

# Comprehensive Care for End-stage Neurodegenerative disease

Benzi M. Kluger, MD, MS, FAAN

Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry

Chief, Neuropalliative Care Section

University of Colorado School of Medicine

# DISCLOSURES

- I have received support for this work from:
  - The University of Colorado Hospital Clinical Effectiveness and Patient Safety Grants Program
  - The Veterans Affairs Medical Center Clinical Research to Improve Care Coordination Grants Program
  - National Institute on Aging (K07AG030337-01A2 )
  - Parkinson Disease Foundation Conference Grants
  - Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (IHS-1408-20134)
  - National Institute on Nursing Research (3R01NR016037)
  - Palliative Care Research Cooperative (Lum PI)



# Disclosure II

- UCH has a team-based Neuropalliative Care Clinic and Section
  - Everything I'm talking about comes from experiences in this clinic
  - We are open to new referrals
  - We are open to new collaborations

# Objectives

- To be able to identify the needs of people affected by neurodegenerative illness.
- To understand the gaps in meeting these needs under current models of care.
- To implement principles of proactive, person-centered, team-based care to improve outcomes for this population.

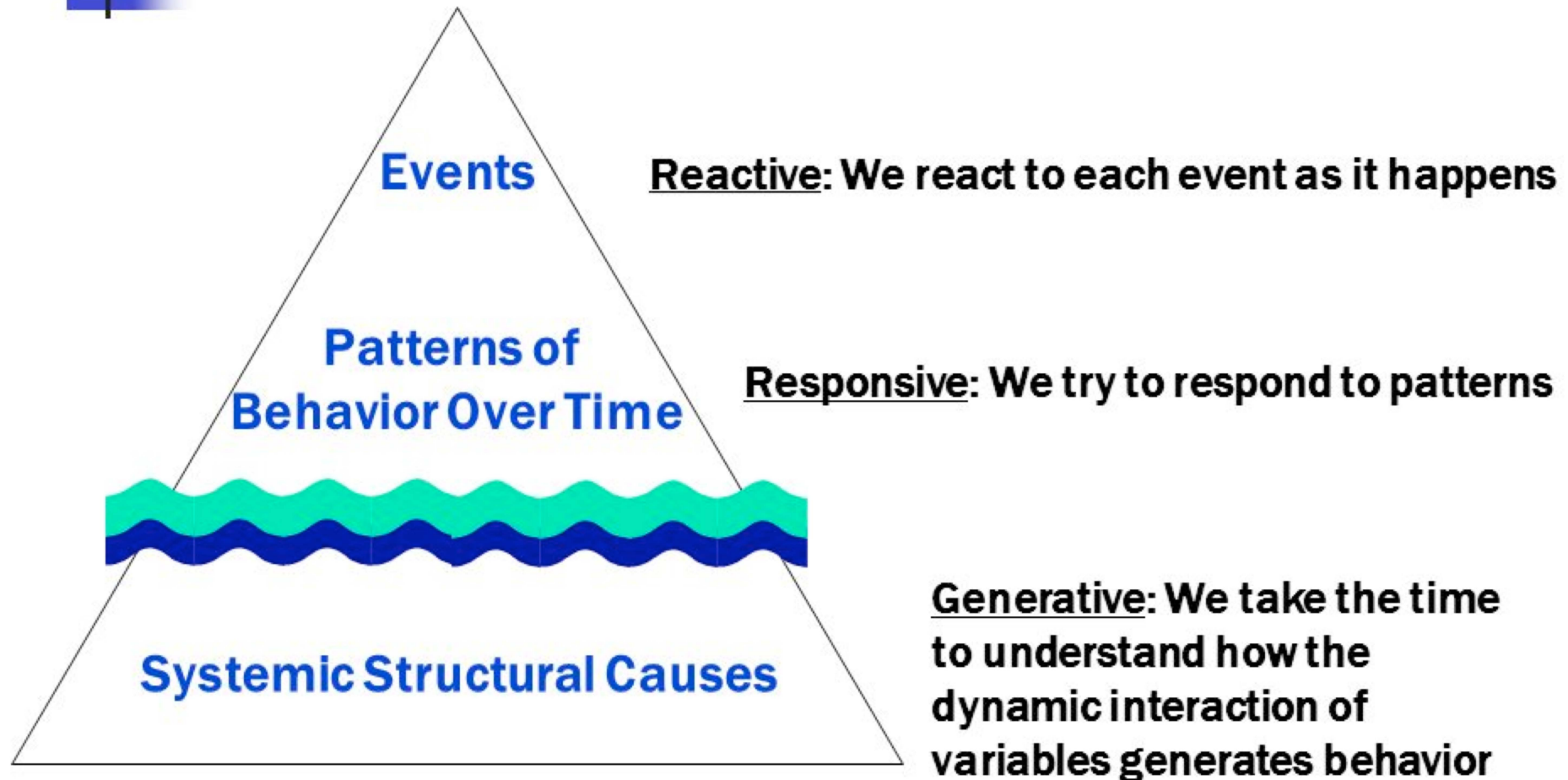
# Outline

- Review the needs of patients and caregivers
- Review the evidence for gaps in current models of care
- Discuss the potential elements needed for a comprehensive care approach
- Review models and evidence of effectiveness from clinical trials
- How to move from efficacy to implementation

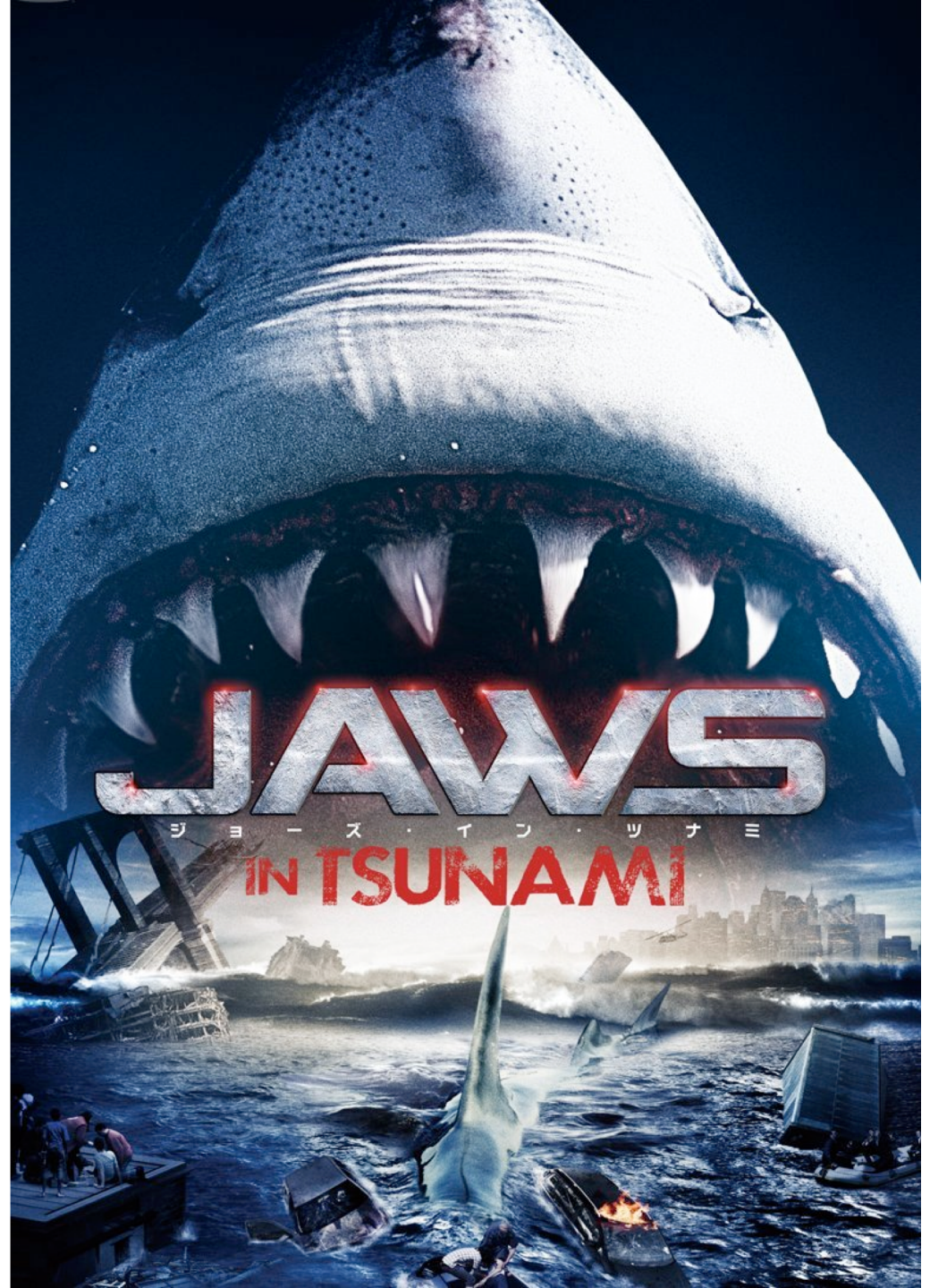
# Bottom Lines to Provide Comprehensive Care

