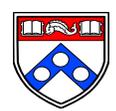


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# Spirituality in the Care Team:

## *Fostering a Climate of Communication & A Dynamic of Caring*

*Barbara Reville, DNP, CRNP, ACHPN  
Director, HUP Palliative Care Program  
5 June 2013*



## To consider...

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What is a palliative care consultation team?

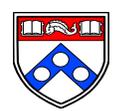
What is an interdisciplinary team?

What are dynamics of interdisciplinary collaboration?

What is the place of spirituality within care of the seriously-ill?

What are barriers to integration of spirituality?

How can communication nurture and promote a community of caregivers essential to patient-centered care?

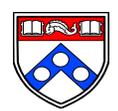


# Palliative Care

Center to Advance Palliative Care, 2011

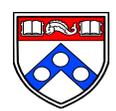
Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. This type of care is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness - whatever the diagnosis.

The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family. Palliative care is provided by a team of doctors, nurses, and other specialists who work with a patient's other doctors to provide an extra layer of support. Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and can be provided together with curative treatment.



## Disease-Directed Therapies





## Chronic Illness:

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9 out of 10 deaths in Medicare population are associated with 9 chronic illnesses:

*congestive heart failure*

*chronic lung disease*

*cancer*

*coronary artery disease*

*renal failure*

*peripheral vascular disease*

*diabetes*

*chronic liver disease*

*dementia*

*Dartmouth Atlas Report, Wennberg, et al., 2008, p. 1.*



# Hospital-Based Palliative Care- A Consultation Model

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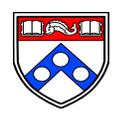
*Client = referring medical team*

*Consultants = Interdisciplinary palliative care team*

(MD, CRNP, SW, Chaplain, PharmD)

*Focus on 3 domains:*

- *Relieve physical and emotional suffering*
- *Improve patient-physician-family communication and decision-making*
- *Strengthen transition management and continuity of care across settings*



# Team: a group harnessed together

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## What is an interdisciplinary team (IDT)?

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A group of  $\geq 2$  clinicians working from different orientations while at the same time engaging in joint work...

- to produce family-centered care
- integrating specialized knowledge into a comprehensive care plan
- translating discipline-specific jargon for each other
- prioritizing focused communication work, and
- shared team leadership

Wittenberg-Lyles, Goldsmith, Ferrell, & Ragan, 2013



# Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Palliative Care

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## Teamwork in Palliative Care

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“The interdisciplinary team is the foundation and core method of palliative care programs”. Meier & Beresford, 2008

“The interdisciplinary palliative care team is a community of caregivers essential to patient-centered care.” Puchalski, et al., 2006



## Interdisciplinary Collaboration Process

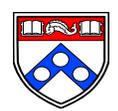
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“...an effective interpersonal process that facilitates the achievement of goals that cannot be reached when individual professionals act on their own.”

