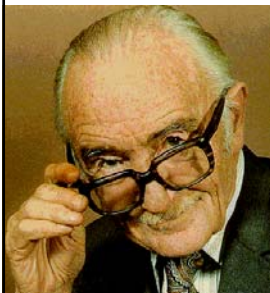
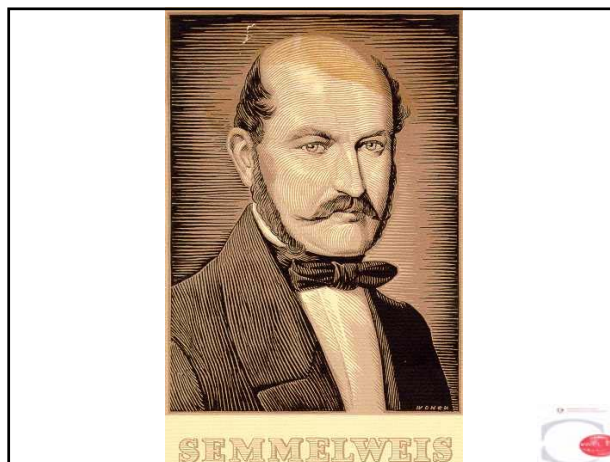
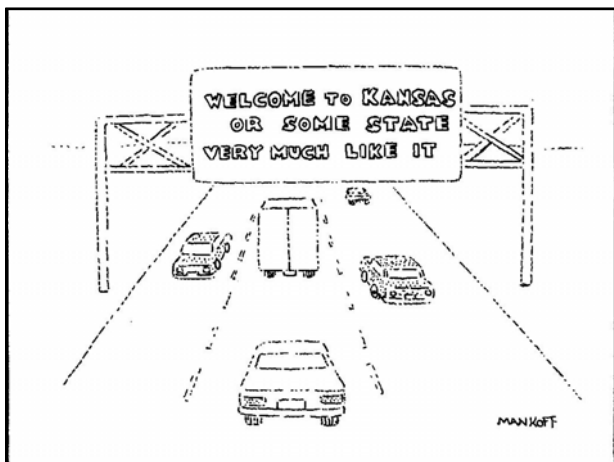


Optimising impact

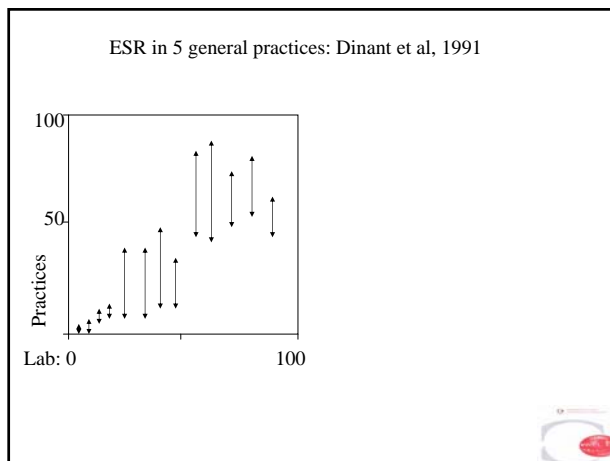
André Knottnerus
Netherlands School of Primary Care Research
Health Council of the Netherlands

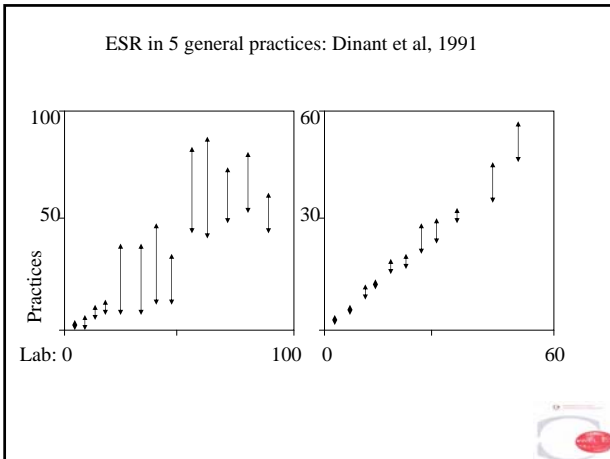
- Variation: problem or progress?
- Roland's definition of quality; role of primary care
- Influencing quality of care
- How to optimise impact?