- Be Proactive
- Accessible and approachable
- Interdisciplinary
  - Geriatrics, Neurology, Palliative
- Multispecialty
  - Medical, Social Work, Chaplain...
- Coordinated and Integrated System
- Person-Centered
- SUSTAINABLE

# Systems Thinking: The Iceberg View



# The Shark in the Silver Tsunami



# The Burden of Neurodegenerative Illness

- US elderly population is expected to increase from 6 million to 9 million by 2030 to 19 million by 2050
- The two most common neurodegenerative illnesses affect 11% and 1% of persons over age 65 with prevalence rising with age
- These are the only leading causes of death which are on the rise with at least 1 in 3 elderly adults expected to die with or of one of these illnesses

# The Economic Costs

- Over \$100 billion currently in direct healthcare costs and lost opportunities
- Significant impact on caregivers and families
- Leading causes of nursing home placements



# Common Neurodegenerative Illnesses

- Dementia
  - Alzheimer's disease
  - Other Dementias
- Parkinsonism
  - Parkinson's disease
  - Secondary parkinsonism
  - Parkinson Plus Disorders
- Motor Neuron Disease

# Parkinsonism

- Defined by rigidity, bradykinesia, tremor and postural instability
- May be primary (neurodegenerative) or secondary (medications, vascular)
- Affect 1-2% of adults over age 65
- Nonmotor symptoms include dementia, pain, sleep, fatigue, anxiety, depression and autonomic dysfunction

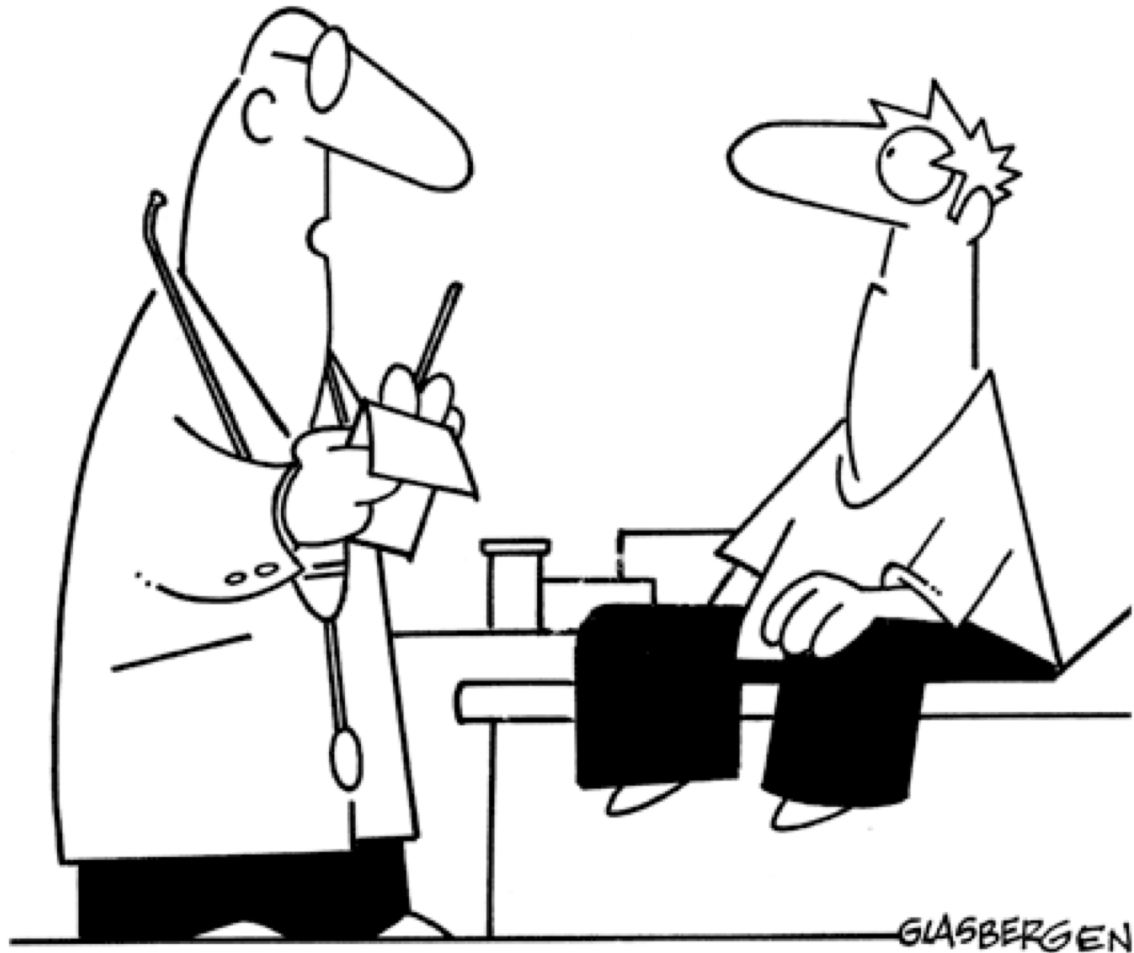
# Neurodegenerative Parkinsonism

- Parkinson's disease
- Dementia with Lewy Bodies
- Multiple System Atrophy
- Progressive Supranuclear Palsy
- Corticobasal Degeneration

# PD: The Quintessential Neurodegenerative Illness

- Motor Symptoms
- Dementia
- Psychiatric symptoms
- Nonmotor Symptoms
  - Pain, fatigue, sleep, autonomic
- High caregiver burden
- Heterogeneity in phenotype
- Variability in progression

# Needs and Gaps



**"This prescription doesn't cure anything, but  
it has fewer side effects than other drugs."**

# Gaps and Needs



# General Needs

- Planning for the future
- Coordinating Care
- Caregiver Support
- Psychosocial Support
- Spiritual Wellbeing
- Medical and Psychiatric Symptoms
- End-of-life Care

# Proactive: To meet End Stage Needs Well, Start at the time of Diagnosis



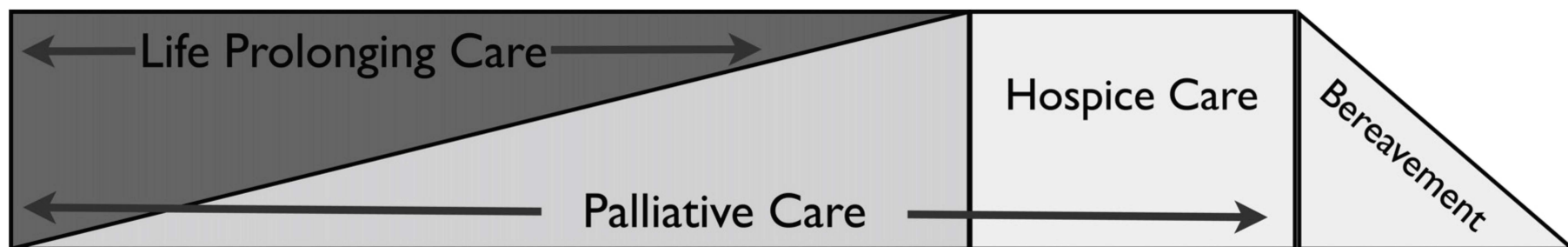
©[Universal Press Syndicate](#). Original work by Bill Watterson.  
Originally published on 1992-05-21.



