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Opening address:

A healthcare provider's perspective on
healthcare autonomy in Latin America
and the Caribbean

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A healthcare provider's perspective on healthcare autonomy in Latin America and the Caribbean

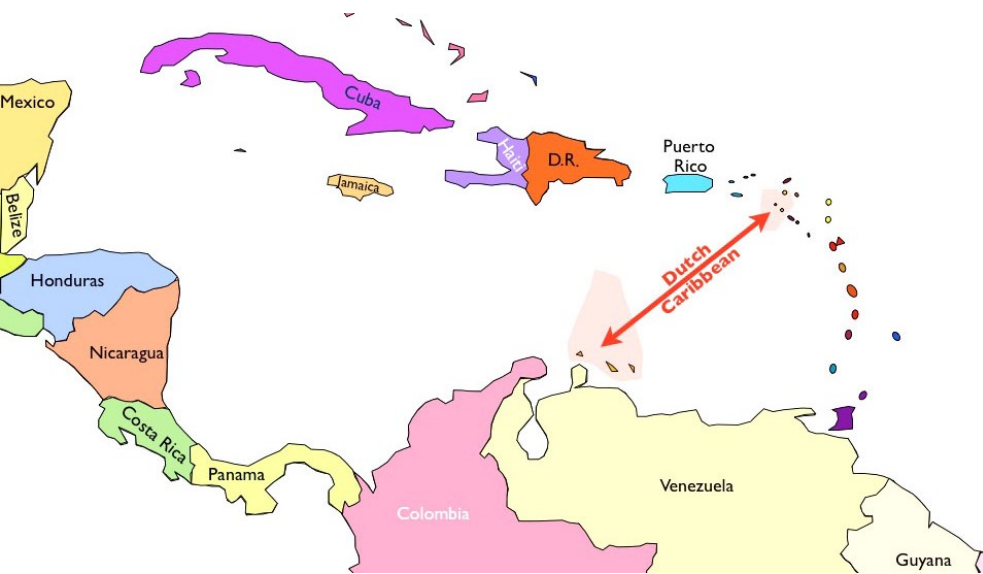
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NOS SEMPER T'EY!



ARUBA



- Small island in the Caribbean
- Part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- 120.000 / 25.000 / 1.200.000 people
- National Health Care (AZV)
- Highest % diabetes worldwide: 16.24% (vs 8.33%)
- Obesitas:
 - 4 out of 5 adults are overweighted
 - Children: ♀ 26,6% - ♂ 27,5%



