69 years, Australia



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Created: 17 May 2013, 3:41 pm  
Males & females, ages 35-69 years  
All causes  
Australia

Over 90% of  
Australians live  
to be old





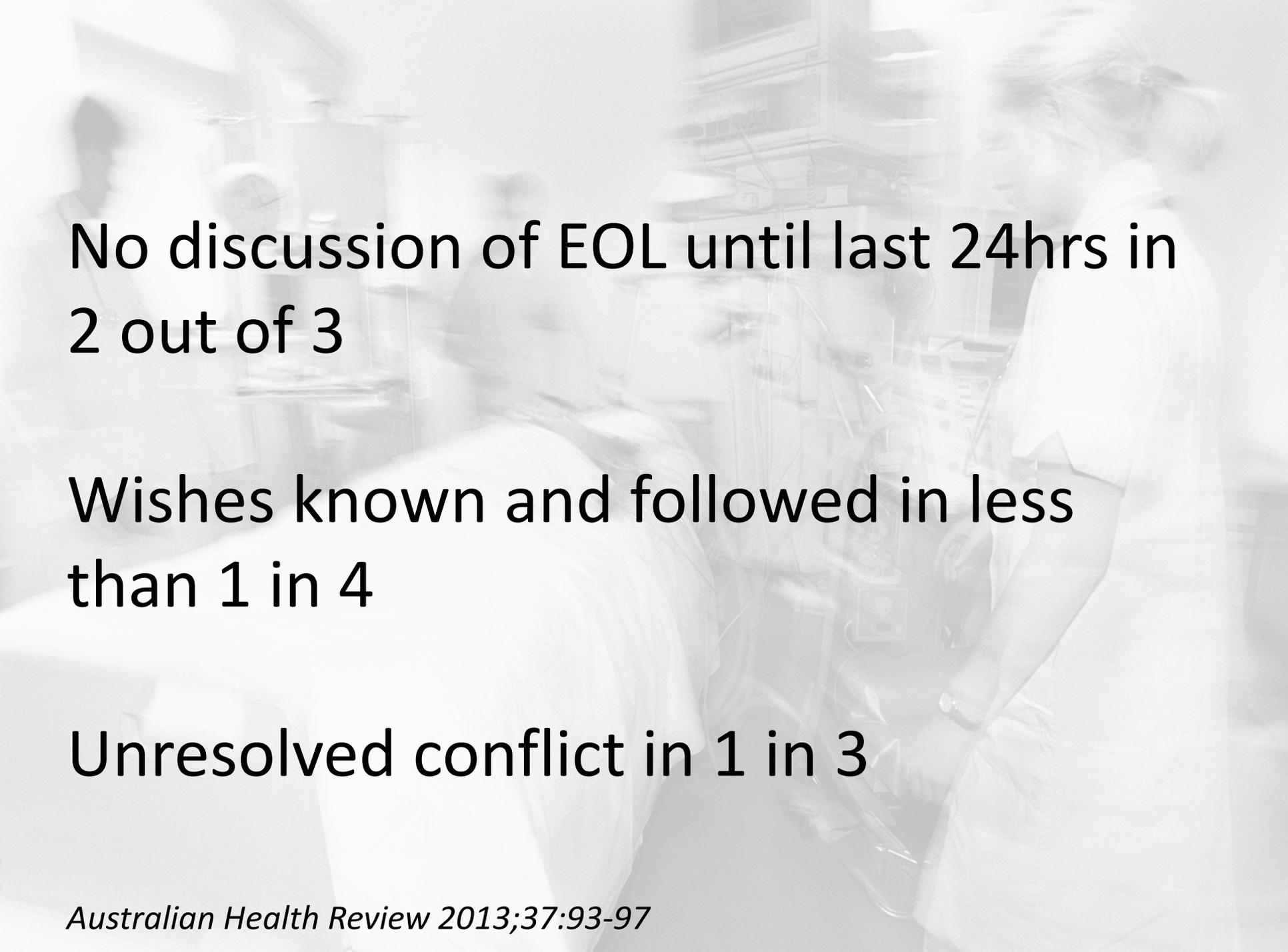
Mostly due to a  
decision

Mostly made by  
others

In acute care

Not anticipated

Poorly managed



No discussion of EOL until last 24hrs in  
2 out of 3

Wishes known and followed in less  
than 1 in 4

Unresolved conflict in 1 in 3

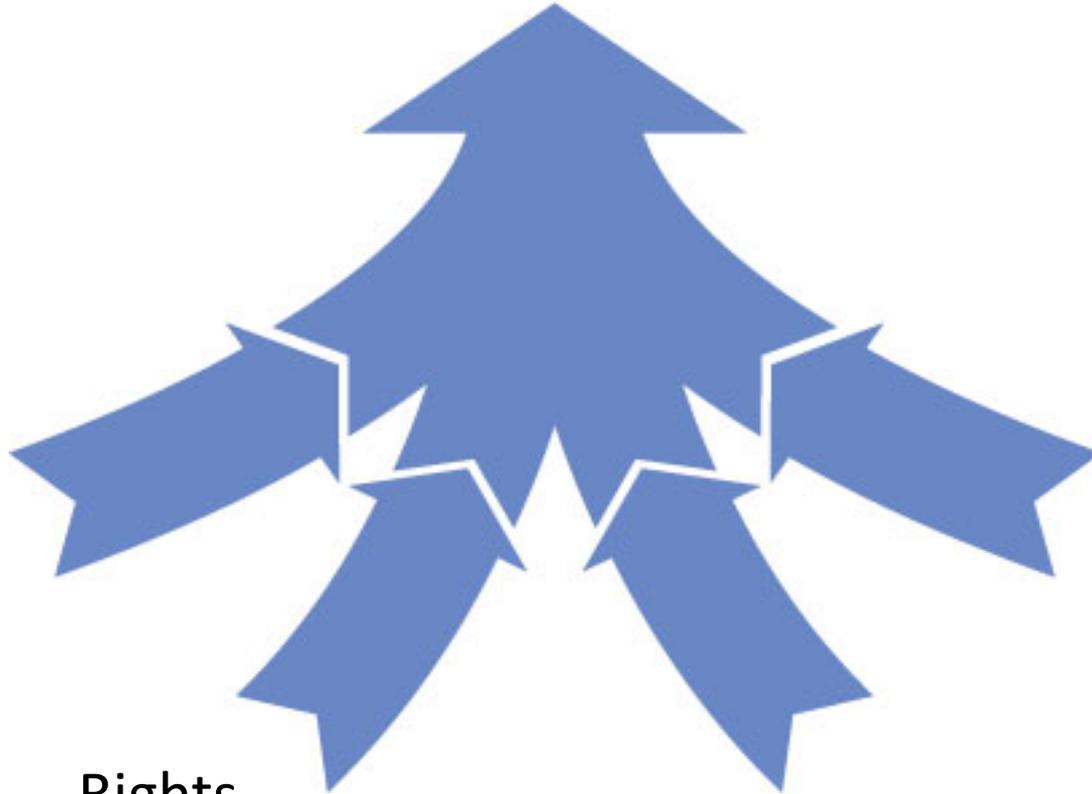
## 100 acute care deaths in Newcastle:

- mostly medical wards
- 20 no mention of dying
- 10 no-CPR order only
- Obs continued but not responded to
- only 1 in 4 had Palliative Care referral

*Australian Health Review 2014; 38:223-9*

# Advance Care Planning

ACP



Bad research

EOL costs

Rights

Ethical  
dilemma

# Research ethics promoted choice as the benchmark of morality



# Advance Care Planning

# We all understand it

Google

advance care planning

All

News

Images

Videos

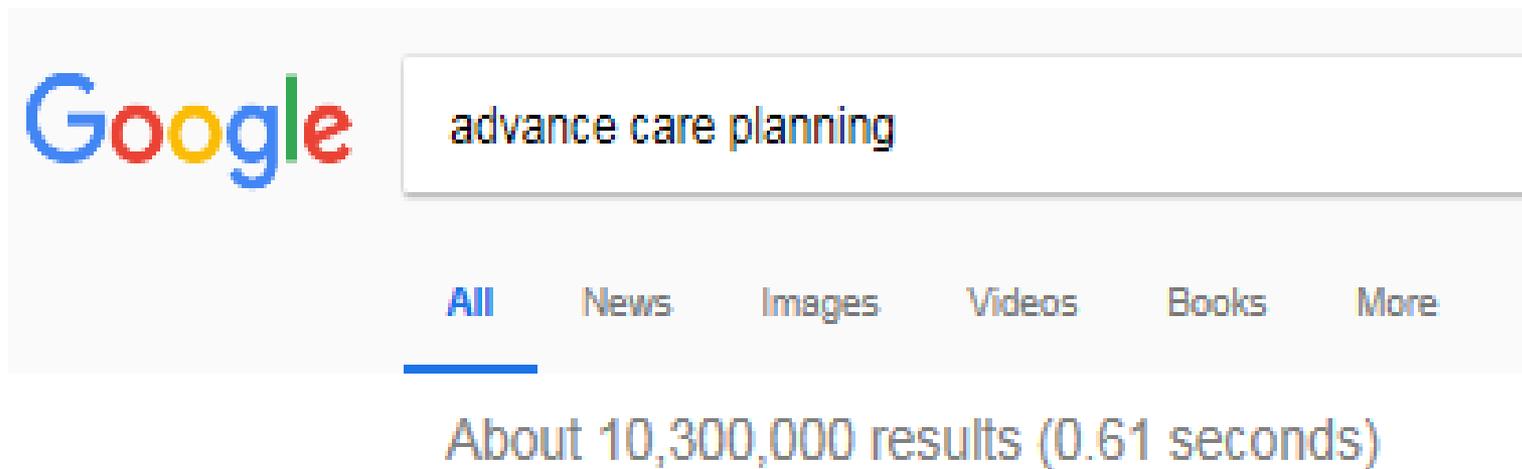
Books

More

About 10,300,000 results (0.61 seconds)



# We all understand it



This morning 15,400,000

# We can all make choices



Even bad ones....





We are all  
rugged  
individuals  
who like to  
be in  
charge

**No, no, no**

**and no**





# Choice is not the issue. The misrepresentation of healthcare in bioethical discourse

Kari Milch Agledahl,<sup>1</sup> Reidun Førde,<sup>3</sup> Åge Wifstad<sup>2</sup>

The options patients do confront are somewhat arbitrarily constructed within the narrow framework of both what is deemed to be medically appropriate and how the healthcare system is organised practically.

Australians are weird (maerkelig?)

Australians are weird (maerkelig?)

**Western**

**Educated**

**Industrialised**

**Rich**

**Democratic**

Australians are weird (maerkelig?)

**Western**

**Educated**

**Industrialised**

**Rich**

**Democratic**

**And still not very interested....**

# Advance Care Planning

What do we know?

