



## ***4 palliative dimensions***

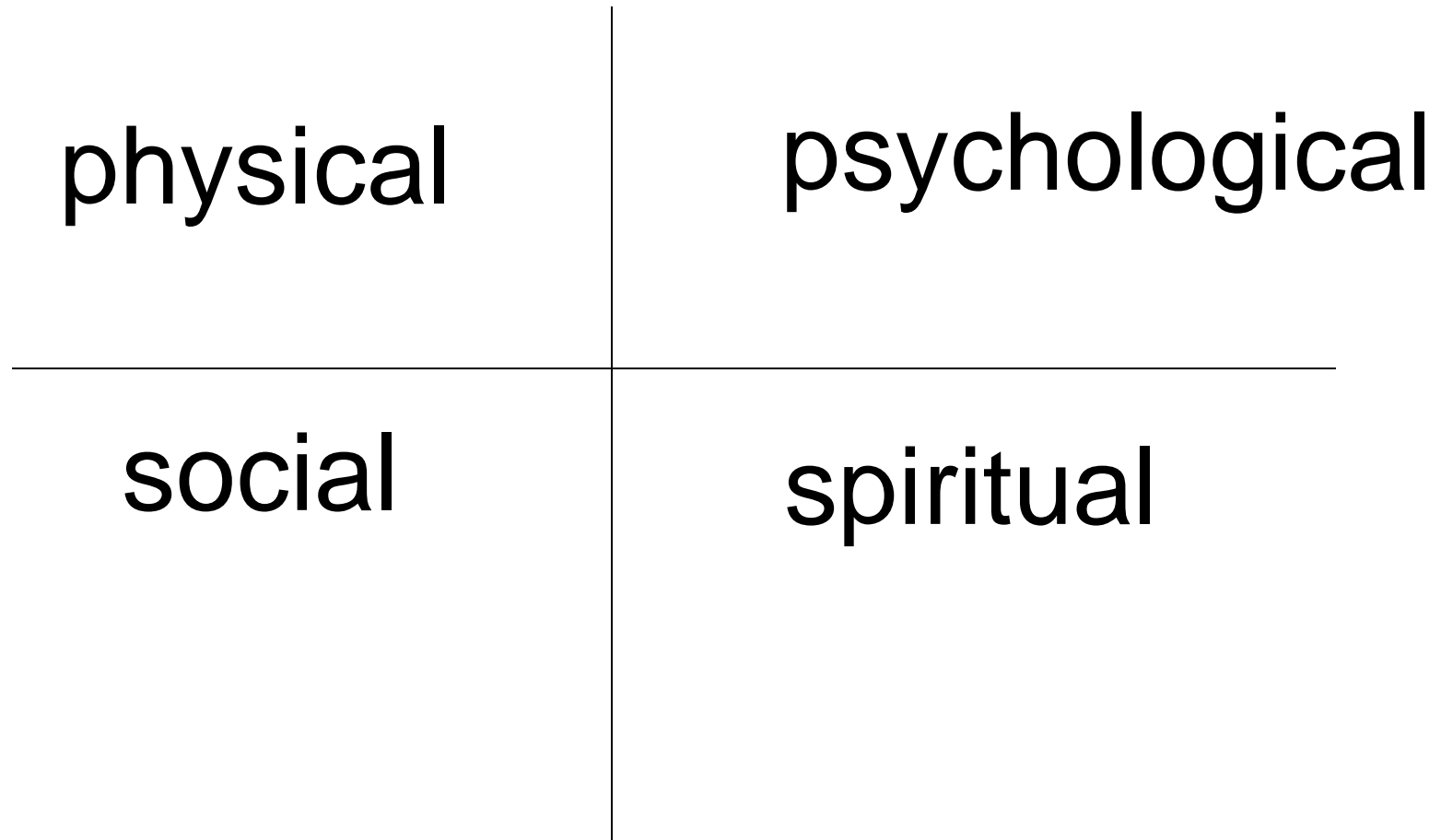
Prof Scott A Murray

Primary Palliative Care Research Group, General Practice

[www.chs.ed.ac.uk/gp/research/ppcrg.php](http://www.chs.ed.ac.uk/gp/research/ppcrg.php)

[Scott.Murray@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Scott.Murray@ed.ac.uk)

# 4 Patient dimensions



Grant E, Murray SA, Sheikh A. Spiritual dimensions of dying in different cultures. *BMJ* 2010;341:4859.