# Need for a Road Map



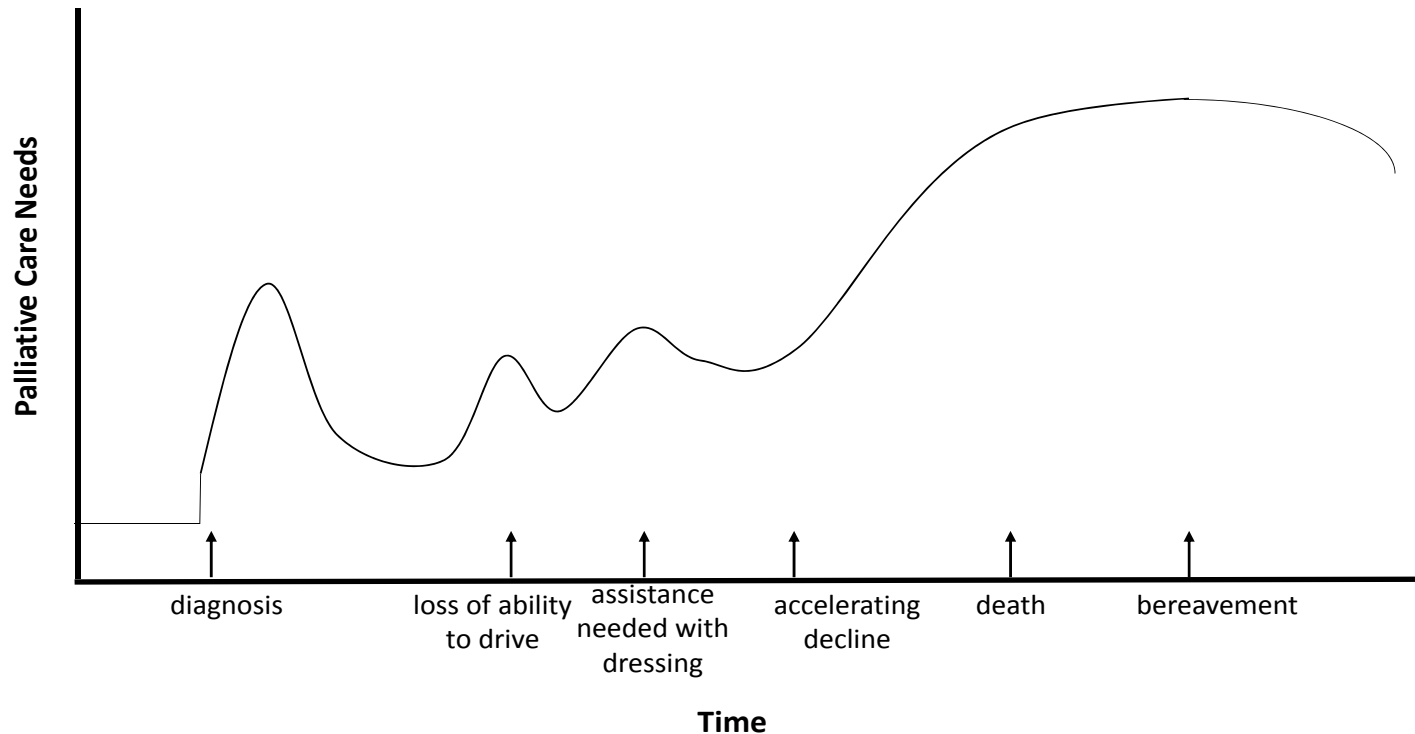
# PALLIATIVE CARE INTEGRATIVE MODEL



Adler E D et al. *Circulation* 2009;120:2597-2606

# Integration of Palliative Care:

Figure 1: Continuum of Palliative Care

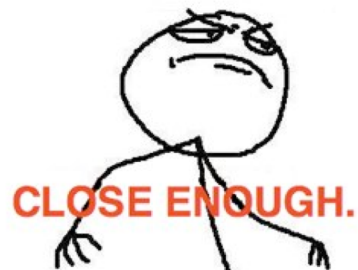


**No “right time” for starting palliative care**

THE TIME  DOCTOR

**Why Waiting for The  
Right Time Can Be a  
Mistake?**

# How are neurologists doing?



CLOSE ENOUGH.

# Advance Care Planning

- In one study 55% of PD patients die in a hospital and less than 10% at home
- Hospice deaths range from less than 1-5% for community to 50% in nursing home study
- Significant variability in use and quality of advance directives
- Place of death is often incongruent with patient wishes which are overwhelming to die at home (>85% in most surveys)

# UCH Inpatient Palliative Care Consults for Neurology Patients

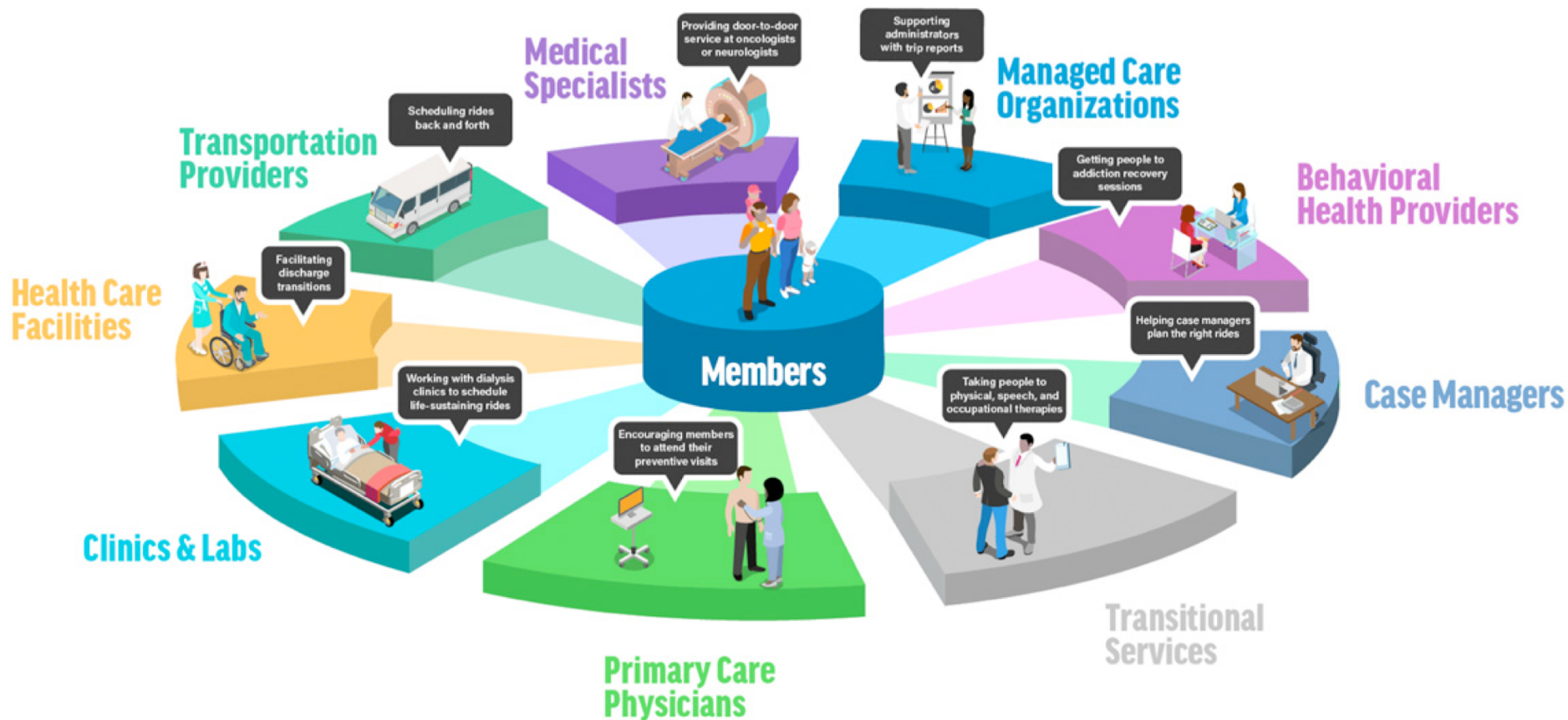
- Chart Review of 211 patients with neurologic diagnoses receiving inpatient palliative care consults
- > 70% were unable to communicate at time of consult
- <20 % had advance directives in place at time of consultation
- < 50% of diagnoses were acute (e.g. stroke)

