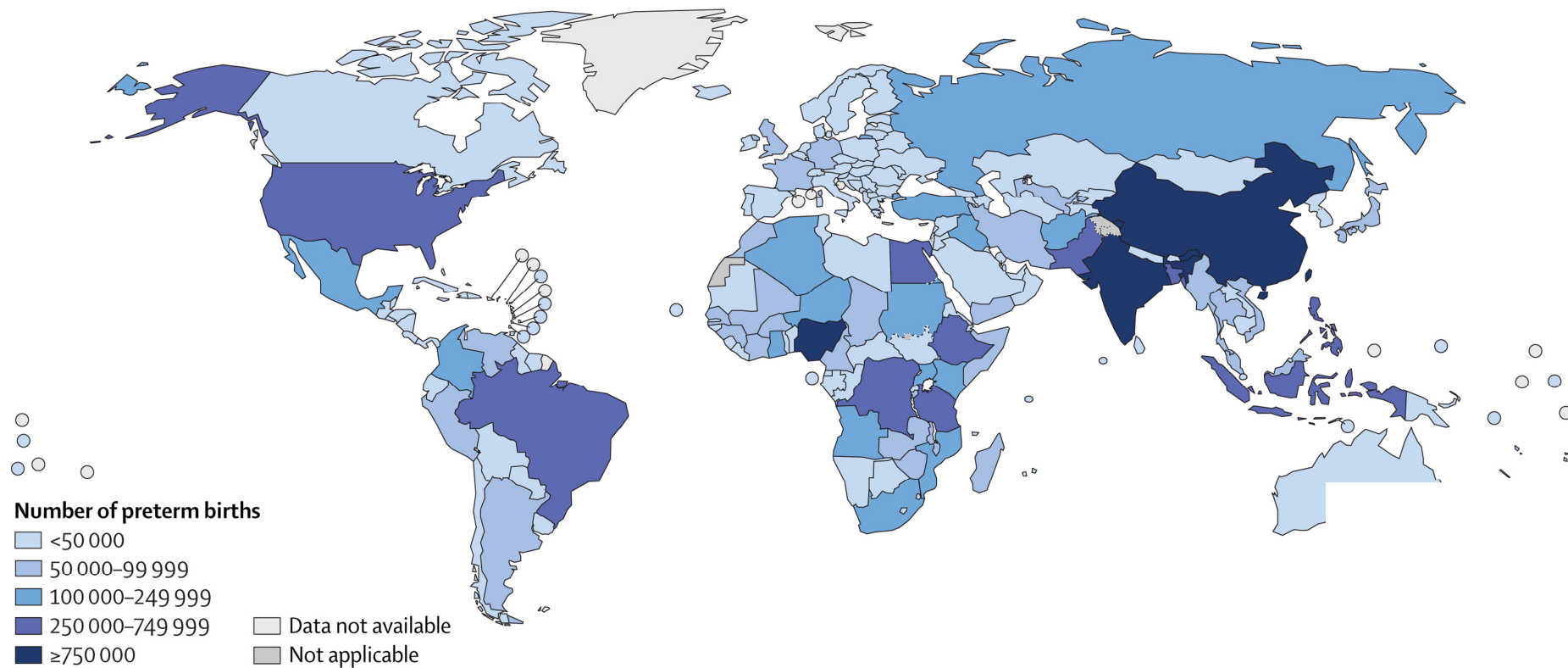


How can Europe meet challenges in newborn health standards?

PROFESSOR MATS ERIKSSON, RN, PHD

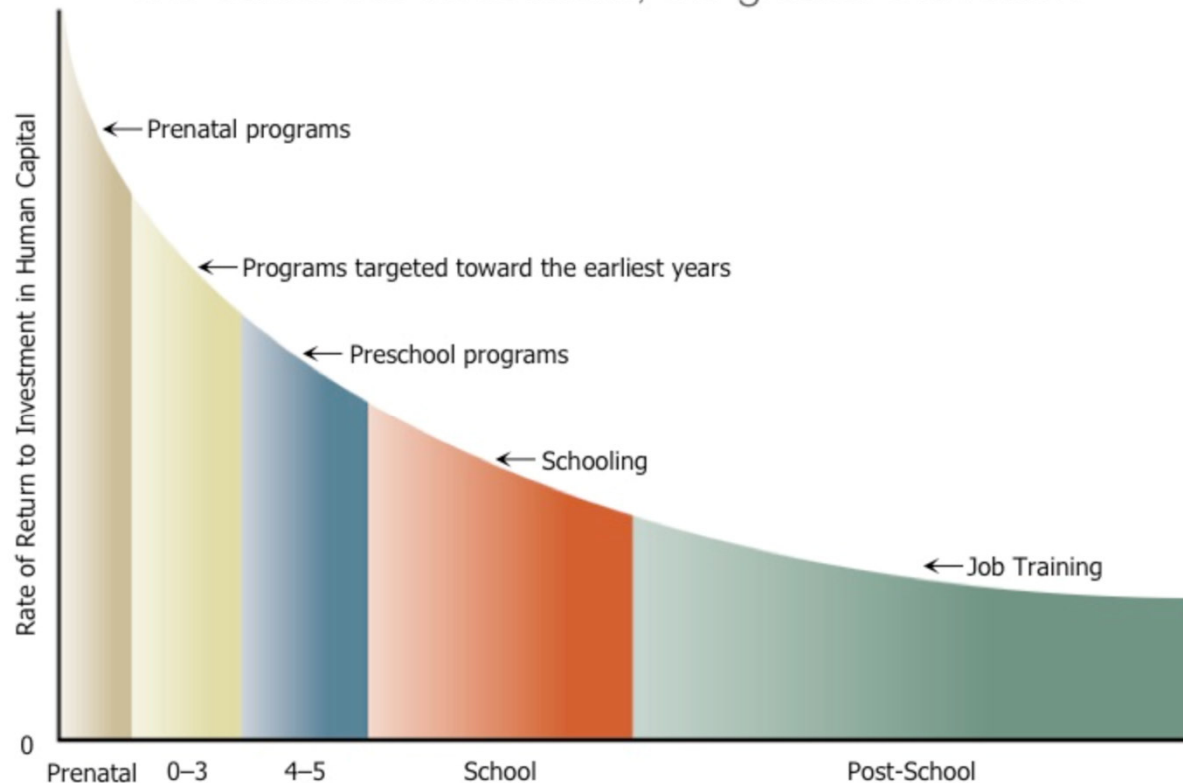
ÖREBRO UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN

700 000 preterm births / year in Europe



The Heckman curve – the most important diagram you will see today

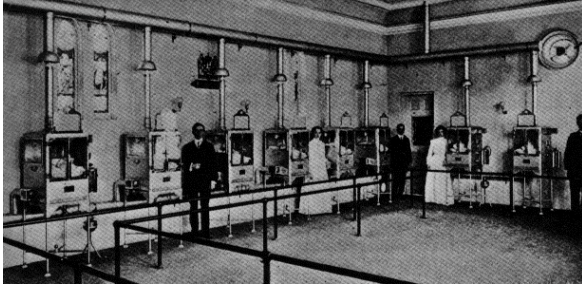
The earlier the investment, the greater the return



Invest
+ Develop
+ Sustain
= Gain

Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics

Neonatal care constantly develops



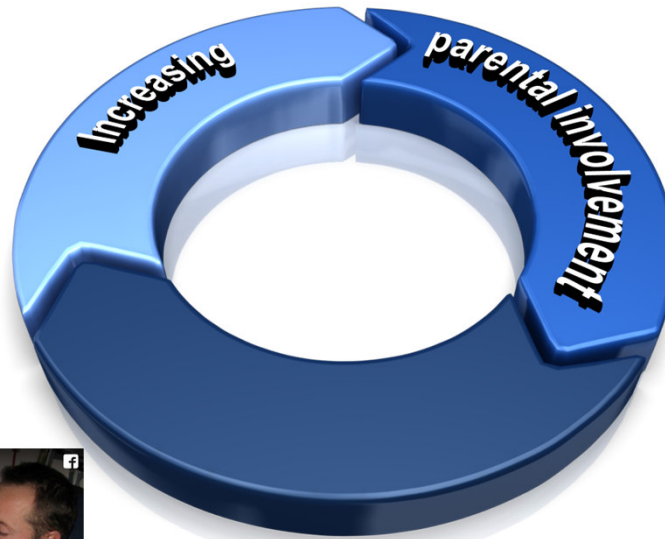
1901: World Exhibition, Buffalo



1980: bright light, fixation



2020: ?



1990: NIDCAP, individual needs



2010: family involvement



2000: KMC –mother instead of incubator

Neonatal care needs team-work

Expectations for safe, sustainable and productive staffing:

- Right staff (evidence based workforce planning)
- Right skills (mandatory training and education, working as a multiprofessional team)
- Right place, right time (maximise the time trained staff provide specialist care, follow pathways)

More and better trained nurses improves the outcome

Science shows that

- more patients per nurse increases mortality, hospital related infections and readmissions, and decreases patient satisfaction
- lower nurse / assisting staff ratio increases mortality
- higher proportion of nurses with a university degree decreases mortality

More and better trained nurses improves the outcome, 2

Science shows that

- more specialised neonatal nurses decreases length of stay, duration of mechanical ventilation, supplemental oxygen, and parental nutrition
- neonatal care by specialist nurses leads to less infections and better neurological outcome

The team around the newborn infant should include the family

Parents should be seen as the infant's most important caregiver, and be encouraged to provide

- advocacy and care
- nurture and nutrition
- support and stress- and pain relief



Neonatal care should be organized around the principles of

- Family-centred care
- Individualised developmental supportive care
- A minimum set of standards in all important areas



Improving newborn health standards is getting us towards the sustainable goals



To meet the challenge of the increasing rate of preterm births, and infants in need of specialised care we must



- improve the proportion of specialised nurses
- improve nurses' university education and research options



- involve parents
- implement standards of care