Bruner, 1991; Bronstein, 2003

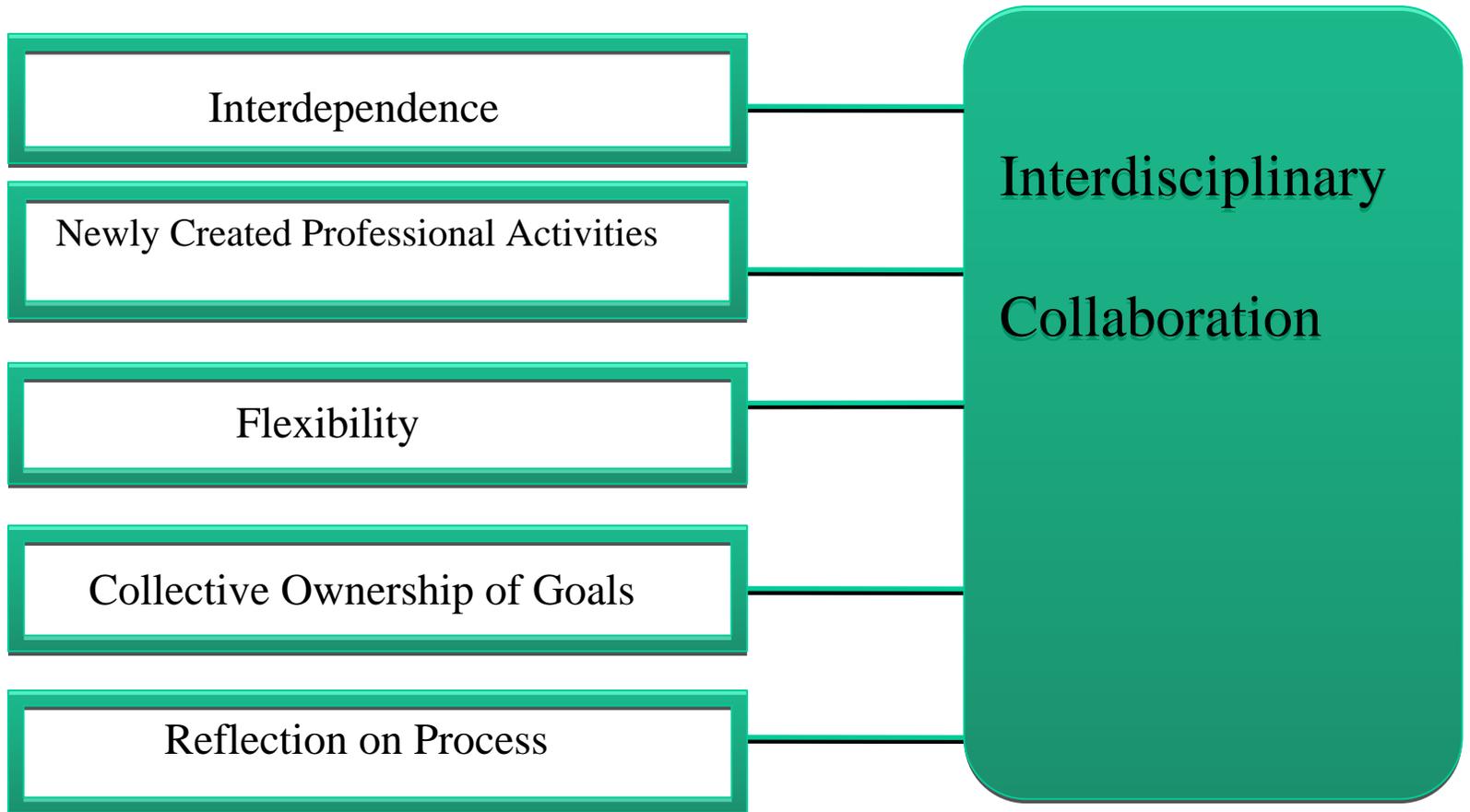
“A dynamic communication process that relies on sharing resources, mutual dependence between team members, and sharing and respecting positions of power afforded by credibility or expertise.”