# Qualitative Data

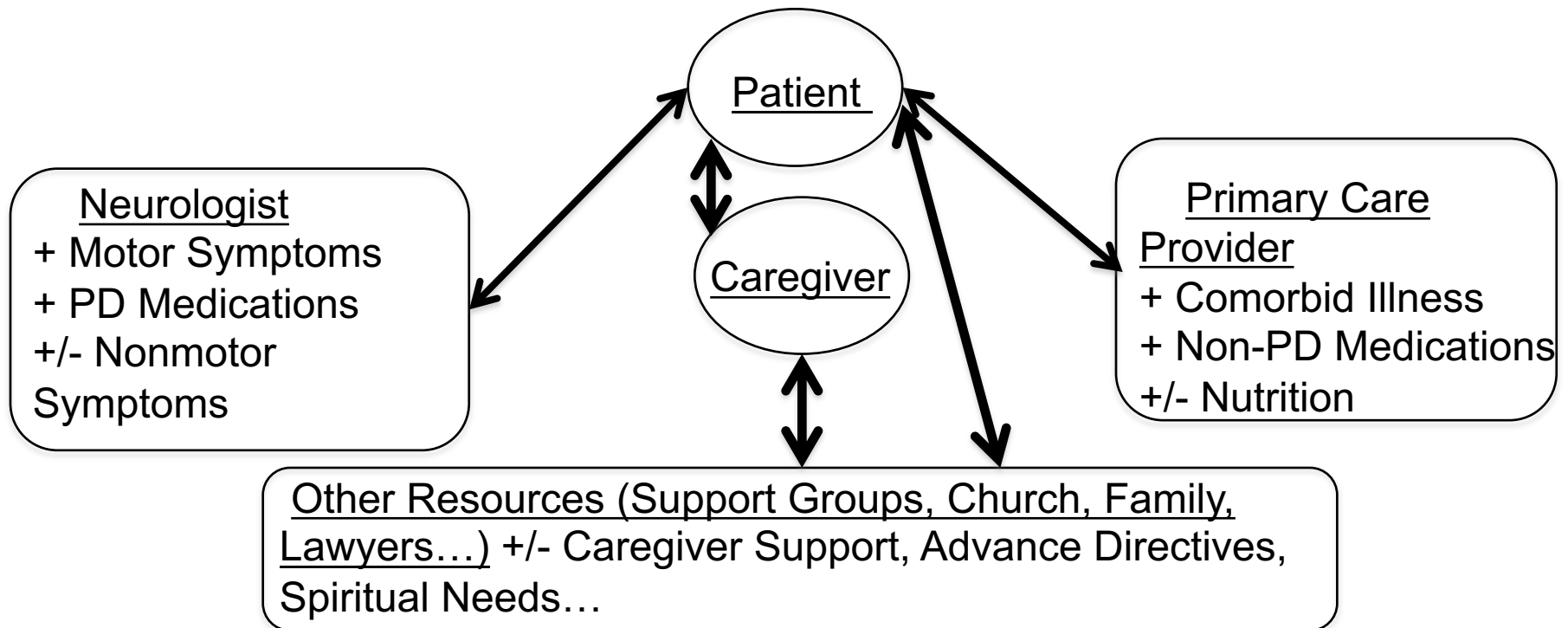
- Patients did not think their providers were interested in ACP
- Frequently did ACP with family and lawyer if at all
- Significant worries about the future including finances, being a burden
- Many misperceptions including the “mortality myth”



# Difficulties Coordinating Care



# Current Chronic Care Model for Parkinson's Disease



TYPICAL OUTCOMES: GOOD: Motor Symptom Control; FAIR: Nonmotor Symptom Treatment POOR: Advance Care Planning, Caregiver Support, Psychosocial & Spiritual Needs

# Management of Comorbid Illness

- Osteoarthritis
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Diabetes
- Comorbid illness may interact with primary neurologic illness (e.g. increase cognitive decline, falls) and complicate management

# Patient and Caregiver Perceptions

- Did not know what we meant by healthcare “team”
- Caregiver is the captain
- Very resourceful families can do OK
- Caregivers bear the brunt of the burden to coordinate care, often neglecting their own care in the process
- Difficulties reaching healthcare providers and knowing who to call

# Other Gaps in Care

- Medical issues may be missed
  - Osteoporosis significantly under-recognized and treated despite high fracture risk
- People are not seen
  - E.g. problems reduced to a prescription
- Over 40% of PD patients do not see a neurologist
  - Patients not seeing neurologist 14% more likely to fracture a hip, 21% more likely nursing home placement & 22% more likely to die within 6 years of diagnosis

Prozac is not always the answer.



*"Could we up the dosage? I still have feelings."*

# Psychosocial Issues

- Challenges to Identity
- Effects on relationships
- Cosmetic issues and social stigma
- Financial
- Worries about the future
- Fear of dementia

# Medical Symptoms

- Sleep disorders and Fatigue
- Dysphagia and sialorrhea
- Weight loss and nutrition
- Constipation and bladder dysfunction
- Pain
- Skin breakdown



# Psychiatric Symptoms

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Hallucinations and Delusions
- Pathologic Laughter and Crying
- Apathy
- Grief
- Demoralization

# Colorado VA Study on PD & Palliative Care Needs

- Symptom burden, grief and QOL are similar across spectrum of PD with advanced cancer patients
- Distribution of symptoms are different between PD and Cancer
- Palliative issues (e.g. grief, symptom burden, medications) contribute to QOL even when controlling for disease severity and depression

# End of Life Care in PD

- There are NO medicare hospice guidelines specific to PD
- Hospice is under-utilized and referrals are late
- Studies suggest that ineffective care (e.g. feeding tubes) still often recommended
- Need for education of palliative medicine practitioners
  - Remove Haldol from hospice kits
  - Be cautious in discontinuing PD medications