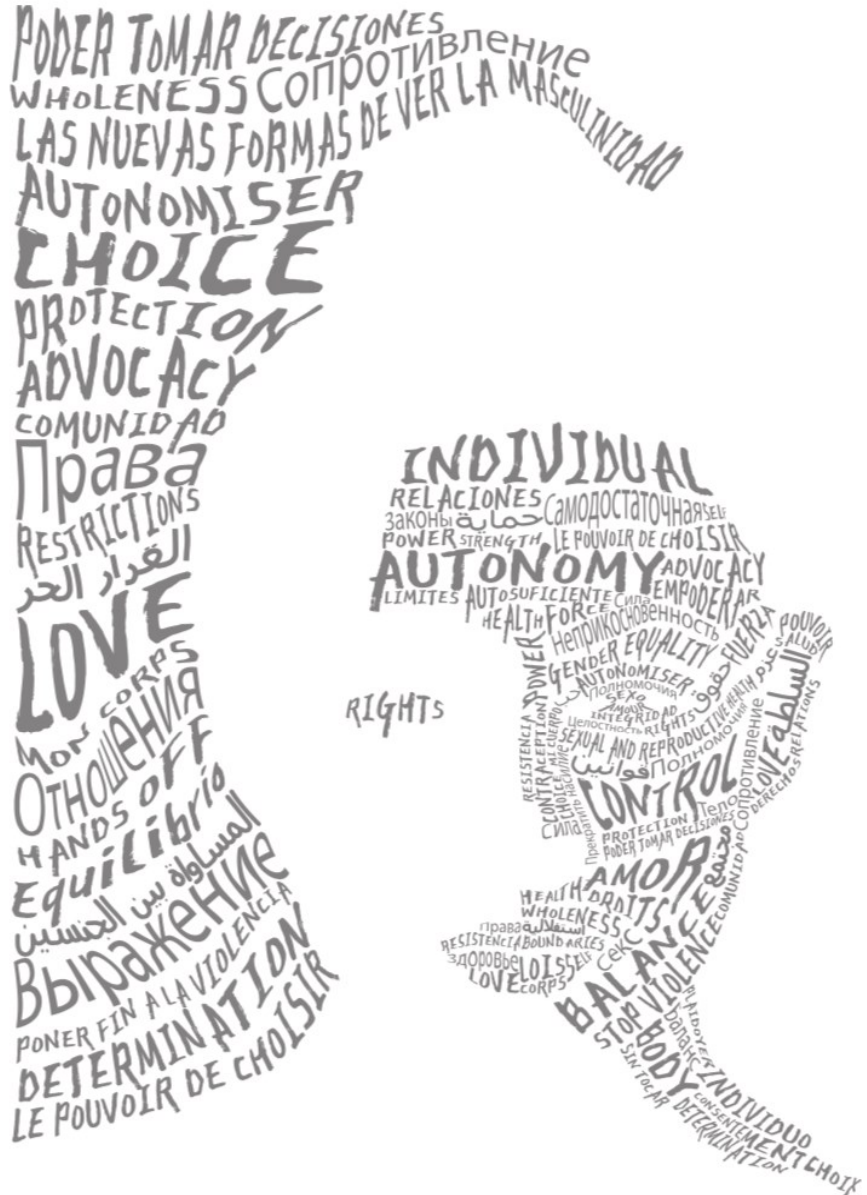
HORACIO ODUBER HOSPITAL

- Hospital, Laboratory & Bloodbank
- 1.300 Employees
- 98 Medical specialists
- 43 Nationalities
- 44.000 emergency room visits / year
- 9.500 surgeries / year
- 180 mio USD turnover / year
- Part of the Dutch Caribbean Hospital Alliance
- Cooperation with Amsterdam & Utrecht University
- Cooperation with some hospitals in Colombia



THE CORE

- Vision:
Accessible health care for everyone without compromising on quality.
- Mission:
Creating an exceptional experience for everyone by providing health care in a compassionate environment with a professional team.
- Purpose

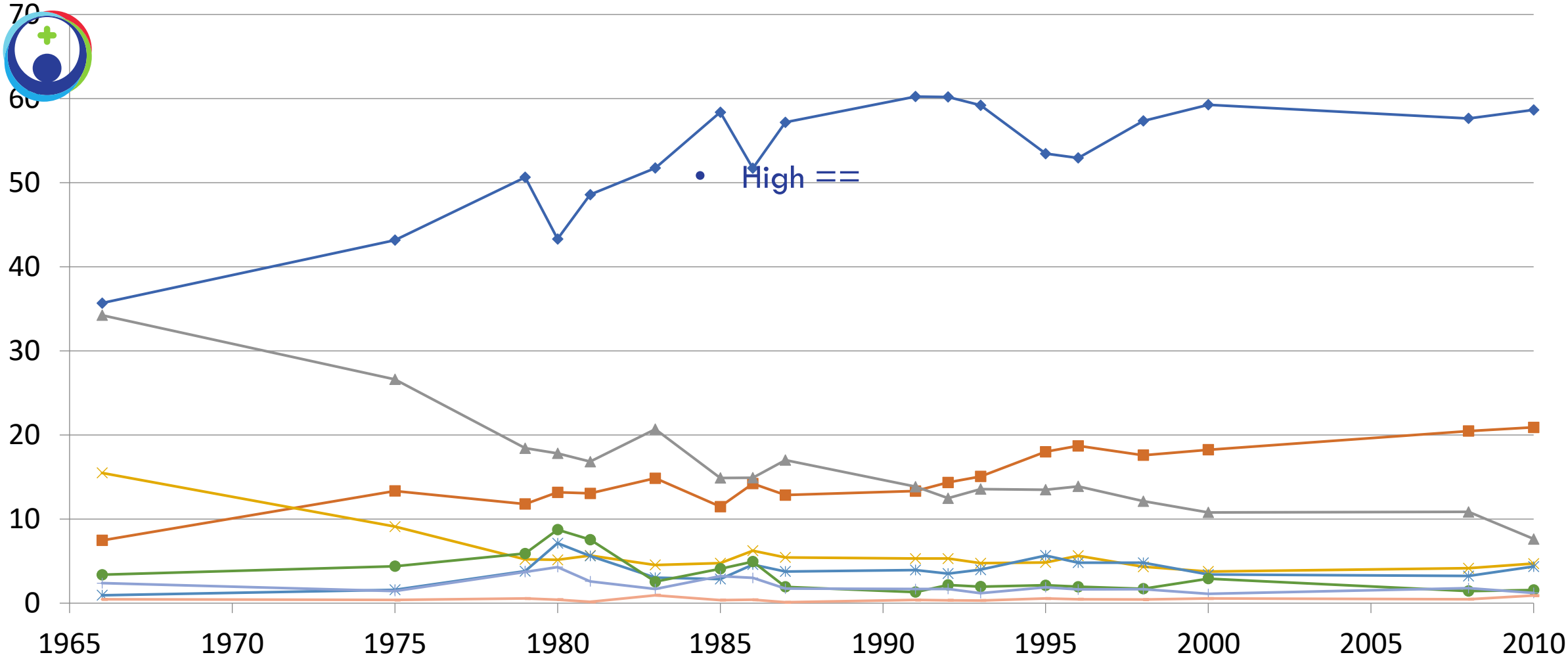


HEALTHCARE AUTONOMY

- Refers to the ability of individuals to make decisions about their own healthcare, including the choice of healthcare providers, treatments, and interventions.