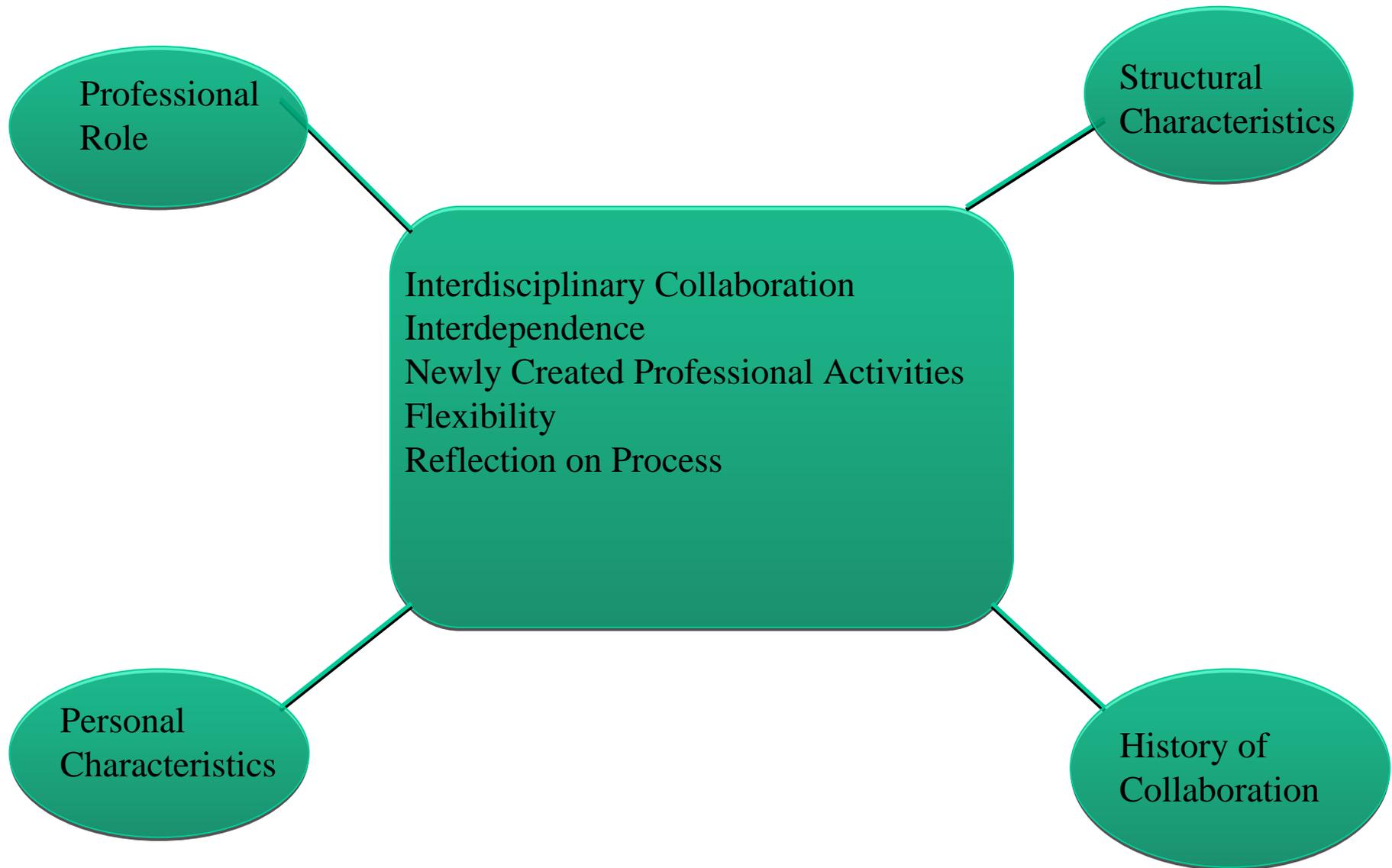
Wittenberg-Lyles, Goldsmith, Ferrell, & Ragan, 2013



# Model for Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Bronstein, 2003

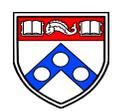






## Is Interdisciplinary Teamwork in Palliative Care valued?





## Palliative Care Performance Standards

*Palliative care staff demonstrates:*

- compassionate presence with patients.
- teamwork among IDT members and other organization staff involved in patient's care.
- respect for patient's rights to communication
- utilizes other services, e.g., pharmacy, psychology, rehab services, ethics consults, etc.

Center to Advance Palliative Care, 2011; The Joint Commission, 2012



## Performance Standards relevant to Spirituality & Communication

*Program supports & facilitates:*

- a collaborative environment.
- team communication.
- patient's comfort and dignity

Center to Advance Palliative Care, 2011; The Joint Commission, 2012



# What is the place for spirituality on the palliative care team?

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# What is Spirituality?

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“Spirituality imbues the human condition. In spirituality, we perceive our presence on the planet as more than a biochemical accident. It is power beyond ourselves that can be within us. It forms an awareness of inner peace, courage and compassion. And it bestows the wisdom to know how to care...”

Purdy, 2002

“It is that part of human beings that seeks meaning and purpose in life. Spirituality in the clinical setting can be manifested as spiritual distress or as resources of strength”.

Puchalski, Lunsford, Harris, & Miller, 2006



## How spiritual ideas are inherent to palliative care:

- commitment to non-abandonment
- focus on trusting, interpersonal communication
- provide support to caregivers of a nature “that transcends the tangible”

Purdy, 2002



# Spiritual Issues in Palliative Care

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- Meaninglessness
- Despair
- Hopelessness
- Desire to be remembered
- Issues of forgiveness and reconciliation
- Need for spiritual resources
- Support from spiritual or religious community, family, others
- Lack of trust in health care providers

Puchalski, Lunsford, Harris & Miller, 2006



# Role of Chaplain on the Palliative Care team

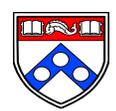
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# Interdisciplinary Spiritual Care in Palliative Care

- Chaplains integrated into interdisciplinary team
- Framework: patient-centered care; relationship-centered
- Care
  - spiritual assessment & intervention
  - referrals
  - incorporating spiritual practices or rituals
  - compassionate presence & intuition
  - staff support
  - team leadership in spirituality
  - bereavement
  - education of health care providers and peers in spiritual care



## Performance Standards relevant to Spirituality

Care plan is developed based on:

- patient's needs/goals.
- cultural/spiritual/religious information.