# Spiritual needs

- Everyone has them if faced with a serious illness
- Accepted definition used internationally
- Relates to meaning and purpose of life
- People may or may not use religious vocabulary
- Such needs may cause distress

Murray SA, Kendall M, Worth A, Boyd K, Benton TF, Clausen H.  
Exploring the spiritual needs of people dying of lung cancer or heart failure: prospective qualitative interview study. *Pall Med* 2004;18:39-45

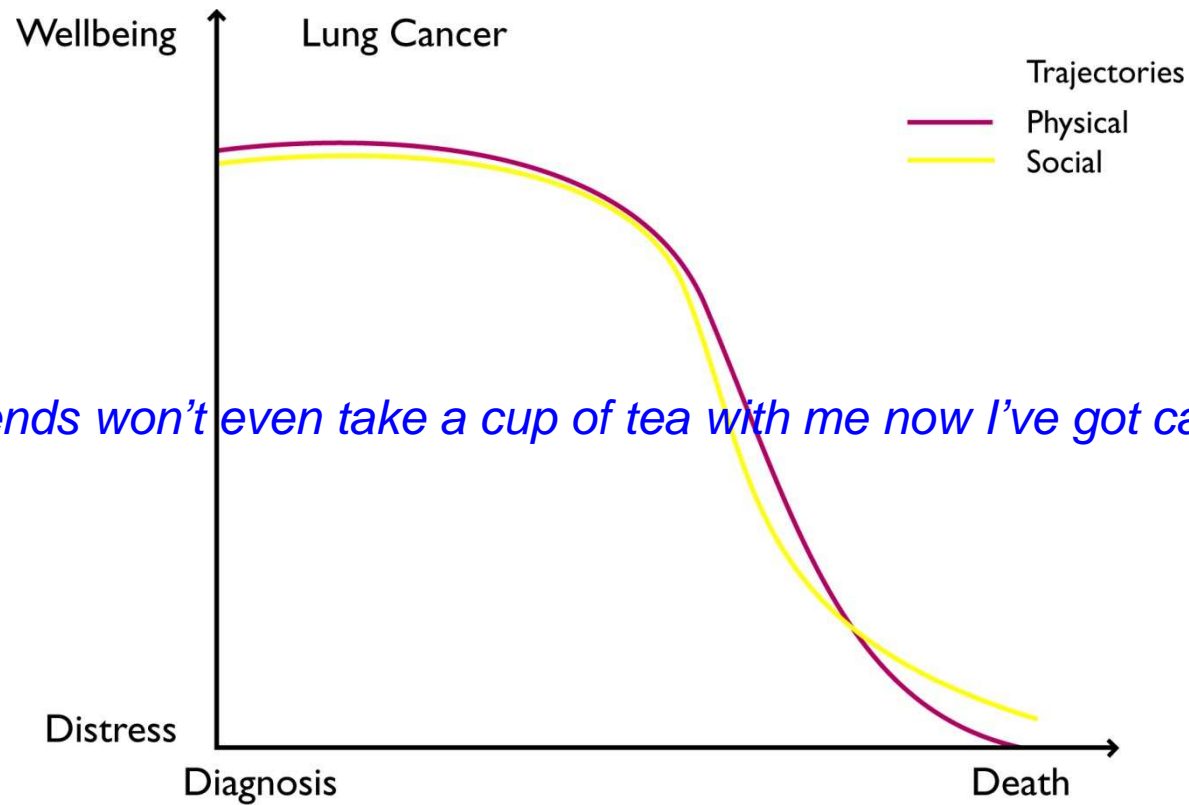
# Dying is a 4-D activity

What's happening with respect to other dimensions of need?

