

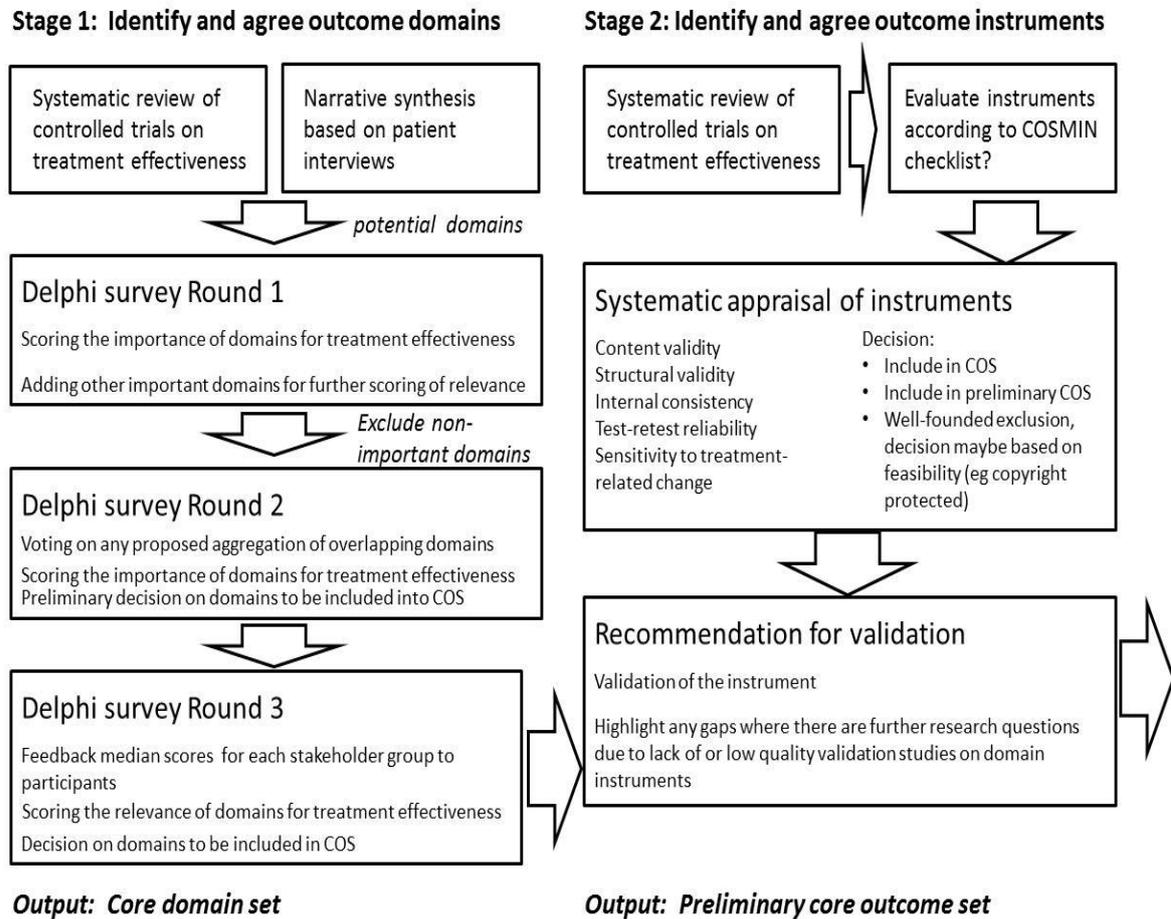
## STSM REPORT

### Purpose of the Short Time Scientific Mission

Haúla Faruk Haider, a ENT medical doctor since 1999, by this means wishes to report that the Short Time Scientific Mission (STSM) entitled: **Developing expertise in systematic review methodology and strengthening European collaboration across TINNET**, with the purpose of achieving expertise on systematic reviews, evaluation and validation of outcome instruments, was successfully completed during 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 in the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Nottingham Hearing Biomedical Research Unit, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, under the coordination of Professor Dr Deborah Hall (Director of NIHR). Working with this research team will enable skills of how to 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. And also evaluation of novel management strategies that the clinical profession judges are likely to benefit tinnitus management.

This specific STSM aims to contribute for a systematic review for identifying, without bias, what outcome measurement tools have been so far used in clinical trials of therapeutic interventions for tinnitus. The objective of this STSM is to represent a contribution for the achievement of one of the major goals of the Outcomes Group (WG5) of Tinnet Cost action BM1306: Developing and establishing new standards for guidelines of outcomes measurements for clinical trials concerning tinnitus (COMiT's initiative). This systematic review is the first step of the methodology that will lead to the abovementioned goal (establishing which outcome domains and outcomes instruments have been used in tinnitus clinical trials). Next step will involve qualitative patient data to establish which domains are important to these stakeholders. For this purpose will be useful to contact Tinnitus associations, as well conducting a specific systematic review. Finally for reaching consensus will be used a Delphi methodology with successive rounds until agreement about potential

prospective validation on outcomes instruments and finalise the core outcome set. For a easier comprehension see the next scheme:



In sequence we hope that the systematic review will have completed to specification of the search criteria, conducted the search on the defined databases, and collated all research articles while is performed the first STSM - **Developing expertise in systematic review methodology and strengthening European collaboration across TINNET** ( by Agnes) at NIHR, during March/015 (if approved). The next stage of the systematic review – 2<sup>nd</sup> STSM, performed by myself at NIHR, during April/015 (if approved), would include first filtering on title and

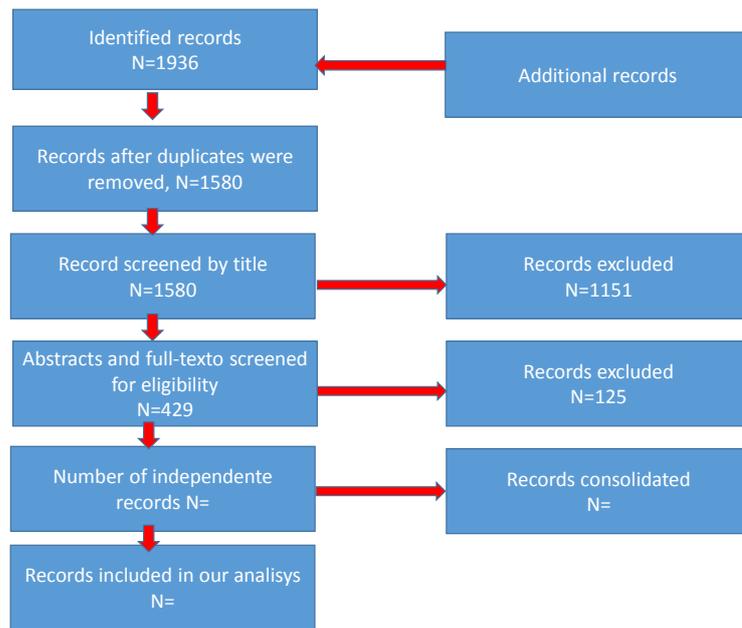
abstract, creating the data extraction form, piloting the data extraction form and completing the data extraction itself (subject to the number of articles selected).

### **Description of the work carried out during the STSM**

This STSM was an exceptional opportunity to work together with Professor Deborah Hall that conducts an audiological research team at HNBRU with the highest patterns of scientific accuracy.

All the objectives purposed in the work plan of the STSM have been fully accomplished and some other relevant scientific tasks were also completed namely:

- We submitted minor amendments to our systematic review record CRD42015017525 on the PROSPERO register.
- We have independently screened all 1580 records identified by the electronic search strategy that Agnes completed during her STSM (March/2015), and filtered according to the inclusion criteria for the systematic review. We discussed any discrepancies and resolved them to create an agreed list of 429 records to pass to the next stage.
- We obtained pdf versions of all 429 records.
- Me and Professor Deborah Hall have independently screened all of these 429 records and filtered according to the inclusion criteria for the systematic review. We discussed any discrepancies and resolved them to create an agreed list of 304 records to pass to the next stage. This next stage will be continued during the next STSM (with Petra). (See the flowchart below).
- We created a data extraction form and piloted the first version with other active members of working group 5 (Veronica Kennedy and Marzena Mielczarek). (See in Appendix the Template for data extraction)
- We prepared the dissemination poster for working group 5 activities to be presented at the ORL conference in June in Prague, by me on behalf of the Tinnnet COST Action BM1306.
- We prepared the oral presentation for the whole group to be presented at the EFAS conference in May in Istanbul, by me on behalf of the Tinnnet COST Action BM1306.



- On 14<sup>th</sup> April there was an opportunity to immerse myself in a full day of multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary scientific presentations on tinnitus and hearing research given by full-time research staff at two major organisations (MRC Institute of Hearing Research and the NHBRU Nottingham Hearing Biomedical Research Unit). The day offered opportunities to ask questions and discuss newly planned research as well as interim findings.

- We have discussed some details of my PhD protocol-thesis entitled: Presbycusis, Tinnitus and Quality of life. Some of Professor Deborah's suggestion will be very helpful on statistical data analysis.

### **Future collaboration with the host institution**

Future collaboration with Professor Deborah Hall and her research team will include the contribution to the elaboration of a narrative synthesis of qualitative patient data to establish which domains are important to these stakeholders, based on patients interview. This may involve a new STSM.

And naturally as the ongoing process of the systematic review I will collaborate extracting data from the final set of articles/study protocols included in the systematic review.

### **Foreseen publications/articles resulting from a mission**

During the present STSM I've participated in the elaboration of an article concerning the protocol methodology of ComiT initiative to achieve a global consensus on outcome measures for clinical trials in tinnitus, mainly with the flowchart of the methodology of the search strategy of our systematic review and the elaboration of the template for data extraction of the studies included in the systematic review. As well reviewing the draft of the article.

Future publications will be concerning next step of the methodology, related to patients perspective and definition of important domains from patients point of view.

### **Sightseeing during weekend included in the mission**

Because we had an incredible sunshine wether during most of the time we had a walk at the Sherwood Forest during the weekend to see the Major oak (800 years old) – see the photo, me and Professor Deborah. We didn't find Robin Hood!

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