Spiritual care is made available from organizations 's  
pastoral care department &/or clergy.

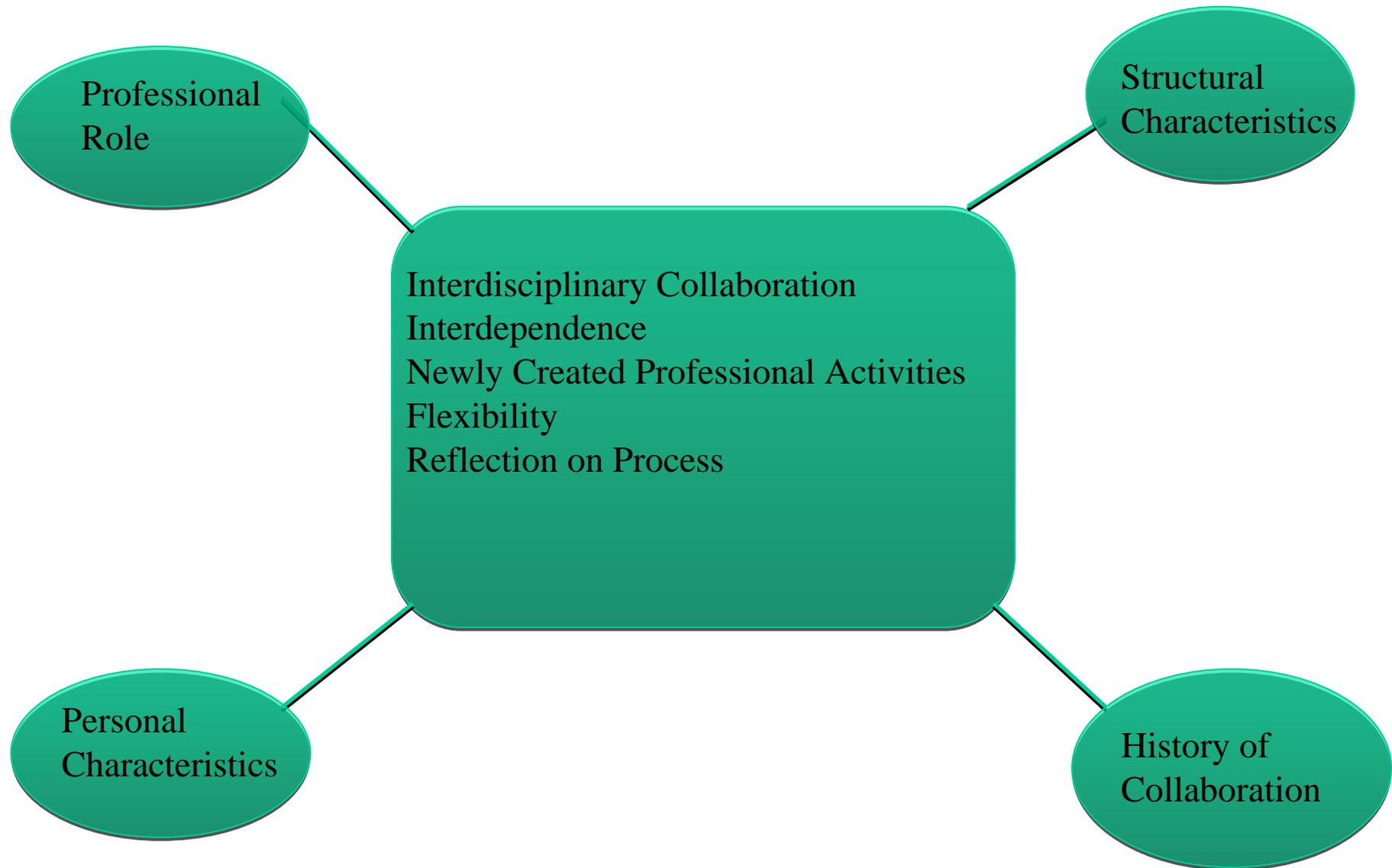
- Provide grief/bereavement referral.

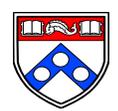


# Barriers to Integration of Spirituality in Interdisciplinary

Collaboration Bronstein, 2003

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# Model for interdisciplinary spiritual palliative care