# Advance Care Planning

Advance Care Directive

Choosing who chooses

Complex interventions

- conversations
- support person
- shared decision making



---

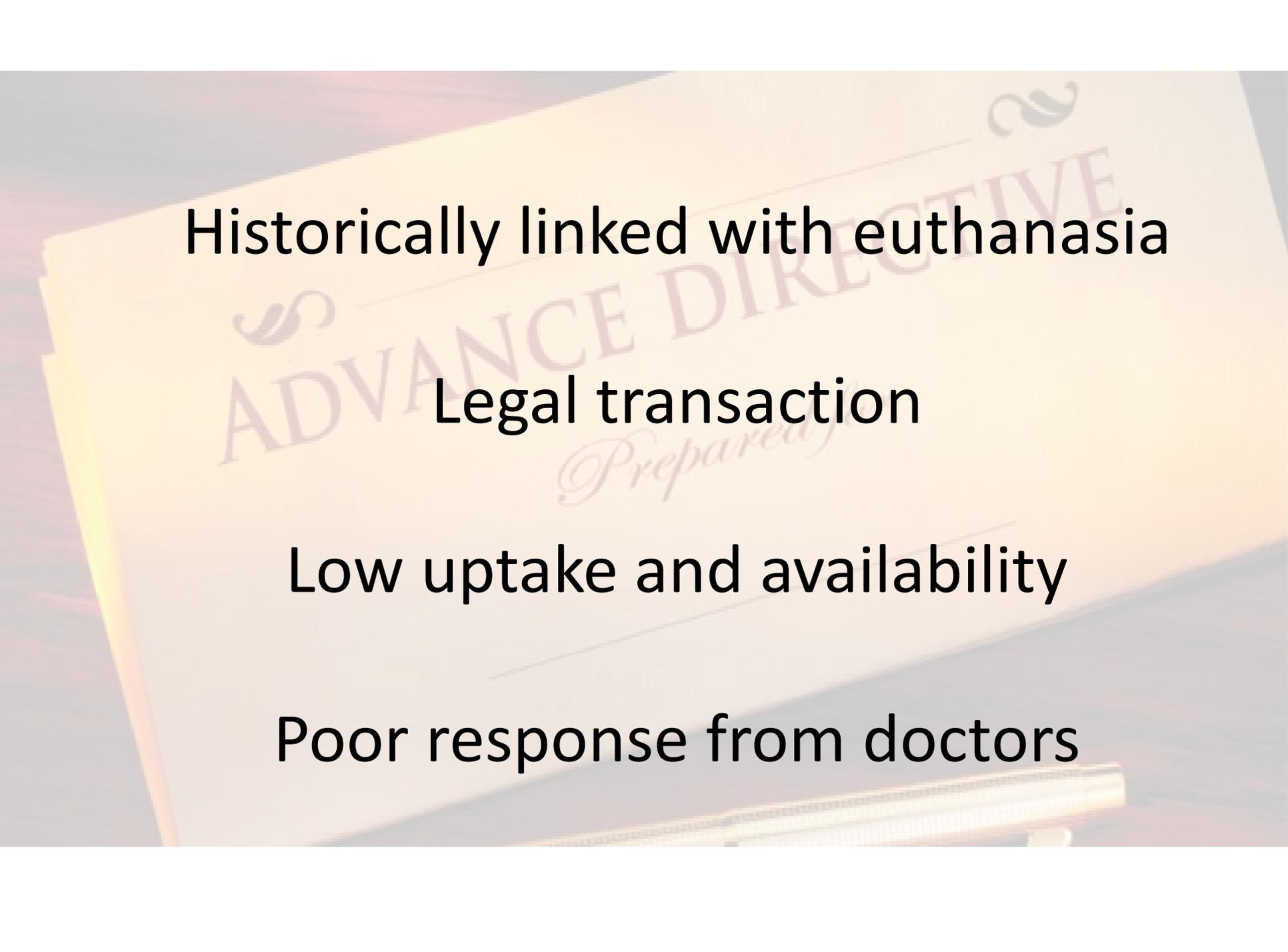
# ADVANCE DIRECTIVE



*Prepared for*

---



The background features a document titled "ADVANCE DIRECTIVE" in a serif font, with the word "Prepared" written in a cursive script below it. A fountain pen is visible at the bottom of the frame. The text on the slide is overlaid on this background.

Historically linked with euthanasia

Legal transaction

Low uptake and availability

Poor response from doctors

# Enough

## THE FAILURE OF THE LIVING WILL

---

Angela Fagerlin and Carl E. Schneider, “Enough: The Failure of the Living Will,” *Hastings Center Report* 34, no. 2 (2004): 30-42.

**E**nough. The living will has failed, and it is time to say so.

We should have known it would fail: A notable but neglected psychological literature always provided arresting reasons to expect the policy of living wills to misfire. Given their alluring potential, perhaps they were worth trying. But a crescendoing empirical literature and persistent clinical disappointments reveal that the rewards of the campaign to promote living wills do not justify its costs. Nor can any degree of tinkering ever make the living will an effective instrument of social policy.



“I’m trying to die correctly, but it’s very difficult, you know.”

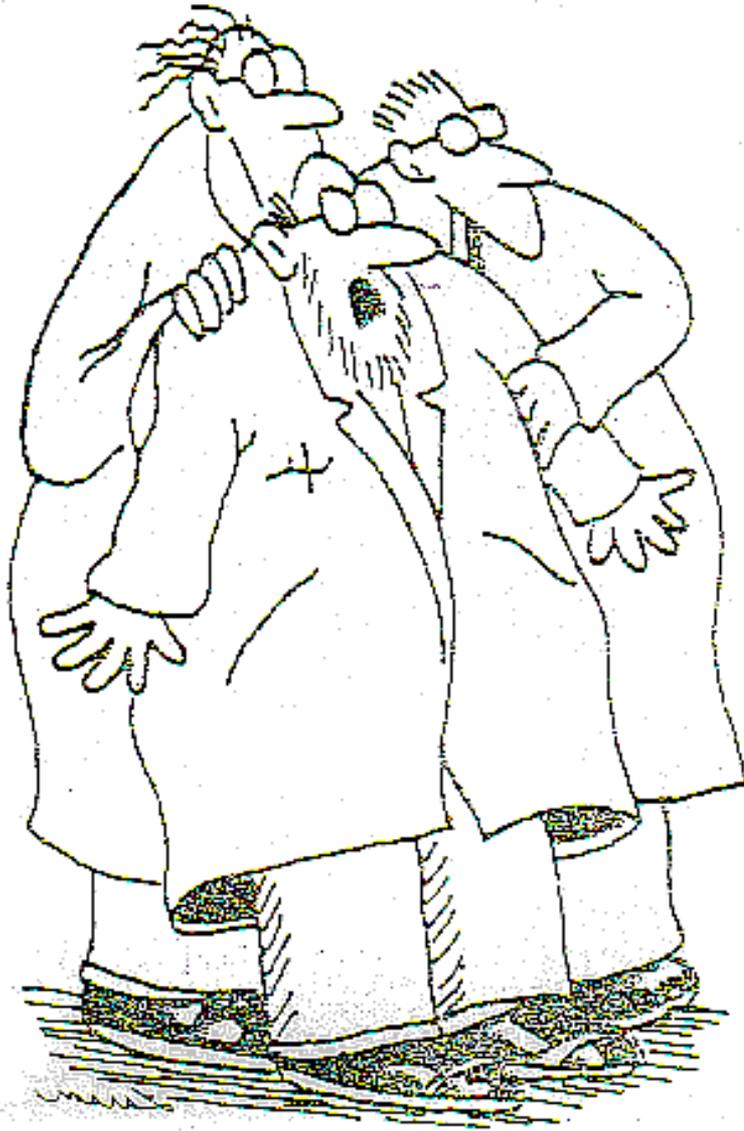
Lawrence Durrell

Q: "How do dying people feel?"



# A: Ambivalent





“There is always an easy solution to every human problem - neat, plausible, and wrong”

H L Mencken 1917



Choosing the chooser



# My ICU study

- Can the “person to contact” listed on admission legally act as SDM?
- Is this “person to contact” acceptable to the patient’s family as SDM?
- What happens when the patient is asked?

# Results

- No name captured in 10%.
- Not legally eligible to be SDM in 13%
- Remained in dispute throughout admission in 3%
- Family judged that this “person to contact” was the wrong person in 32%

# Gender

- Person to contact on admission:
  - 30 wives vs 12 husbands
  - 15 daughters vs 9 sons
  - 7 mothers vs 5 fathers
  - “other” 7 female vs 3 male
- Overall
  - 66% of “persons to contact” were female.

# “Wrong person”?

Wives: 9 of 30 overturned or resigned.