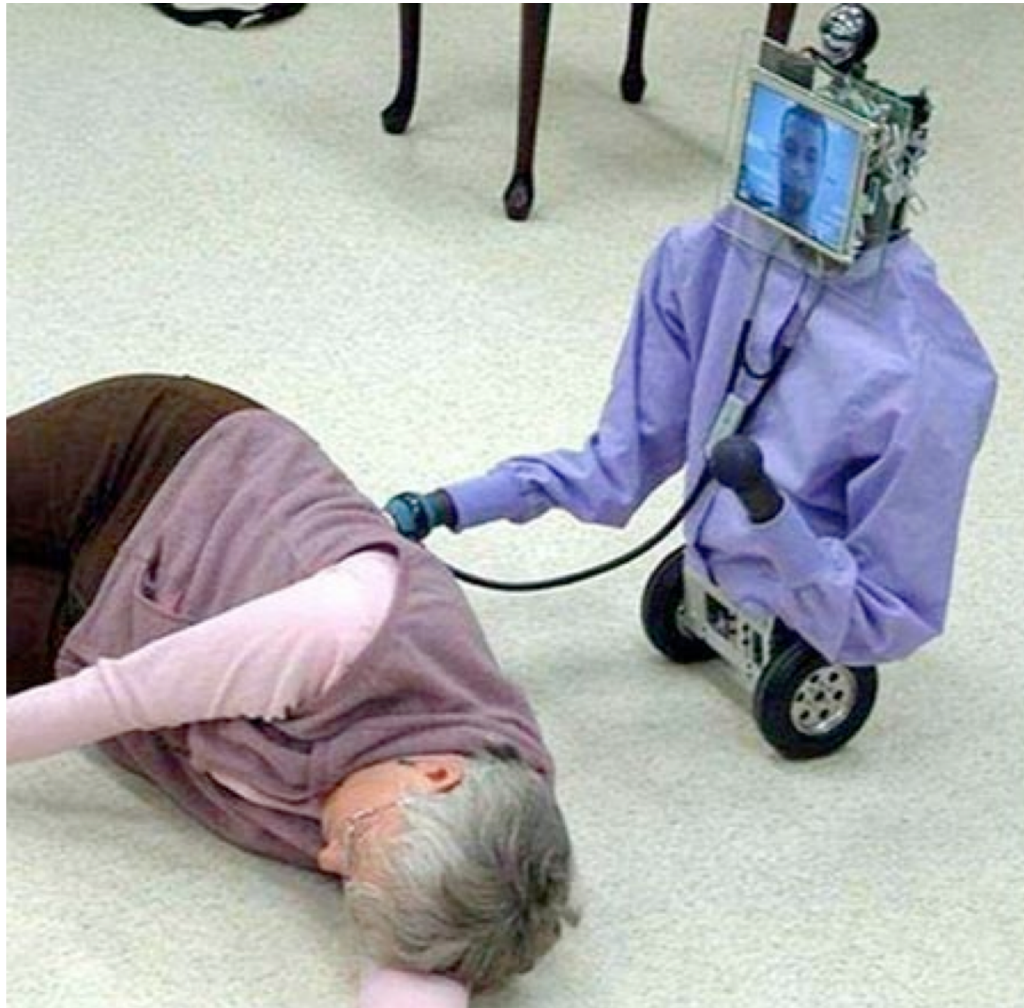
# End of Life Care II

- Feeding tubes don't work
- Medicare guidelines for dementia, failure to thrive and neurologic disease (ALS) may be used
- Other Red Flags include:
  - Recurrent infections, falls, hospitalizations
  - Weight loss with or without dysphagia
  - Dysphagia for liquids with or without weight loss
  - Accelerating loss of function
  - Withdrawal, increase sleep and Loss of will to live

# Current “Model” of Care

- Chronic Care model
- Significant Heterogeneity with some variability explained by geography, race and socioeconomic factors
- Variable involvement of neurologist
- Variable involvement of Geriatrics
- Low recognition or use of quality metrics
- Undertreatment of nonmotor symptoms
- End of life care is reactive rather than proactive

# Novel Models of Care



# Novel Models of Care

- Palliative Care
- Telemedicine
- Neurodegenerative Medical Home
- Patient Navigators
- Group Clinics
- Caregiver Clinics



# Chronic Care *versus* Palliative Care:

Chronic Care	Palliative Care
Focuses on disease-related medical symptoms	Focuses on the <i>total pain</i> of serious illness (physical, psychosocial, spiritual, and practical challenges)
Focuses on improving physical health	Focuses on improving overall well-being and reducing suffering
Prolongs life	Affirms & values life, while planning for the inevitable decline of health & end to life.
Focuses on patient	Focuses on patient and family
Variable use of team approach	Interdisciplinary team approach





# Chronic Care *versus* Palliative Care:

Chronic Care	Palliative Care
Focuses on enhancing <b>quantity</b> of life	Focuses on enhancing <b>quality</b> of life

You don't need to choose between:  
**Quantity of life** and **Quality of life...**

*Palliative care is applicable early in the course of illness in conjunction with other therapies that are intended to prolong life.*

*World Health Organization, 2002*

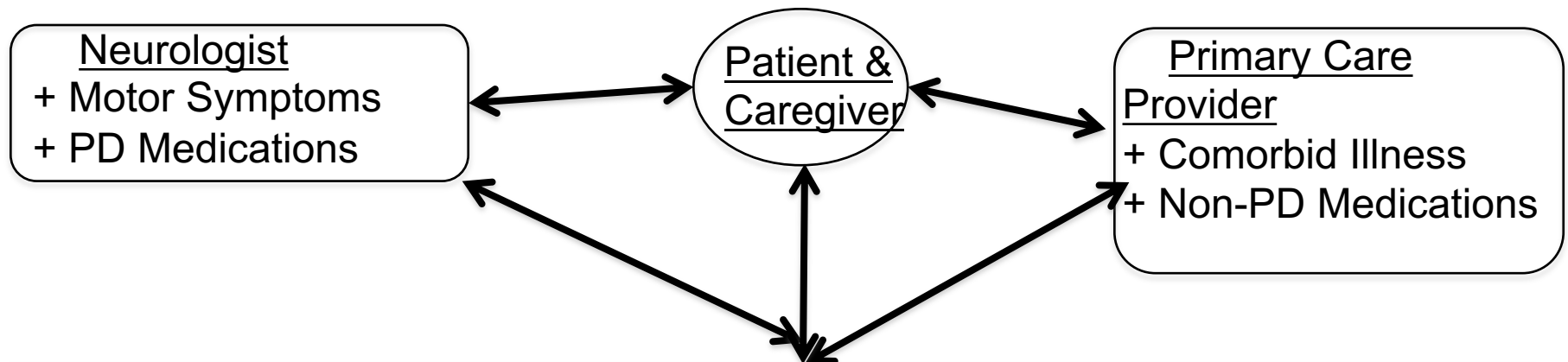
# What is the Focus of Care?

- Disease Centered
  - Treatment and cure (survival)
- Patient Centered
  - Coordination and health-related QOL
- Person Centered
  - Values and general QOL (living)

# PCORI Health Systems Grant

- 3 center randomized controlled trial of outpatient palliative care vs usual care for PD
- Primary outcomes patient QOL and caregiver distress
- Secondary outcome of patterns of healthcare utilization (e.g. home health services vs. ER and hospitalizations)
- Data collection completed

# Palliative Care Model for Parkinson's Disease



## OUTPATIENT INTERDISCIPLINARY PALLIATIVE CARE TEAM

Physician (Nonmotor symptom, prognosis); Nurse (Nutrition, Home care, Advance Directives); Social Work (Caregiver Support, Finances); Chaplain (Spiritual Wellbeing, Grief Counseling)

IMPROVED OUTCOMES: Aim 1- Patient QOL, Caregiver Distress, Symptom Burden, Grief;; Aim 2- Patient Costs, Adv. Care Plans; Aim 3-Optimize Patient Selection, Service & Delivery

