

Accurate COnsensus Reporting Document (ACCORD): guidelines for reporting consensus methods

William T. Gattrell,¹ Patricia Logullo,² Esther J van Zuuren,³ Amy Price,⁴ Ellen L. Hughes,⁵ Christopher C. Winchester,⁶ David Tovey,⁷ Keith Goldman,⁸ Amrit Pali Hungin,⁹ Paul Blazey,¹⁰ Niall Harrison⁵

¹Bristol Myers Squibb, Uxbridge, UK; ²Centre for Statistics in Medicine, University of Oxford, and EQUATOR Network UK Centre, Oxford, UK; ³Leiden University Medical Centre, Leiden, The Netherlands; ⁴Stanford Anesthesia, Informatics and Media Lab, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA, USA; ⁵OPEN Health Communications, Marlow, UK; ⁶Oxford PharmaGenesis, Tubney, Oxford, UK; ⁷Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, London, UK; ⁸Global Medical Affairs, AbbVie, North Chicago, IL, USA; ⁹Faculty of Medical Sciences, Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK; ¹⁰Department of Physiotherapy, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Friday 22 September 2023, Conference Room 2 / P6C – Getting the methodology right / Abstract 81



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



OPEN HEALTH



Disclosure

William T. Gattrell is an employee of Bristol Myers Squibb

Patricia Logullo is a member of the UK EQUATOR Centre, based in the University of Oxford; EQUATOR promotes the use of reporting guidelines, many of which are developed using consensus methods, and she is personally involved in the development of other reporting guidelines

Esther J. van Zuuren reports no conflicts of interest

Amy Price reports no conflicts of interest

Ellen L. Hughes is an employee of OPEN Health Communications

Christopher C. Winchester is an employee, Director, and shareholder of Oxford PharmaGenesis Ltd., a Director of Oxford Health Policy Forum CIC, a Trustee of the Friends of the National Library of Medicine, and an Associate Fellow of Green Templeton College, University of Oxford

David Tovey is co–editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* and chairs the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Centre for Biomedical Transparency

Keith Goldman is an employee of AbbVie

Amrit Pali Hungin in the last five years worked with Reckitt Benckiser for the development of the definitions and management of gastro-oesophageal reflux disease

Paul Blazey reports no conflicts of interest

Niall Harrison is an employee of OPEN Health Communications

At the outset of the work, Niall Harrison was an employee of Ogilvy Health UK and William Gattrell was an employee of Ipsen

Background: why ACCORD?



Consensus obtained from a group of experts using formal methods is recognised as being more reliable than individual opinions and experiences¹⁻³



However, it is well-documented that the reporting of studies using consensus methods is often of poor quality⁴⁻⁷

A comprehensive reporting tool is needed because numerous methods are used to assess consensus, both in guideline development and in other areas of medical research.

ACCORD: ACcurate COnsensus Reporting Document; AGREE, Appraisal of Guidelines for Research & Evaluation; CREDES, Conducting and Reporting Delphi Studies
1. Kurvers RH, et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2016;113(31):8777-82. 2. Surowiecki J. The wisdom of crowds. New York, USA: Anchor; 2004. 3. Woolley AW, et al. Science. 2010;330(6004):686-8. 4. van Zuuren EJ, et al. BMJ Open. 2022;12(9):e065154. 5. Blazey P, et al. Br J Sports Med. 2022;56(6):306-7. 6. Diamond IR, et al. J Clin Epidemiol. 2014;67(4):401-9. 7. Gupta UG. Technol Forecast Social Change. 1996;53(2):185-211.

Objective

- To develop a reporting guideline applicable to ...