- 2 mentally ill
- 3 pushed aside by children
- 2 had just left the relationship
- 1 injured in same car crash
- 1 wouldn't come

# “Wrong person”?

- Daughters: 7 of 15 overturned/resigned.
  - 4 deferred to son
  - 1 never spoke to father (patient)
  - 2 wouldn't come

# Gender

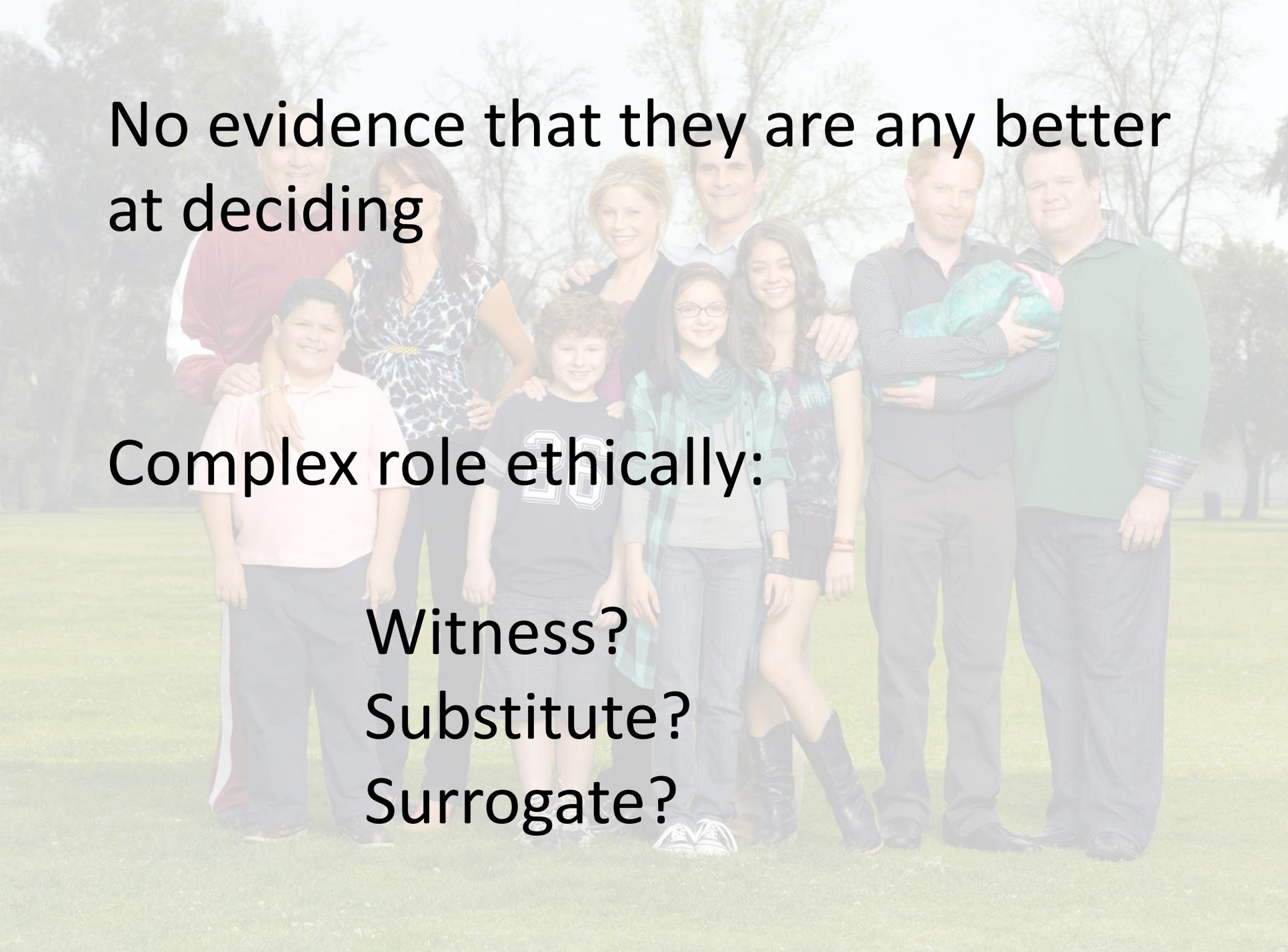
- Overall (after family discussions)
  - 21 females had been overturned (9 males)
  - Mostly replaced by males

# What did the patients think?

- 10 patients regained capacity while in ICU
- 7 wanted a different person from the admission sheet *and* the family:
  - 1 wanted his wife (but she refused)
  - 1 had a partner we didn't know about
  - 1 preferred son over husband
  - 1 preferred father over girlfriend
  - 1 accepted his daughter back
  - 1 wanted a different friend
  - 1 preferred brother over mother

# Summary of outcomes

- System problem
  - 10% not asked
  - 13% failed to find eligible decision maker
- High rate of intervention by the family
  - 32% came up with a different SDM during 48 hrs
- Women usually nominated, but many are replaced or fail to carry out role.
- Patient usually has a different (and unexpected) preference.



No evidence that they are any better  
at deciding

Complex role ethically:

Witness?

Substitute?

Surrogate?

# Critical Care Perspective

---

## **The Facilitated Values History**

### **Helping Surrogates Make Authentic Decisions for Incapacitated Patients with Advanced Illness**

Leslie P. Scheunemann<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Robert M. Arnold<sup>4,5</sup>, and Douglas B. White<sup>6,7</sup>

#### **AUTONOMOUS DECISIONS OR AUTHENTIC DECISIONS?**

A common misperception among clinicians is that respect for autonomy is the ethical principle that drives most decisions for incapacitated patients (15). However, a decision cannot be autonomous unless the patient actually made a specific choice in advance about the medical situation at hand. When the incapacitated patient has not previously communicated a relevant, applicable choice, as is generally the case in ICUs, clinicians cannot be guided primarily by respect for autonomy. Instead,

Imagine you are in a restaurant....



