

# **End-of-Life care Laboratory**

## **Responsible Staff: Professor Siew-Tzuh Tang**

### Goals and Missions

The immense technological advances in health care in recent years have improved the potential for cure in many previously fatal malignant diseases. However, there are still many patients whose disease is unresponsive to treatment, continues to progress, and is considered incurable. In this situation, a shift in the emphasis of medical care from the pursuit of cure to provision of care and comfort, control of distressing symptoms, and maintenance of the quality of life at the optimal possible level has been advocated. In order to fulfill the aforementioned goals, identification of the needs, preferences and difficulties of terminally ill cancer patients and their family caregivers is paramount. The goals and missions of this program is to identify the needs, preferences and difficulties of terminally ill cancer patients and their family caregivers in Taiwan and to develop and test effective nursing interventions to improve the quality of life of cancer patients at the end of life, to decrease the caregiving burden of family caregivers, and to enhance caregiving and bereavement outcomes for family caregivers.

### Focuses of Research

1. Needs and preferences of end-of-life care among terminally ill cancer patients and their family caregivers.
2. Cognitive prognostic awareness and emotional preparedness for death among terminally ill cancer patients and their family caregivers.
3. Determinants of end-of-life care received by cancer patients in their last year of life.
4. Impacts of caregiving burden for caregiving and bereavement outcomes among family caregivers of terminally ill cancer patients.
5. Depressive- and prolonged-grief-disorder symptom trajectories and their determinants (quality of end-of-life care, family conflicts, decisional conflict and regret, cognitive prognostic awareness, and emotional preparedness for death) for family caregivers of terminally ill cancer patients during the first two years of bereavement.
6. Impact of quality of end-of-life care on the bereavement outcomes of family caregivers of patients died in the intensive care units.

## Funded Research

1. A study of needs and preferences of end-of-life care and current care for non-hospice care terminally ill cancer patients in Taiwan. (Bureau of Health Promotion, 2003/01~2004/12)
2. Systematic reviews of the effectiveness of palliative care—Towards evidence based care at the end of life (Bureau of Health Promotion, 2003/03-2004/02).
3. Agreement between family proxy and patient assessments of quality of life for terminally ill cancer patients. (NSC, 2003/08-2004/07).
4. Analysis of health care resources utilization at the last year of life for terminally ill cancer patients by National Health Insurance Plan claims data (Bureau of Health Promotion, 2004/06-2004/12).
5. Impact of caregiving on families of dying cancer patients (National Health Research Institute. (NHRI, 2005/01-2009/12).
6. Feasibility study for case identification of patients who died of a terminally cancer or from the complications of curative anti-cancer treatments. ( Bureau of Health Promotion,2007/11-2008/10 )
7. Bereavement outcome for family caregivers of terminally ill ( National Science Council,2007/08-2009/08 )
8. The impact of “self-perceived burden to others” and “posttraumatic growth” on quality of life for terminally ill cancer patients. ( National Science Council,2009/08-2010/07 ) .
9. A good death: Facilitating end-of-life care decisions that honor patients' wishes. ( NHRI,2010/01-2012/12 )
10. A continued study of the impact of “self-perceived burden to others” and “posttraumatic growth” on quality of life for terminally ill cancer patients. (2010/08-2012/07)
11. Investigation on needs and preferences of end-of-life care for terminally ill cancer patients and their family caregivers. (2011/01-2012/12)
12. Longitudinal trends of end-of-life care for Taiwanese cancer decedents, 2001-2010. (2012/01-2012/10)
13. Impact of continuation of chemotherapy in the last month of life on quality of life and health services utilization for advanced NSCLC and gastric cancer patients. (2012/08-2015/07)

14. An interactive advance care planning intervention to facilitate a good death for cancer patients.(NHRI,2013/01-2017/12)
15. Predictors and impact of death preparedness on terminally ill cancer patients and their family caregivers. (2015/08-2018/07)
16. Decision conflict and trajectories of decisional regrets as well as their impact on depressive symptoms during bereavement for family surrogate decision makers of terminally ill cancer patients. (2016/08-2019/07)
17. Impact of end-of-life care quality in intensive care units on adjustment of bereaved family members. (NHRI,2018/01-2022/12)
18. Determinants and impact of distinct family-conflict trajectories for family caregivers both before and after terminally ill cancer patients' death (2018/08-2021/07)
19. Evolution of quality of end-of-life care of terminally ill cancer patients and its impact on caregivers' adjustment over the first year of bereavement. (2019/08-2022/07)
20. Distinctiveness of unfinished business and bereavement-related regrets: similarity and differences in trajectories, predictors, and bereavement outcomes. (2021/08-2024/07)
21. Principal Investigator. Physician-surrogate communication on end-of-life care issues in ICUs and goal-concordance end-of-life care. (2022/08-2025/07)