Archibald L. Cochrane
(1909 - 1988)

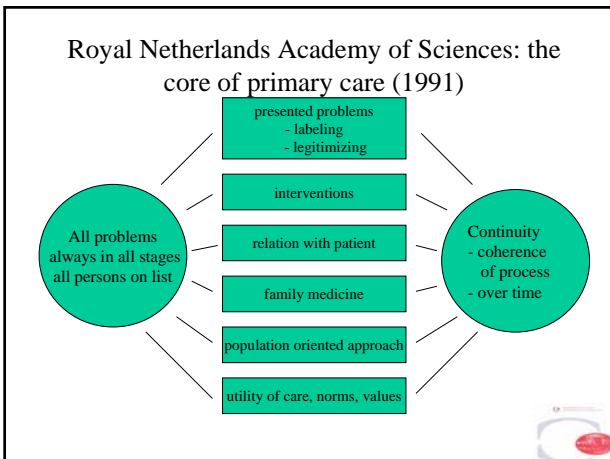
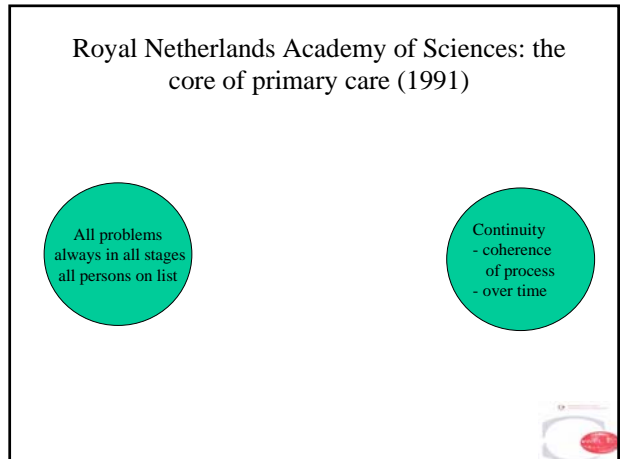
(4 years prisoner of war in German hands, Russia)
'I had considerable freedom of clinical choice of therapy: my trouble was that I did not know which to use and when'. 'I had never heard then of 'randomised controlled trials', but I knew there was no real evidence that anything we had to offer had any effect on tuberculosis, and I was afraid that I shortened the lives of some of my friends by unnecessary intervention'





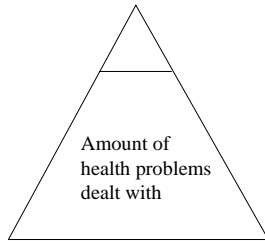
- Non-conformism needed for progress, and for setting new standards
- Innovation \neq poor performance on best available standards
- Variability can be a source for learning (research) and improving

- Broad definition of quality (Roland)
- Access
 - Effectiveness
 - Equity
 - Efficiency
- Strength of primary care

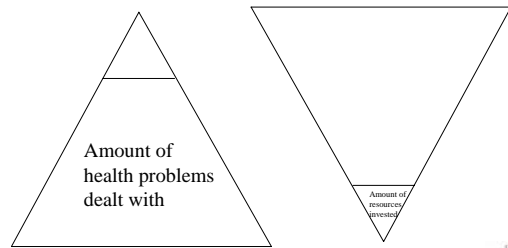


- NHG, Dutch College of GPs
- Clinical guidelines/standards since 1985 (n=84, \pm 80% coverage)
 - Best available evidence
 - Developing and updating
 - Monitoring acceptance, implementation, adherence
 - 70% of GPs voluntarily use the standards
 - Recommendations followed in 67% of GP decisions
 - Still significant variability in physician performance (and patient preferences)
 - 'Evidence gap portfolio'

Importance of good primary care



Importance of good primary care but low primary care research budget



Influencing quality of care:

- Public reporting of health outcome data
- Pay for quality performance
 - Public accountability
 - Evidence still poor, few RCTs
 - Controversy, e.g., partial coverage, case mix, strategic behaviour, bureaucracy
 - Social experiment
 - Maximize positive, reduce adverse effects
 - Research & development, debate
 - Extrinsic \rightarrow \leftarrow intrinsic: relation with professional standards and professional education
- UK experience; pilot in the Netherlands

How to optimise impact?

- Research questions that can make a difference (practice-based evidence)
- Methodological quality
- Research infrastructure
- (Updating) systematic reviews
- Synthesis and recommendations
 - Primary process (clinical guidelines)
 - Policy level (system)
- Independent science advice for policy
- Dissemination/education
- Policy's responsibility:
 - support research and implementation
 - system approach: evidence \leftrightarrow policy

