



Short term scientific mission announcement for Grant period 3/4 (April-June 2017)

Title: Sharing expertise in narrative synthesis and disseminating to a wide audience what is important to people with tinnitus and their significant others

Host: Haúla Haider (WG5); Nova Medical School University of Lisbon and Hospital Cuf Infante Santo, Portugal://www.cufinfantesanto.pt/

Supervisor: Haúla Haider (WG5) and
Professor Doctor João Paço (PhD MD)
Chief Medical Officer – Hospital CUF Infante Santo
Professor and Chairman of Ear, Nose and Throat

Goal of the Short Term Scientific Mission: Every tinnitus questionnaire asks questions about a slightly different set of patient-reported complaints. In WG5, we have conducted a systematic search of the literature on patients with tinnitus and we have gathered information on what sort of problems they are reporting as being a problem for them. This mission would enable the visiting clinician or researcher to continue and complete this project. In particular, the grantee will work with the host to address a set of independent reviewer comments on the work and to review and revise the narrative synthesis of the data so far collected. The findings are essential for defining candidate outcomes that can be used in assessing the effectiveness of tinnitus treatments and for achieving a consensus on a core set of such outcomes that will be one of the key TINNET recommendations in Year 4 of the COST Action.

What we can offer to the grantee: A review of what is important for patients. Our research team is dedicated to tinnitus and our passion is to create reliable knowledge that can underpin evidence-based practice for people with tinnitus. Led by Prof Doctor João Paço and Dr Haúla Haider, we have an active tinnitus consultation, with many tinnitus patients. We conduct carefully designed, randomized controlled trials that seek to provide rigorous and systematic evaluations of the audiological and psychological interventions that reflect most common clinical practice at the moment. We are interested in how we can best establish standards for outcome measurements in clinical trials to enable data collection of treatment results in the central database. In this particular STSM we wish to complete our comprehensive review that maps out what is known about which domains of functioning and disability are reported by people who experience tinnitus and their significant others. This review includes peer-reviewed and grey literature. The research question is: “Why is tinnitus a problem for you?” The opinions of people who experience tinnitus are important because it is this

group of stakeholders who will experience the benefits and adverse effects of treatments.

This is crucial for establishing a standard for the performance of clinical trials in tinnitus. The findings will provide an essential step to seeking a consensus on the optimal outcome measures for tinnitus in clinical trials using the Delphi process. The anticipated output is an accepted manuscript for publication in BMC Health and Quality of Life Outcomes (HQLO), co-authored with the Nottingham team, plus other participants of TINNET. This general and widely read journal specialises in reporting assessments for evaluating medical and psychosocial interventions. It also considers approaches and studies on psychometric properties of Health Related Quality Of Life and patient-reported outcome measures.

Requirements of the grantee:

This Short Term Scientific Mission would be ideal for an ambitious clinician, graduate student, early career researcher or graduate researcher who wishes to learn or develop knowledge about systematic review methodology, in the context of a supportive team and multidisciplinary research environment. A careful attention to detail and a good level of spoken and written English are essential. Some previous research experience is desirable, but not essential. Active engagement with other members of the TINNET network will be encouraged as part of the review team.

Duration: This STSM is available for only 1 week (5 days) available from April 2017.

How to get in contact with the STSM supervisor: Email hfhaider@gmail.com or Haula.f.Haider@jmellosaude.pt

How to apply for the STSM

Please contact Dr Haúla Haider in the first instance. If both parties agree, please request an application form from Susanne Staudinger Susanne.Staudinger@medbo.de and send required documents to the STSM Team: malgorzata.wrzosek@amu.edu.pl

After completion of the STSM the grantee is required to submit a scientific report (3-4 pages) on the visit within 30 days after end of the stay. Please submit the report to the STSM Team.