My body is my own:

- The right to autonomy and self-determination.
- Bodily autonomy is a fundamental human right.



◆ A strong health
✕ A strong believe
+ Nice work

■ A nice family
* Many friends
+ A lot of free time

▲ A good marriage
● A good income



THE PILLAR OF BENEFICENCE



THE PILLAR OF NON-MALEFICENCE



THE PILLAR OF AUTONOMY



THE PILLAR OF JUSTICE



PILLARS OF MEDICAL ETHICS

1. **Autonomy**
 - Respect for the patient as an individual, respect the patient's decisions.
2. **Non-Maleficence**
 - Does it harm the patient? Do not bad.
3. **Beneficence**
 - Does it benefit the patient? Do only good.
4. **Justice**
 - Are there consequences in the wider community?
Treat everyone equally and within the law.



CONCEPT OF HEALTHCARE AUTONOMY

1. Informed consent (the right to receive comprehensive and understandable information)
2. Privacy and confidentiality
3. Decision-making capacity
4. Shared decision-making

Note: healthcare autonomy is not absolute and can be limited by legal and ethical considerations:

- a risk of harm to oneself/others;
- And/or a decision which conflicts with medical standards or legal frameworks.



WORLDWIDE CHALLENGES (TO AUTONOMY)

- The demand for health care is increasing.
- Health care workers are becoming rare.
- Technology is overwhelming.
- The provided care should be an ethical discussion instead of a financial one.
- Focus should be on quality of life & patients' rights (autonomy).
- Health care should be preventive instead of curative; proactive instead of reactive.
- Healthy ageing should start at the beginning of life.
- Harmonisation and cooperation.
- Accessibility, solidarity & insurances?



AUTONOMY CHALLENGES IN LATIN AMERICA

- Access to healthcare: limited healthcare infrastructure, outdated technology, inadequate resources;
- Health workforce shortage: the challenge + brain drain;
- Inequality by socioeconomic factors (income/poverty);
- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (cardiovascular, diabetes, cancer, respiratory) increasing;
- Infectious diseases: HIV/AIDS, dengue fever, ZIKA – costs and effect;
- Health emergencies and natural disasters: disruptions by hurricanes, earthquakes, floods;
- Governance: corruption, inefficient management, lack of transparency and cooperation.



HEALTHCARE AUTONOMY IN LA (1-4)

Patient-Centered Care:

- Healthcare providers in Latin America and the Caribbean strive to promote active participation of patients in decisions about their health.
- Efforts are made to inform patients about their conditions, treatment options, risks and benefits.
- Shared decision-making between healthcare providers and patients is encouraged.

Legal and Ethical Framework:

- Informed consents, confidentiality, right to refuse treatment.
- Healthcare providers are expected to respect and uphold these principles.



HEALTHCARE AUTONOMY IN LA (2-4)

Socio-economic Factors:

- Access to quality healthcare service and information depending on an individual's socioeconomic status and can limit options (also to their autonomy).

Cultural and Linguistic considerations:

- Are healthcare providers culturally competent and sensitive enough to understand cultural beliefs, and practices related to healthcare?



HEALTHCARE AUTONOMY IN LA (3-4)

Public and Private Healthcare Systems:

- Often a mix, wherein public healthcare systems aim to provide accessible and affordable care for all, but often long waiting times. Private providers often having more choices, higher costs, potentially limiting autonomy for individuals with limited financial means.

Health Education and Literacy:

- Promoting health education and literacy is crucial to empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health. Providers play a key role in providing accurate and understandable health information to make choices that align with their values and preferences.



HEALTHCARE AUTONOMY IN LA (4-4)

Advancing Technology

- The adoption of technology (EHR, telemedicine, AI) can / will have a positive impact on healthcare autonomy to access medical information and make informed decisions.



IMPORTANCY OF AUTONOMY

*I need you
to help me
to be
autonomous!*



- Why?
- Actively involving in diagnosis and treatment – not only as a human right – but also to increase results, wishes and reality.
- Inequalities in Latin America’s societal structures: gender, race, ethnicity, employment, education are essential derterminants of health that need to be considered.



THE KEYS & NEEDS

- Information and knowledge sharing
- Capacity building
- Disease surveillance
- Infrastructure development
- Pharmaceutical cooperation
- Telemedicine
- Health diplomacy and policy coordination
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Financial sustainability
- Prevention
- Health Education
- Health Training
- Data analytics
- Cooperations as PAHO and CARICOM
- E-Health
- AI
- Public-private partnerships
- Health tourism



THE SOLUTION

We - the people





AUTONOMY

- Egalite, Fraternite, Liberte
- Acceptance & ethics
- Invest in people & lifetime learning
- Invest in future - what does it need?
- Balance between finance, hospitality & quality
- Inspire & be a voice
- Invest in reaching the and a vision
- Share and joining forces
- Attention and awareness for prevention



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