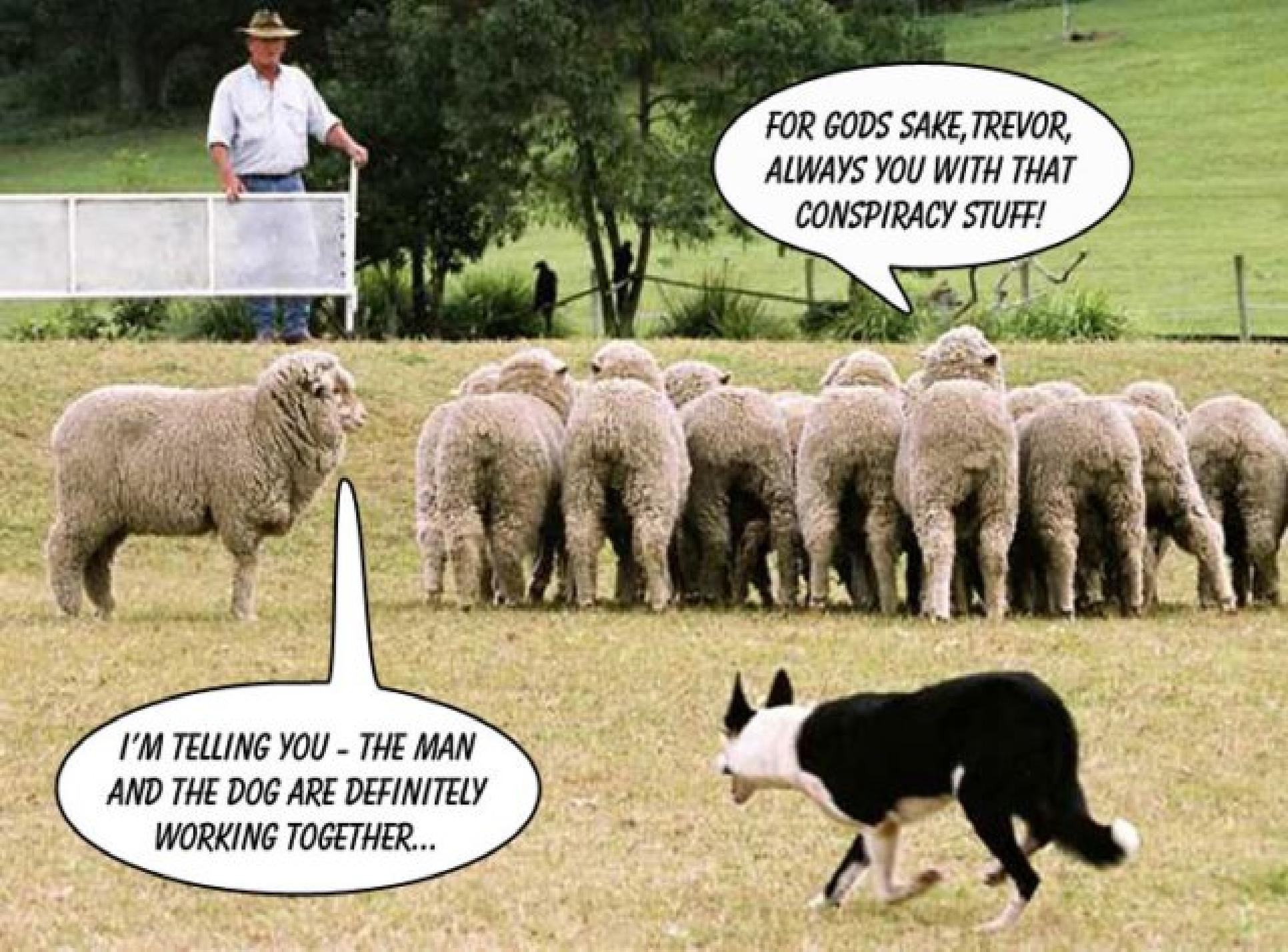






Let's vote...





**FOR GODS SAKE, TREVOR,  
ALWAYS YOU WITH THAT  
CONSPIRACY STUFF!**

**I'M TELLING YOU - THE MAN  
AND THE DOG ARE DEFINITELY  
WORKING TOGETHER...**

# Advance Care Planning

Advance Care Directive

Choosing who chooses

Complex interventions

- conversations
- support person
- shared decision making

# The effects of advance care planning on end-of-life care: A systematic review

**Arianne Brinkman-Stoppelenburg, Judith AC Rietjens  
and Agnes van der Heide**

*Palliative Medicine*

2014, Vol. 28(8) 1000–1025

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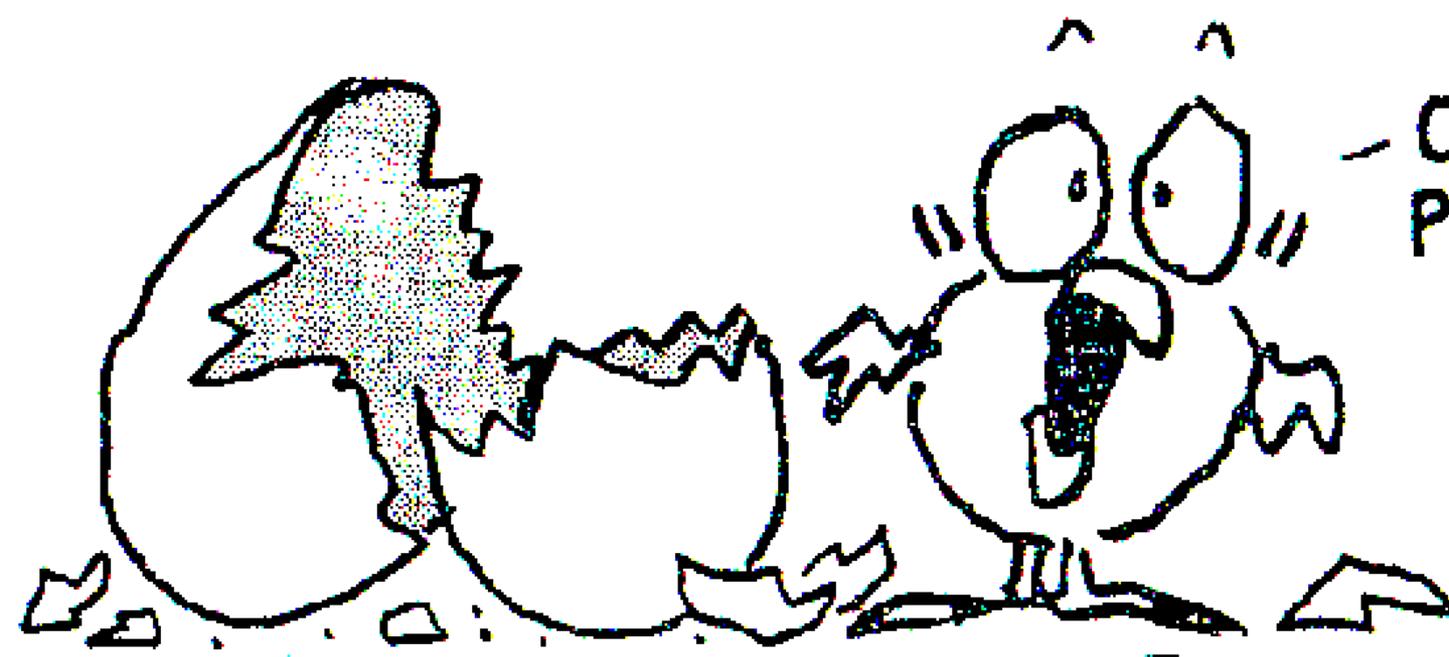
DOI: 10.1177/0269216314526272

[pmj.sagepub.com](http://pmj.sagepub.com)



“...complex interventions more effective than written instructions”

(people/literature/iterative/step-wise approaches)



- OH WOW!  
PARADIGM  
SHIFT!