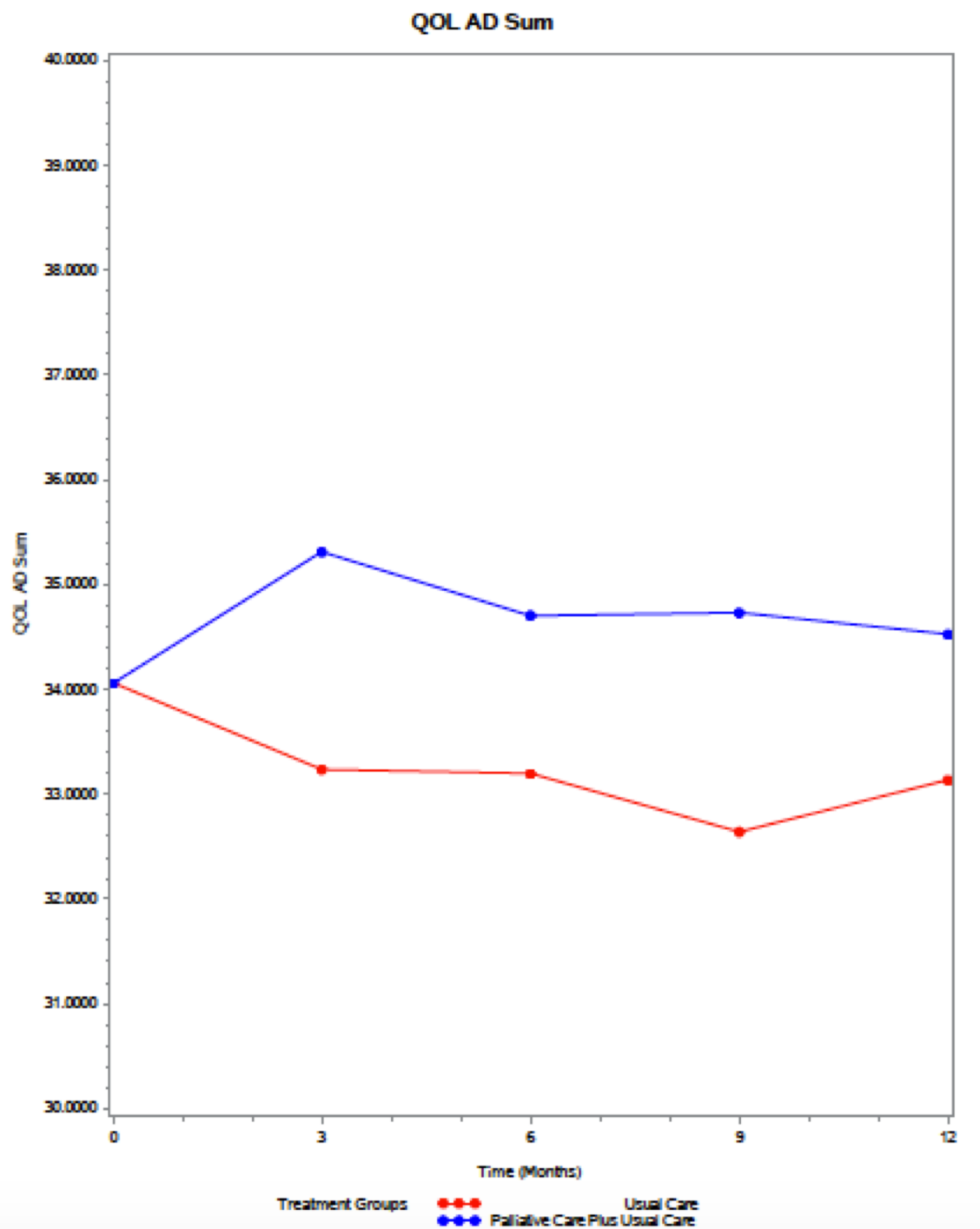
# The Intervention

- Neurologist, social worker, chaplain and nurse
- Quarterly visits plus calls
- Use of checklists
  - ACP
  - Symptom management
  - Psychosocial Support
  - Coordination of Care
  - Accessible team

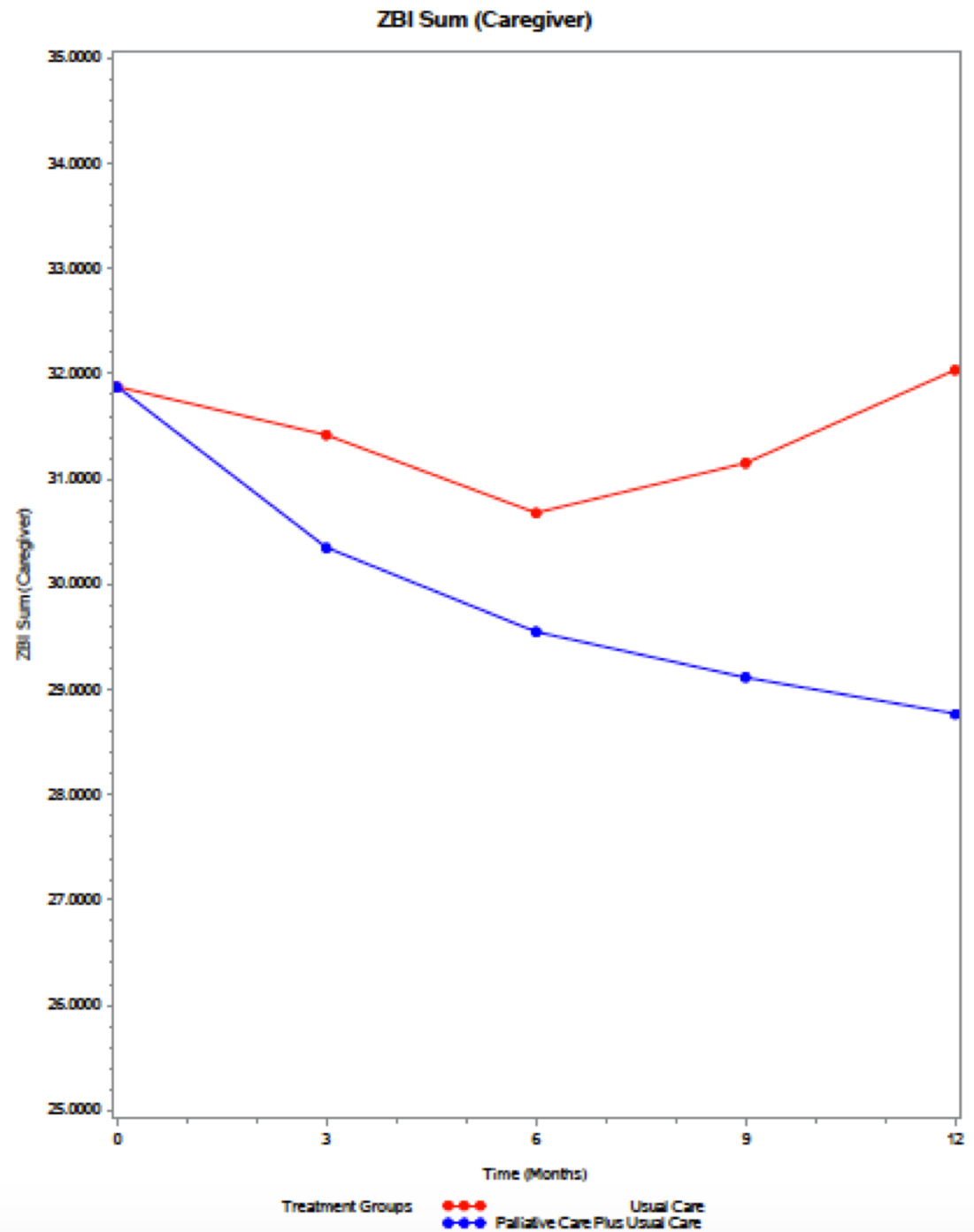
# Quantitative Results

- Improved patient QOL starting at 3 months
- Improved caregiver burden at 12 months
- Improved symptom burden, grief and motor function (small)
- Caregivers do better in Canada

# QOL-AD



# Zarit Burden Inventory





# Qualitative Results

- Both patient and caregiver felt supported
- Knew how to access help
- Appreciated team-based approach
- Appreciated open and honest (and sometimes difficult) conversations
- Felt seen and heard as a person