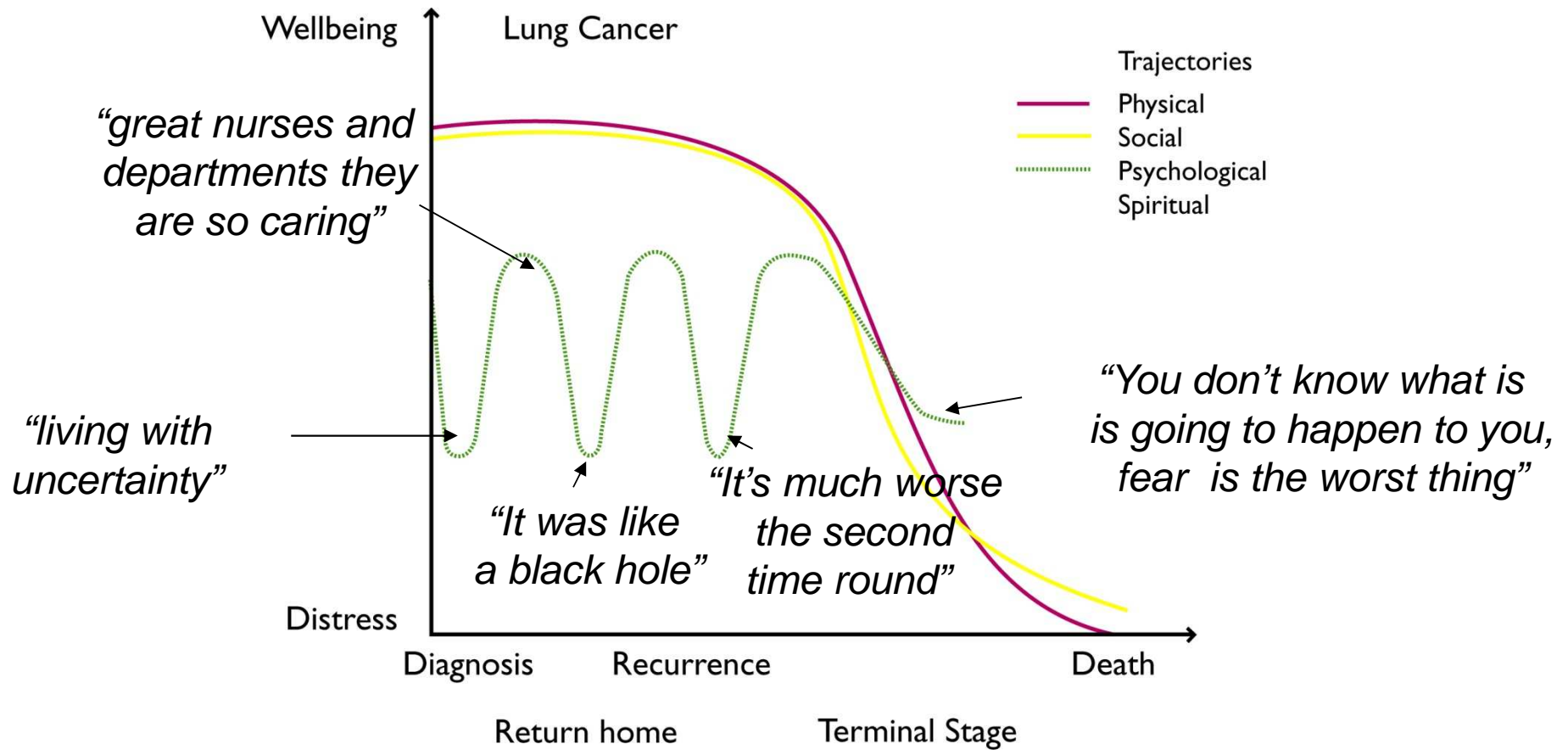
Research study : method

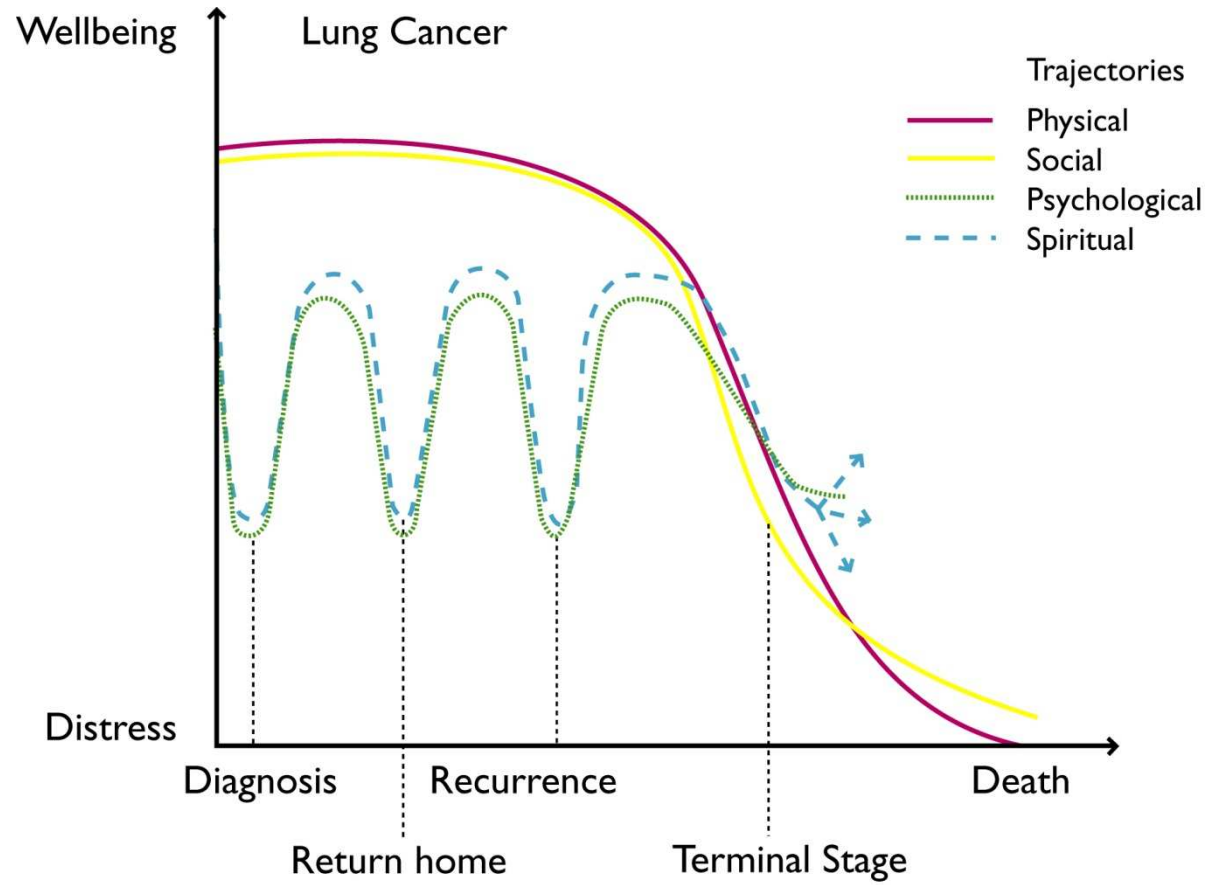
- Thematically analysed serial interviews as case studies longitudinally and then cross-sectionally from a number of people in last year of life
- Identified the presence and characteristics of social, psychological and spiritual needs

Murray SA, Kendall M, Grant E, Boyd K, Barclay S, Sheikh A.  
Patterns of social psychological and spiritual decline towards  
the end of life in lung cancer **J Pain Sympt Man 2007; 34: 393-402**



*His old friends won't even take a cup of tea with me now I've got cancer" Mrs LR.*





Murray SA, Kendall M, Grant E, Boyd K, Barclay S, Sheikh A.  
Patterns of social psychological and spiritual decline towards  
the end of life in **heart failure**. **J Pain Sympt Man** 2007; **34**: 393-402