© 2000 THAVES



# Respecting Patient Choices

Trained all staff to have ACP conversations

Highly positive result

Not sustained when funding stopped



# Health Touchpoints Graph: Patients with a Serious Advanced Illness in the last year of life





Patients identified as being in the **last year of life**

**90%** had no computer

**50%** already dependent on a carer

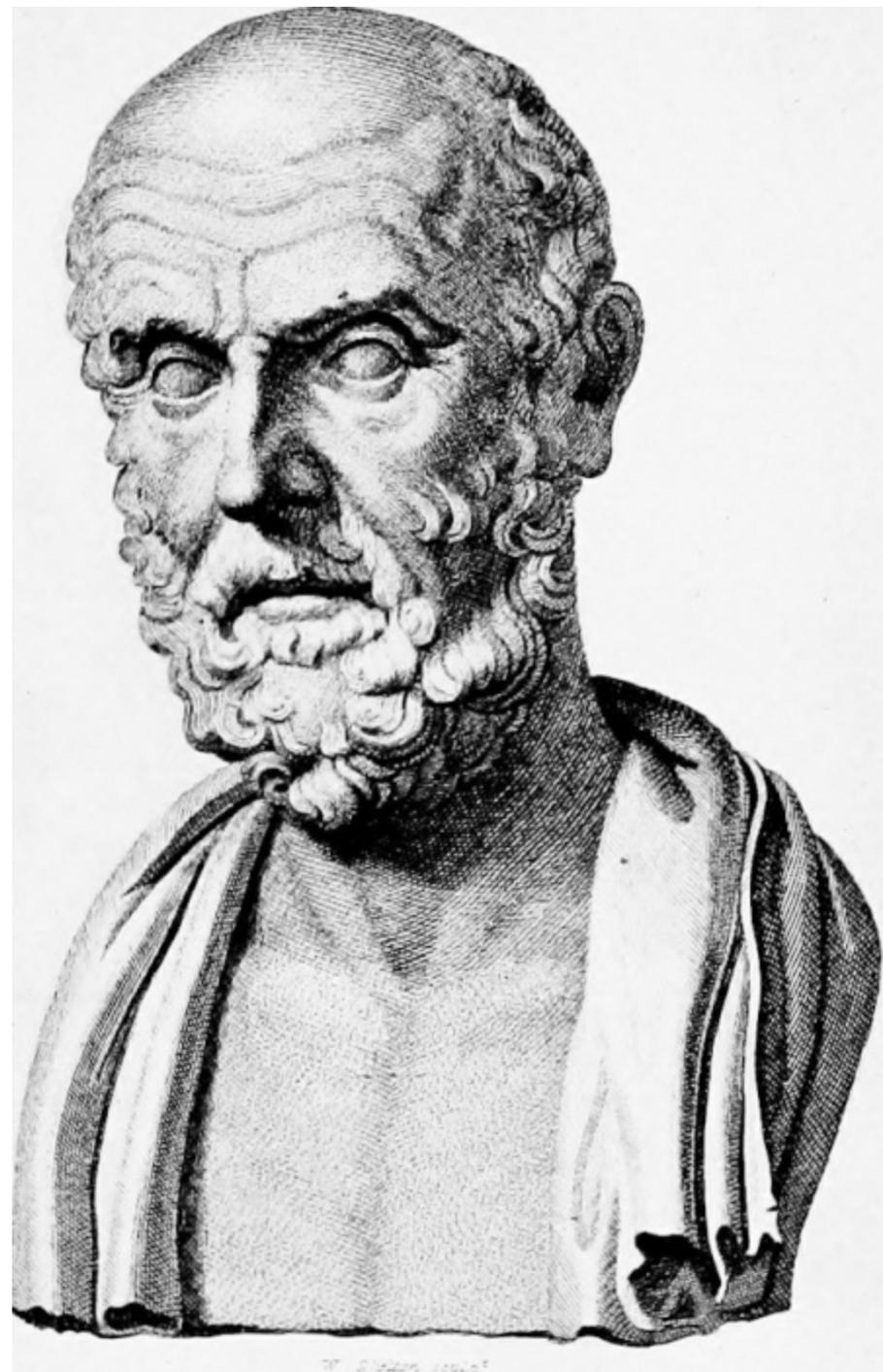
Most did not know about ACP and had no plan

Most wanted to make a plan with the MyNetCare recruiter

A male doctor in a white lab coat stands on the left, holding a clipboard and shaking hands with a female patient lying in a hospital bed on the right. The patient is smiling and looking up at the doctor. The background shows a hospital room with light blue walls, medical equipment, and a bed. The text "Shared decision making" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Shared decision making

“...patients must place themselves fully in physicians’ hands and obey commands”





## SHARED DECISION-MAKING IN THE MEDICAL ENCOUNTER: WHAT DOES IT MEAN? (OR IT TAKES AT LEAST TWO TO TANGO)

CATHY CHARLES,<sup>1,2,3\*</sup> AMIRAM GAFNI<sup>1,2,3</sup> and TIM WHELAN<sup>3,4,5</sup>

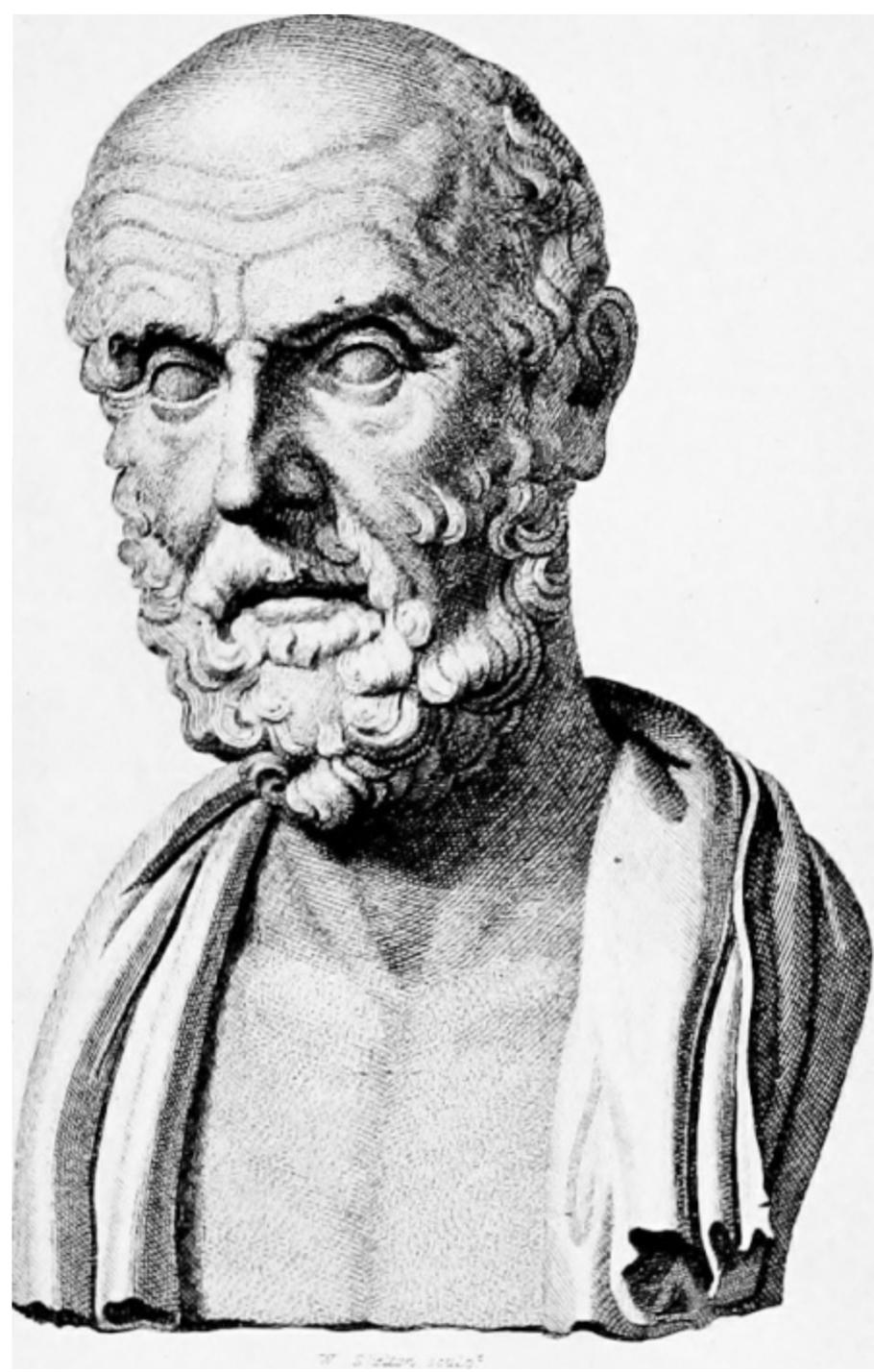
<sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario,

