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Key questions defining research program:

- What are the strengths and weaknesses in the evidence base for palliative care interventions?
- What is the role of palliative care in non-malignant illnesses, such as CHF and CF?
- What are the correlates of poor QoL among patients with CF?

Key words describing research program:

- Palliative care
- Heart failure
- Cystic fibrosis
- Systematic reviews and meta-analysis
- Randomized clinical trials

Titles for shovel-ready research projects:

- Associations between unmet palliative needs and QoL in patients with advanced CF
- A content analysis of theoretical frameworks used in the development and conduct of palliative care interventions
- Is level of palliative care provider specialization associated with improved patient outcomes?

Data sources for shovel-ready research projects:

- Database of information collected for a systematic review and meta-analysis of palliative care interventions
- Needs assessment of 171 patients with cystic fibrosis (symptoms, QoL, perceived care needs)
- Qualitative interviews of 31 patients with advanced HF regarding unmet palliative needs and preferences for palliative care integration with usual HF care