All types of
consensus methods

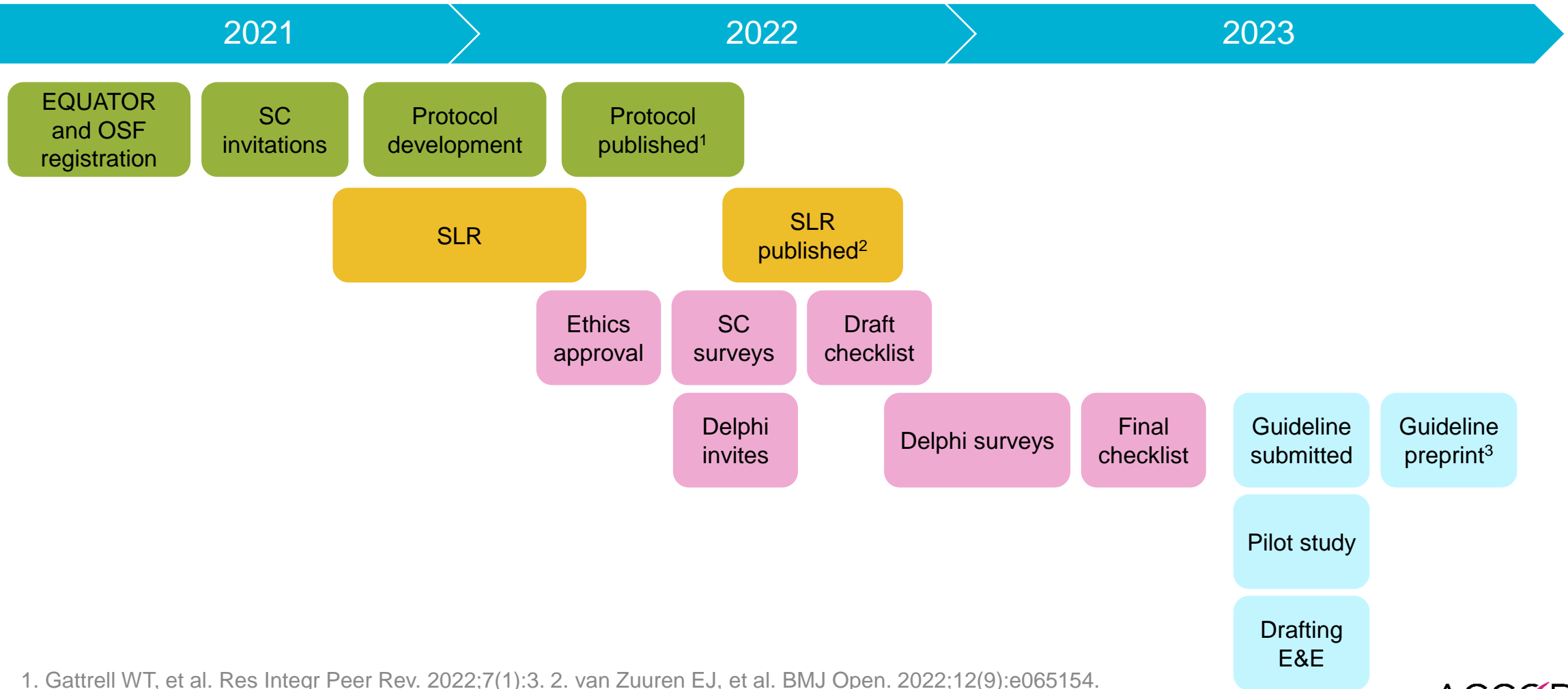


All areas of
biomedical research



Researchers anywhere
in the world

Project overview and timeline



1. Gattrell WT, et al. Res Integr Peer Rev. 2022;7(1):3. 2. van Zuuren EJ, et al. BMJ Open. 2022;12(9):e065154.
3. Gattrell WT, et al. medRxiv 2023.08.22.23294261; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.08.22.23294261>