# Shared decisions (Charles 1997)

- “..for shared decisions to occur, there needs to be a two-way exchange not only of information but of ***treatment preferences.***”
- Both/all parties have to be willing
- Information sharing
- Agree to be bound by the decision

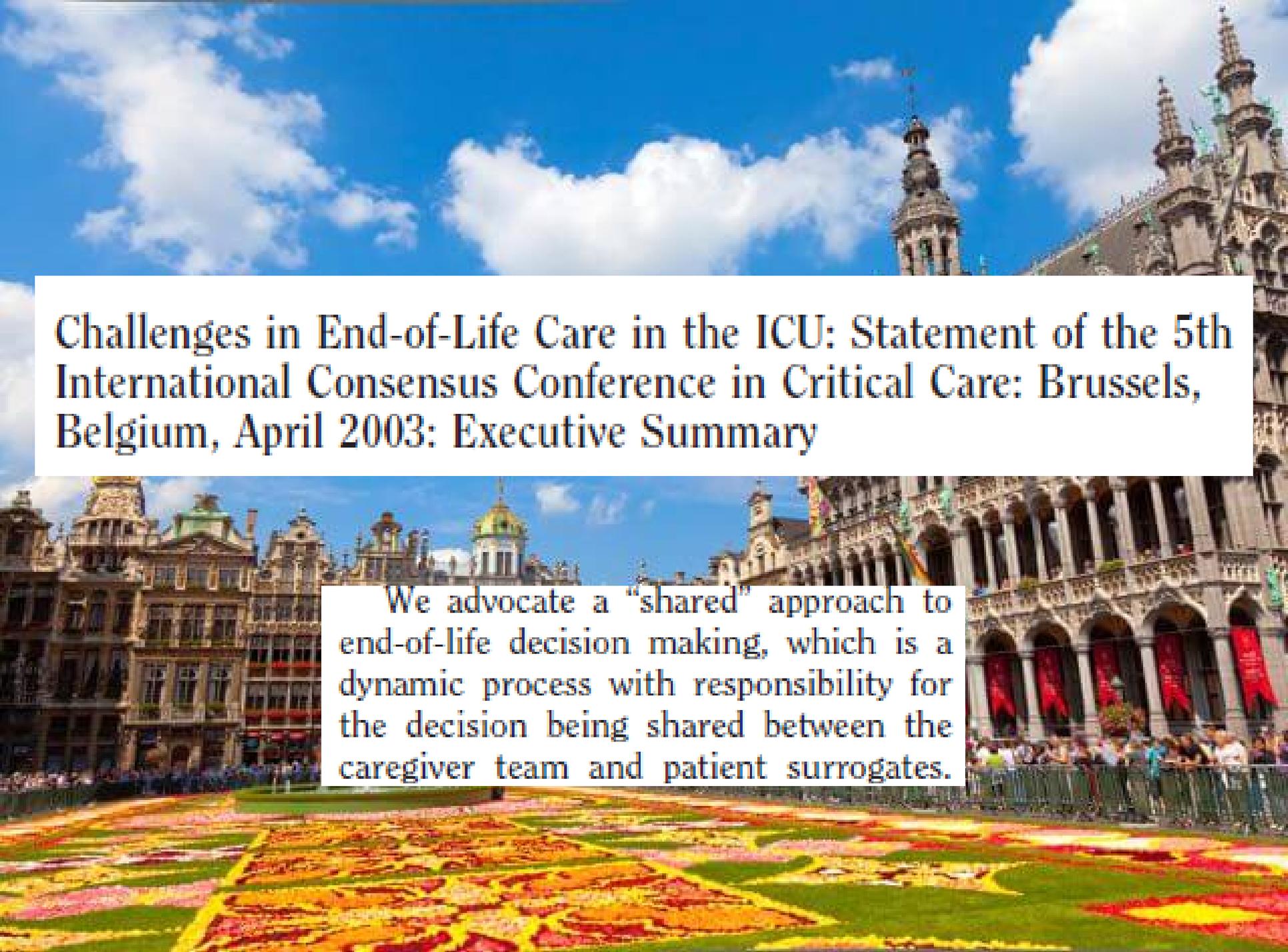


“...patients must place themselves fully in physicians’ hands and obey commands”





Challenges in End-of-Life Care in the ICU: Statement of the 5th International Consensus Conference in Critical Care: Brussels, Belgium, April 2003: Executive Summary



Challenges in End-of-Life Care in the ICU: Statement of the 5th International Consensus Conference in Critical Care: Brussels, Belgium, April 2003: Executive Summary

We advocate a “shared” approach to end-of-life decision making, which is a dynamic process with responsibility for the decision being shared between the caregiver team and patient surrogates.



PERSPECTIVE

SHARED DECISION MAKING

# Shared Decision Making — The Pinnacle of Patient-Centered Care

Michael J. Barry, M.D., and Susan Edgman-Levitan, P.A.