# Benefits of Advance Care Planning



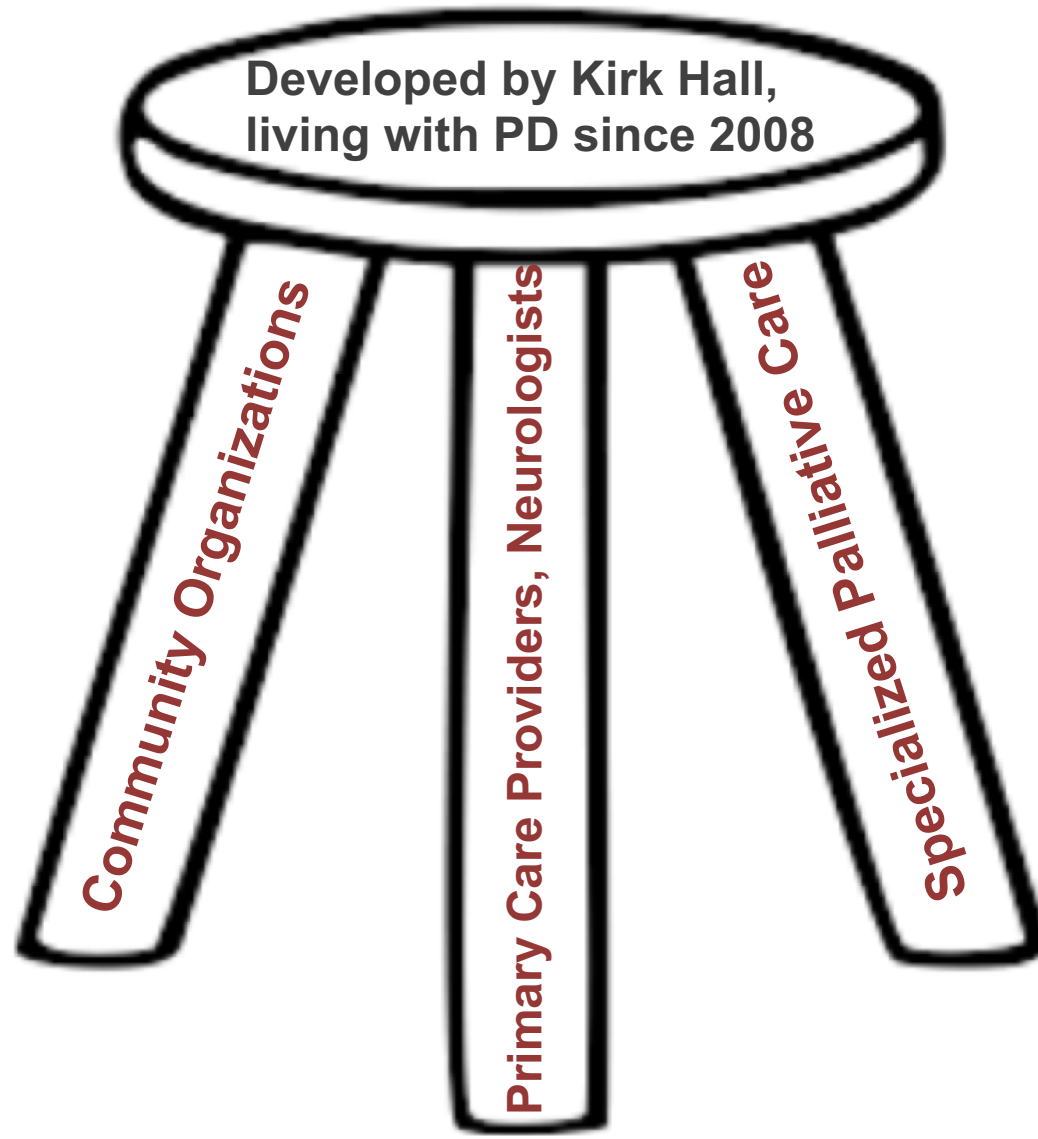
Copyright © 2009 John A. Weeks III

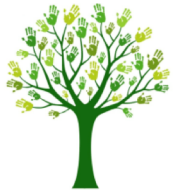
# Suggestions for Optimization

- Better patient selection and needs assessment
- Patient and caregiver peer navigators
- Improve caregiver assessment and support
- Decrease time and travel

# Palliative Care as a System

## The 3-Legged Stool Model





# Primary Palliative Care Skills:

© Cartoonbank.com



*"There's no easy way I can tell you this, so I'm sending you to someone who can."*

cine

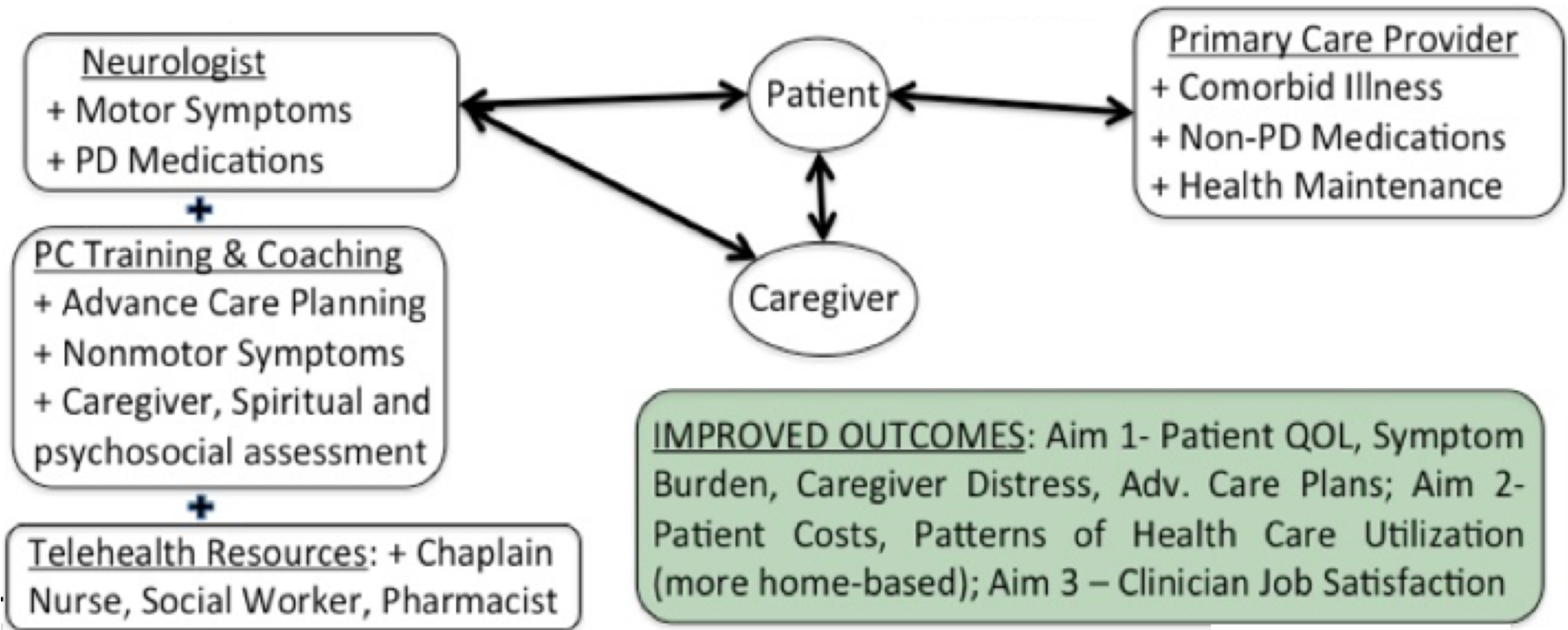
# Primary Palliative Care Skills for Neurologists and Geriatricians

- Communication at time of Diagnosis
- Symptom Assessment
- Symptom Management
- Advance Care Planning
- Caregiver Assessment
- Appropriate Referral for Secondary and Tertiary Service