Self-identified demographics of Delphi panellists

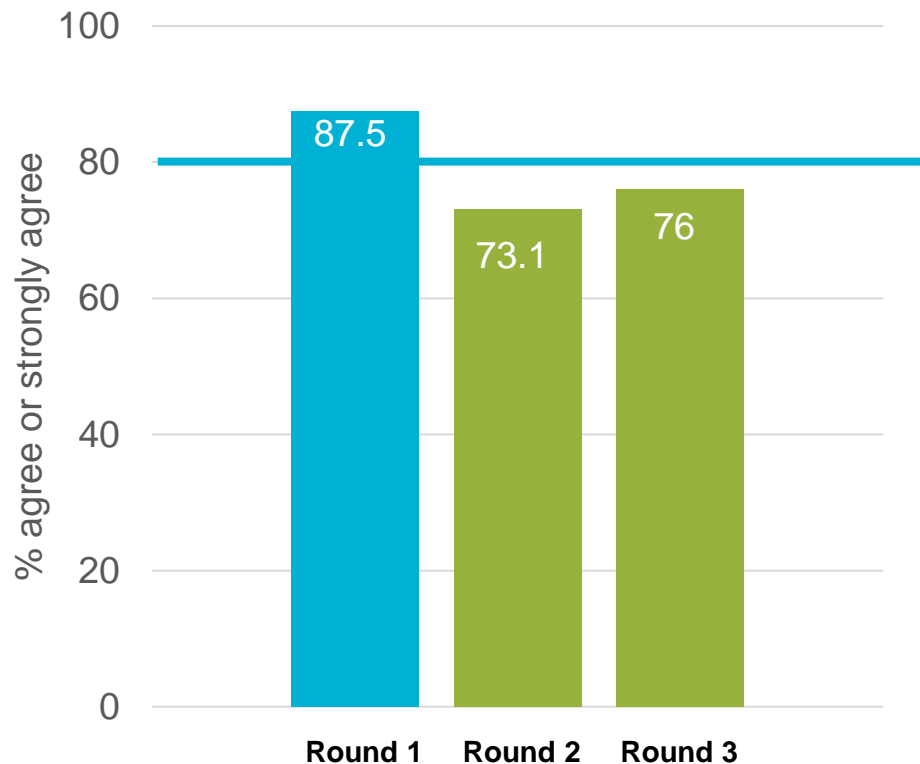
Characteristic	Round 1 (n=58) 21 October–4 November 2022	Round 2 (n=54) 21 December 2022–16 January 2023	Round 3 (n=51) 10–27 Feb 2023
Gender, n (%)			
Female	31 (53.4)	28 (51.9)	28 (54.9)
Male	27 (46.6)	25 (46.3)	22 (43.1)
Non-binary	0	1 (1.9)	0
Prefer not to say	0	0	1 (2.0)
Geographic location of current primary residence and work, n (%)			
Africa	3 (5.2)	3 (5.6)	2 (3.9)
Asia	4 (6.9)	4 (7.4)	4 (7.8)
Europe	31 (53.4)	28 (51.9)	26 (51.0)
North America	16 (27.6)	15 (27.8)	15 (29.4)
Oceania	1 (1.7)	1 (1.9)	1 (2.0)
South America	3 (5.2)	3 (5.6)	3 (5.9)
Background*, n (%)			
Clinician	16 (27.6)	14 (25.9)	13 (25.5)
Journal editor	8 (13.8)	6 (11.1)	8 (15.7)
Patient partner†	6 (10.3)	6 (11.1)	5 (9.8)
Policymaker	3 (5.2)	3 (5.6)	4 (7.8)
Publications professional	17 (29.3)	17 (31.5)	15 (29.4)
Researcher	29 (50.0)	29 (53.7)	24 (47.1)
Other‡	11 (19)	6 (11.1)	8 (15.7)

*Panellists could select more than one option.

†In Rounds 2 and 3, this category was changed to: Patient, Patient Partner, Family Member or Carer.

Restored item M10: patient and public involvement

Did not reach stable consensus



Panellist feedback

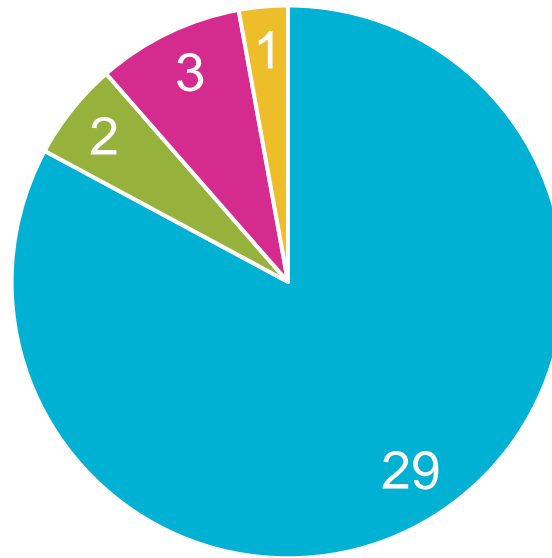
Optional vs essential?

- “Depends on the topic of Delphi consensus, should be optional”
- “For me this rests on the topic of the exercise”

Best terminology?