#### Related publication

- Wen FH, Chou WC, Hou MM, Su PJ, Shen WC, Chen JS, Chang WC, Hsu MH, Tang ST.\* (accepted). Associations of surrogates' death-preparedness states with decisional conflict and heightened decisional regret over cancer patients' last 6 months of life. *PsychoOncology*. (SSCI paper; Social, Science, Biomedical). (Impact factor: 3.955, Rank: 12/46=26.09%) doi:10.1002/pon.5996
- Wen FH, Prigerson HG, Chou WC, Chen JS, Chang WC, Hsu MH, Tang ST.\* Prolonged grief disorder and depression are distinguishable syndromes: a latent transition analysis for bereaved family caregivers of cancer patients. *PsychoOncology*.2022;31:1144–1151. (SSCI paper; Social, Science, Biomedical). (Impact factor: 3.955, Rank: 12/46=26.09%) doi: 10.1002/pon.5902. 2022 Feb 14.
- Chiang MC, Huang CC, Hu TH, Chou WC, Chuang LP, Tang ST.\* Factors associated with bereaved family surrogates' satisfaction with end-of-life care in intensive care units. *Intens Crit Care Nur*, 2022;71:103243. (SCI paper, Nursing, impact factor: 4.235, 6/123=4.88%). 2022 Apr 6;103243. doi: 10.1016/j.iccn.2022.103243. Online ahead of print.
- Chen CH, Wen FH, Chou WC, Chen JS, Chang WC, Hsieh CH, Tang ST.\* Associations of prognostic-awareness-transition patterns with end-of-life care in cancer patients' last month. *Supportive Care in Cancer*, 2022; 30(7):5975-5989. (SCI paper, Rehabilitation, 3.359, 17/68=25.00%). doi: 10.1007/s00520-022-07007-4
- Wen FH, Chou WC, Chen JS, Chang WC, Hsu MH, Tang ST.\* Sufficient death preparedness correlates to better mental health, quality of life, and EOL care. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 2022;63:988-996. (SCI paper, HEALTH CARE SCIENCES & SERVICES Impact factor: 5.576, Rank: 16/159=10.06%). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2022.02.014> Published 2/19/2022.
- Wen FH, Chou WC, Huang CC, Hu TH, Chuang LP, Chiang MC, Tang ST.\* ICU bereaved surrogates' comorbid psychological-distress states and their associations with prolonged grief disorder. *Crit Care*, 2022;

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- Wen FH, Chou WC, Prigerson HG, Shen WC, Hsu MH, Tang ST. Predictors of family caregivers' depressive- and prolonged-grief-disorder-symptom trajectories. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*.2022; 63(4):476-484.e1. (SCI paper, HEALTH CARE SCIENCES & SERVICES Impact factor: 5.576, Rank: 16/109=14.68%). Published December 28,2021. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2021.12.025>
- Wen FH, Chou WC, Hou MM, Su PJ, Shen WC, Chen JS, Chang WC, Hsu MH, Tang ST.\* Associations of death-preparedness states with bereavement outcomes for family caregivers of terminally ill cancer patients. *PsychoOncology*.2022;31(3):450-459. doi:10.1002/pon.5827 (SSCI paper; Social, Science, Biomedical). (Impact factor: 3.955, Rank: 12/46=26.09%) Published: 29 September 2021.
- Chou WC, Huang CC, Hu TH, Chuang LP, Chiang MC, Tang ST.\* Associations between family satisfaction with end-of-life care and chart-derived process-based quality indicators in intensive care units. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2022; 25(3):368-375. 2021 Sep 1. doi: 10.1089/jpm.2021.0304. Online ahead of print. (SCI paper, HEALTH CARE SCIENCES & SERVICES. Impact factor: 2.947, Rank: 48/108=44.44%).
- Wen FH, Chou WC, Hou MM, Su PJ, Shen WC, Chen JS, Chang WC, Hsu MH, Tang ST.\* Caregivers' death-preparedness states impact caregiving outcomes and patients' end-of-life care. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 2022; 63:199-209. (SCI paper, MEDICINE, GENERAL & INTERNAL Impact factor: 3.612, Rank: Rank: 46/169=27.22%). Published: 23 September 2021. Doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2021.09.012>
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- Wen FH, Chou WC, Hou MM, Su PJ, Shen WC, Chen JS, Chang WC, Tang ST.\* Depressive-symptom trajectories from end-of-life caregiving through the first 2 bereavement years for family caregivers of advanced cancer patients. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. 2021. 62(4):699-708. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2021.03.018> (SCI paper, MEDICINE, GENERAL & INTERNAL Impact factor: 3.612, Rank: 46/169=27.22%).
- Wen FH, Chou WC, Hsieh CH, Chen JS, Chang WC, Tang ST.\* Distinct death-preparedness states by combining cognitive and emotional preparedness for death and their evolution for family caregivers of terminally ill cancer patients over their last 6 months of life. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*.2021;62:503-511 (SCI paper, MEDICINE, GENERAL & INTERNAL Impact factor: 3.612, Rank: 46/169=27.22%). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2021.01.131>. Published online: February 06, 2021. **Times cited:2**
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