# Study Overview: Comparison Groups

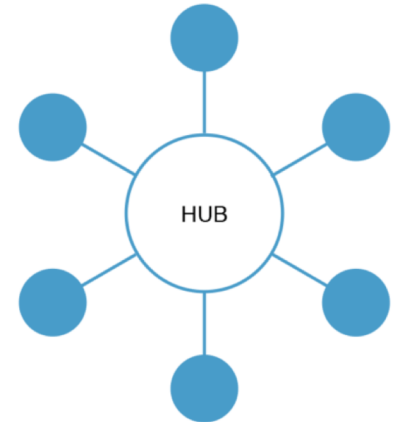
Usual Care *plus* Community Primary Palliative Neurology  
*augmented* by a Multidisciplinary Palliative Care Clinic (INTERVENTION)





# Study Design:

- Pragmatic stepped-wedge cluster randomized control trial
- Academic Hub and Community Spoke design
- Two universities, 18 community practices, 300+ patients
- Primary outcomes:
  - Patient quality of life
  - Caregiver Burden
  - Cost and service utilization
  - Clinician Satisfaction
  - Qualitative Interviews





# Stepped Wedge Design

	Timeline of Study (months)								
Sites	0-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30	31-36	37-42	43-48	55-60
1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Start-up</li> <li>▪ IRB</li> <li>▪ Site Prep</li> <li>▪ Training Manual</li> </ul>	PRE	PRE +	POST	POST	POST	POST	POST	Complete Analysis, Grants & Papers
6-10		PRE	PRE	PRE +	POST	POST	POST	POST	
11-14		PRE	PRE	PRE	PRE +	POST	POST	POST	
15-18		PRE	PRE	PRE	PRE	PRE +	POST	POST	

PRE = pre-intervention data collection; + = Intervention; POST = post-intervention data collection

# Other Models of Care

- Specialist Nurse Practitioners (e.g. UCLA Dementia Care Managers model)
- Multidisciplinary Clinic (e.g. ParkNet in Belgium)
- E-consult support (advanced dementia)

# Group Visits

- Group visits for PD care have been shown to be equivalent to one-on-one care
- Currently utilizing group model for a newly diagnosed PD clinic
- May be useful for caregivers

# Neurodegenerative Medical Home

- Concept of a patient-centered team to provide holistic and integrated care with a focus on quality and safety
- Neurologists and/or geriatrics could serve as a medical home neighbor
  - Visiting neurologist for low neuro-needs
  - Visiting geriatrician for high comorbid illness burden

# Patient Navigators

- ABC Medhome (dementia) utilized RN as care coordinator overseeing 5 high school graduate care coordinator assistants
- UCSF has medicare demonstration project underway using patient navigators, each with a case load of 30-60 patient/caregiver dyads

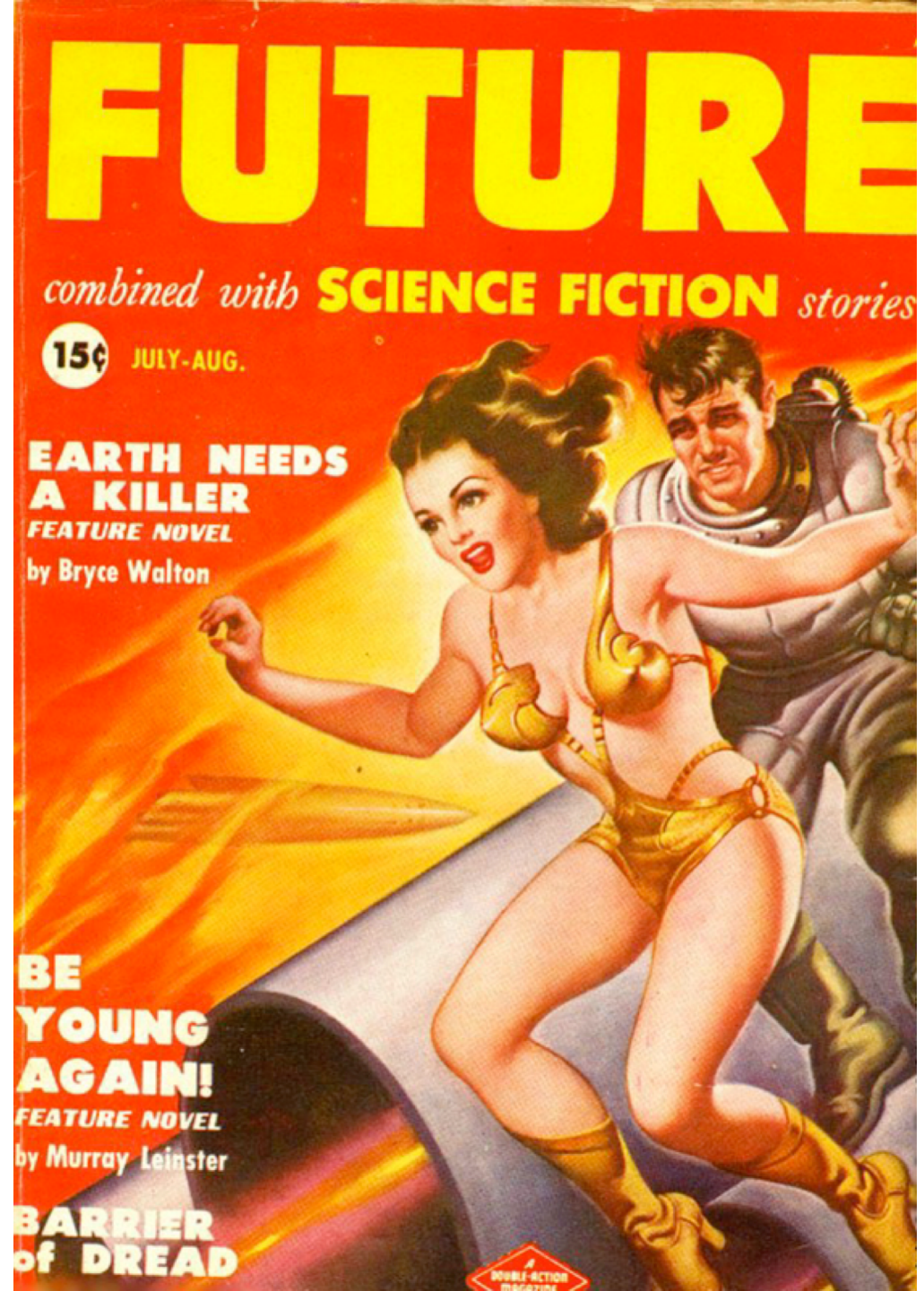
# Caregiver Clinics

- Dyadic Interventions
- Caregiver Support
- Integrating Caregiver Care into Medical Home
  - Save trips
  - Increased risk for several health outcomes
  - Reduce stress
  - Increase focus on self-care

# Paying for Novel Models of Care

- Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) may be coming
- Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)
  - Payment based on value
  - High patient/caregiver satisfaction ratings
  - Advance directives, depression screens are part of AAN quality Metrics for PD and ALS
- Alternative Payment Models (APMs)
  - Shared cost savings
  - > 70% of our patients die in hospice or at home

# Future Directions





# High Priority Areas

- Education for palliative care, geriatrics, neurologists
- Cost-effectiveness studies
- Collaborative clinics with disease rather than specialty focus
- Implementation and dissemination research

# Acknowledgments

- Jean Kutner
- Hillary Lum
- David Bekelman
- Janis Miyasaki
- Julie Carter
- Jacquelyn Jones
- Steve Ringel
- Jeannie Youngwerth
- Laura Palmer
- Maya Katz
- Nick Galifianakis
- Wendy Cernik
- MK Christian
- Cynthia McRae
- Ryan Khan
- Cari Friedman
- Jessica Barr
- Traci Yamashita
- Patients from our palliative care clinic

QUESTIONS?