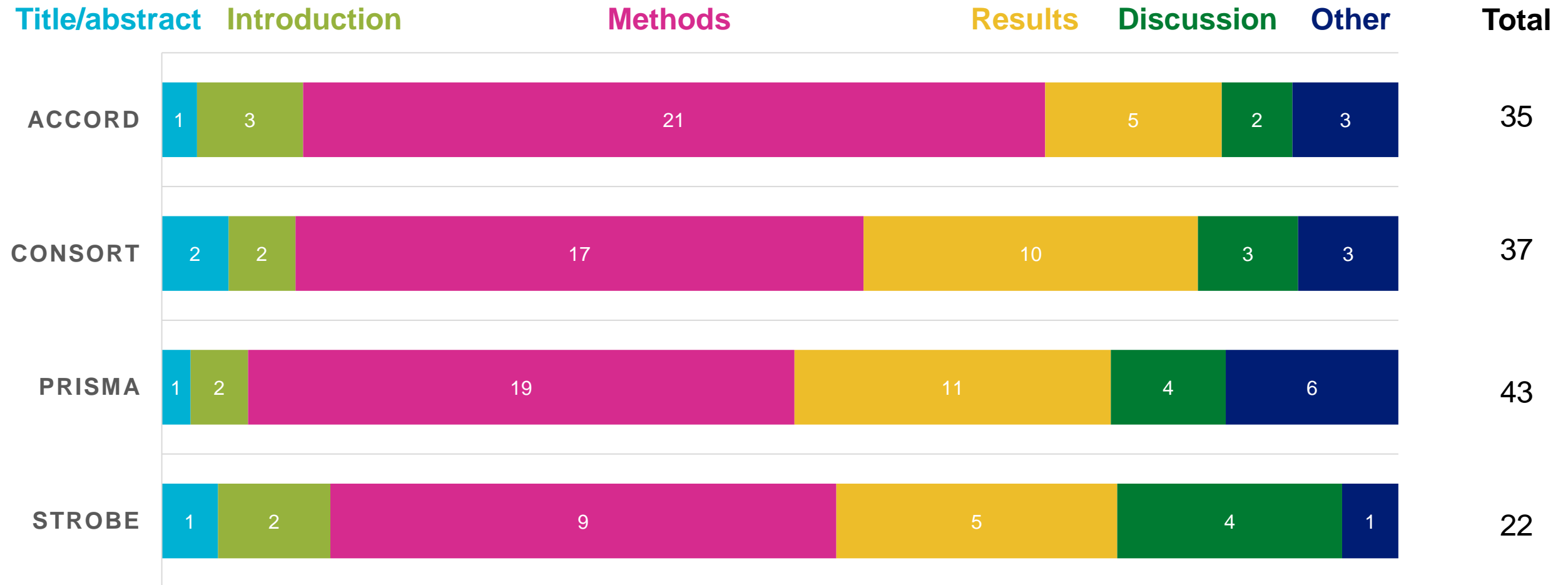
- “The difference between lay and patient and public partners is potentially confusing”
- “DO NOT change ‘participants’ to ‘partners’”

Origin of items in the final checklist



- Systematic literature review
- Steering committee survey
- Modified items from systematic literature review
- Delphi panel

Comparison with other checklists



Summary

- ACCORD is the first reporting guideline applicable to all consensus-based studies
- ACCORD provides authors with a tool to improve the completeness and transparency of reporting consensus exercise
- Reporting consensus studies with greater clarity and transparency may enhance trust in the recommendations made by consensus panels



Acknowledgements

The ACCORD Steering Committee



Will Gattrell
Bristol Myers Squibb



Niall Harrison
OPEN Health



Patricia Logullo
*University of Oxford and
EQUATOR*



Esther J. van Zuuren
*Leiden University
Medical Centre*



Amy Price
*Stanford School of Medicine
Patient Editor, BMJ*



Paul Blazey
*University of British Columbia,
Vancouver, Canada*



Christopher C.
Winchester
Oxford PharmaGenesis



David Tovey
*Journal of Clinical
Epidemiology*



Keith Goldman
AbbVie



Amrit Pali Hungin
*University of
Newcastle*



Ellen L. Hughes
OPEN Health

- The authors would like to thank all the Delphi panellists for their vital contribution to the project
- Project management support was provided by Mehraj Ahmed, Helen Bremner, Amie Hedges, Mark Rolfe, and Kirsty Walters, from Oxford PharmaGenesis. ISMPP provided organisational support. Laura Harrington, an employee of Ogilvy Health, and Alison Chisholm, an employee of Oxford PharmaGenesis, provided medical writing support