Do you want to make your own  
decisions?

no\_\_\_\_\_maybe\_\_\_\_\_yes

Ende 1989

Do you want to make your own  
decisions?



no \_\_\_\_\_ maybe \_\_\_\_\_ yes

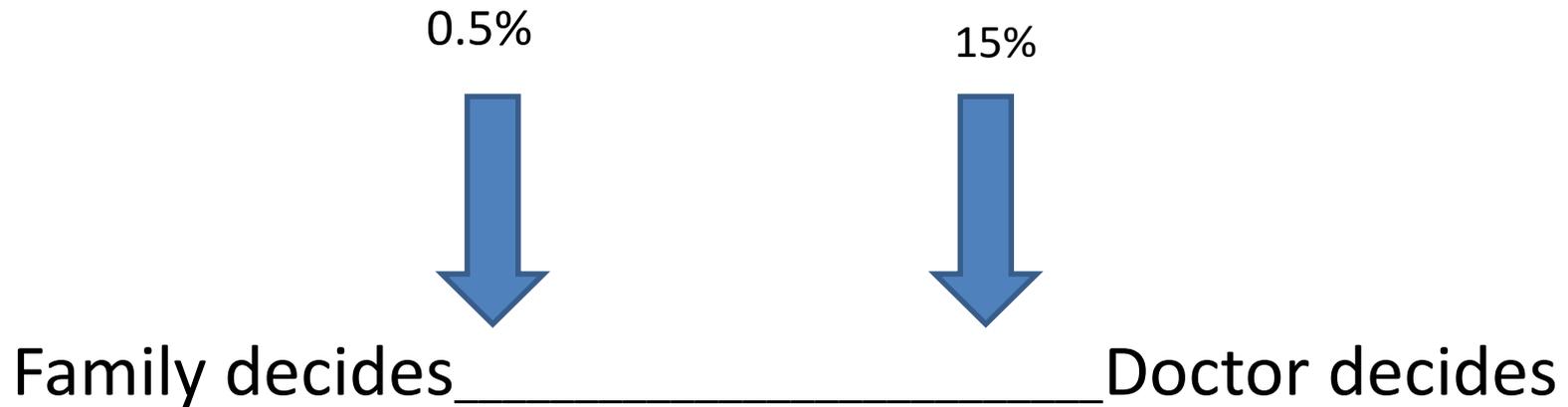
Ende 1989

# Who should decide what to do with your Mum?

Family decides \_\_\_\_\_ Doctor decides

Heyland 2003

# Who should decide what to do with your Mum?



Heyland 2003



# REALITY

Worst game ever.

**Table 2** Components of Shared Decision Making in Included Studies

Components of SDM <sup>10-12</sup>	Study						
	Briggs and Others <sup>20</sup> (2004)	Cox and Others <sup>22</sup> (2012)	Jacobsen and Others <sup>21</sup> (2011)	Noguera and Others <sup>24</sup> (2014)	Song and Others <sup>25</sup> (2013)	White and Others <sup>12</sup> (2007)	Witkamp and Others <sup>23</sup> (2014)
Patient/caregiver involvement in the decision making process	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Providing information about disease state and prognosis		X	X		X	X	
Assessing understanding of information	X				X	X	
Providing information about treatment choices	X	X	X		X	X	
Providing information about risks and benefits of choices	X	X	X		X	X	
Eliciting values and goals		X	X		X	X	
Eliciting treatment preferences		X			X	X	
Eliciting decision making role preference (autonomous, shared, passive, etc.)		X				X	
Providing clinician recommendations in the context of the decision taking into consideration patients' informed values and goals			X				

1. Nature of decision
2. Treatment alternatives
3. Pros and cons
4. Uncertainty
5. Understanding
6. Patient's values
7. Family's role
8. Need for input from others
9. Context of decision
10. Family's opinion about the decision



< 2%

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Open Access**



Is shared decision-making vanishing at the end-of-life? A descriptive and qualitative study of advanced cancer patients' involvement in specific therapies decision-making

# Is Shared Decision Making for End-of-Life Decisions Associated With Better Outcomes as Compared to Other Forms of Decision Making? A Systematic Literature Review

*Negin Hajizadeh, MD, MPH, Lauren Uhler, MPH, Saori Wendy Herman, MLIS, AHIP, Janice Lester, MLS*

DEBATE

Open Access

Implementing shared decision-making:  
consider all the consequences



Glyn Elwyn<sup>1\*</sup> , Dominick L. Frosch<sup>2,3</sup> and Sarah Kobrin<sup>4</sup>



Not just a paradigm shift.....



.....more like a revolution

**Philosophically different**

# John Stuart Mill...

“The sole end for which mankind are warranted in interfering with the liberty of action of any of their number is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not sufficient warrant”.



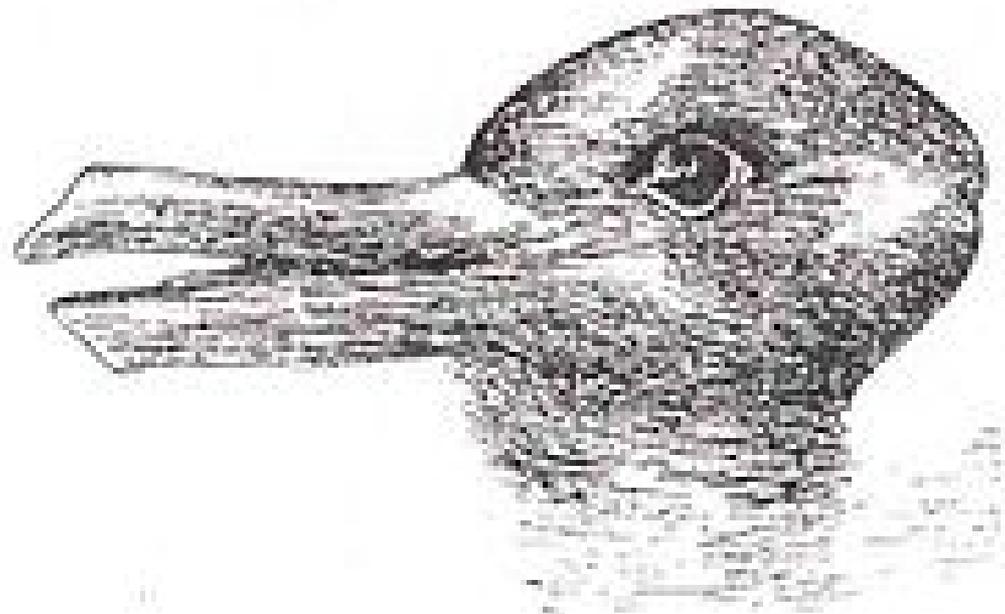
Feminist philosophy and “relational  
autonomy”



Annette Baier

“If we ask ourselves what actually enables people to be autonomous, the answer is not isolation but relationships – with parents, teachers, friends, loved ones”

People need help to be  
independent





© 1980 BY MEL AND TIAVE S 5-31

# ACP - Practical conclusions

- Take the focus away from dying
- It's a supported conversation, not a legal contract
- It's not owned by the Palliative Care Service
- Keep it separate from euthanasia
- Online?

# Theoretical conclusions

- ACP has made a lot of mistakes, and was based on the wrong philosophy.
- Shared decision making is nothing less than a revolution in medicine
- Embrace ambivalence and bad choices
- Maybe all we are trying to do is build trust



“The great thing about failure is that it requires no preparation”





Thank you

“How we die remains in the memories of those who live on”



# Euthanasia





**Plan for lack of capacity**