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WHY ACCORD IS NEEDED

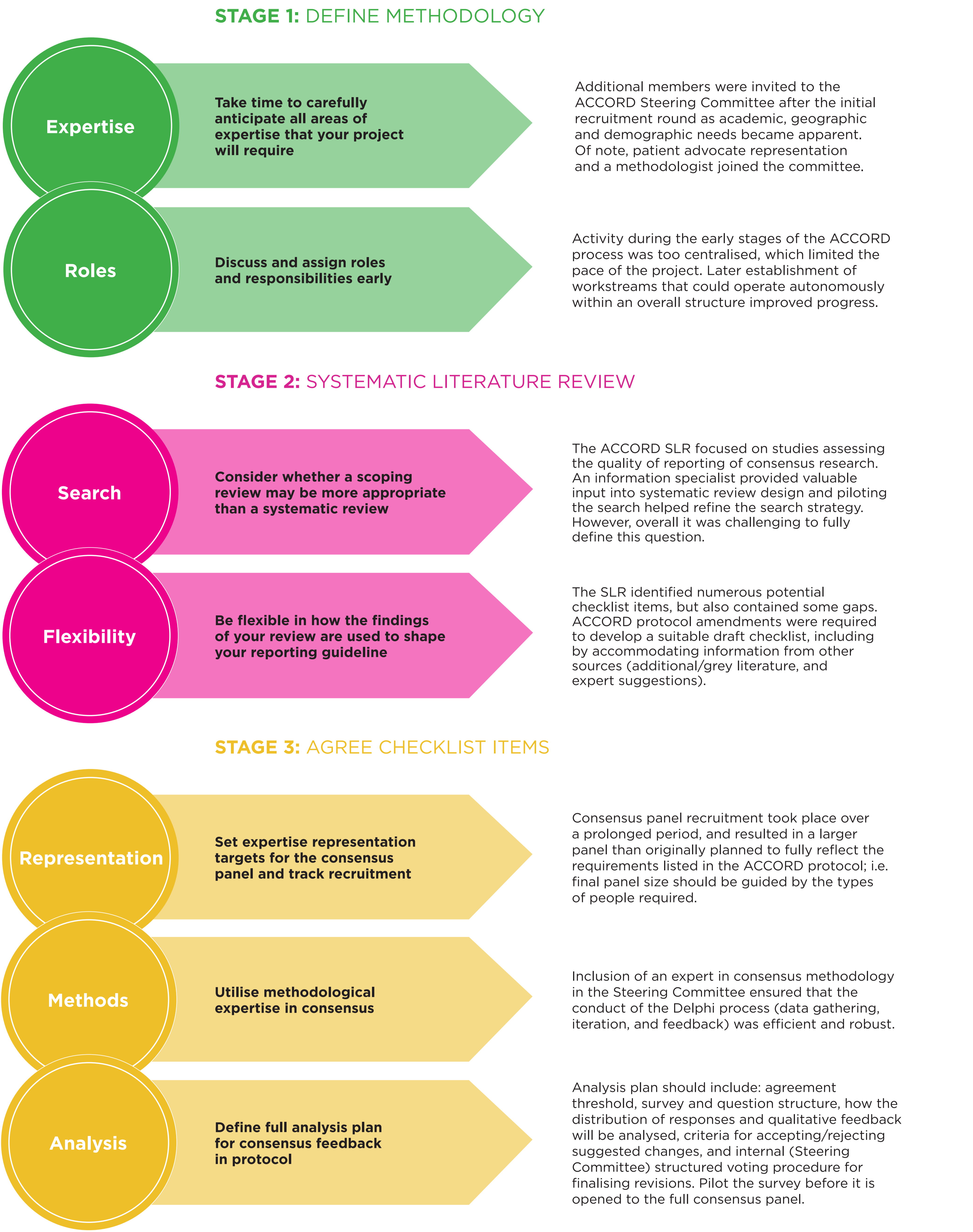
- Consensus methods provide a structured way to harness the knowledge of experts and other stakeholders, such as patients and non-academic partners, to support clinical decision-making in areas in which evidence is limited, inconsistent or absent^{1,2}
- However, the reporting of consensus studies is often inconsistent and incomplete, which makes it difficult to critically evaluate their methodology and interpret their recommendations^{3,4}
- **ACCORD (ACcurate CONsensus Reporting Document)** is a reporting guideline currently in development to help researchers report the results of biomedical consensus studies⁵

WHAT WE ARE DOING

- Based on EQUATOR guidance,⁶ the ACCORD process⁵ comprises five stages, of which three have been completed, as described below
 - **Stage 1** Define methodology (May 2021 to August 2022): establish scope, protocol, and composition of committees and panels⁵
 - **Stage 2** Systematic literature review (SLR; November 2021 to September 2022)³
 - **Stage 3** Agree checklist items (May 2022 to March 2023)
 - **Stage 4** Create reporting guideline (March-April 2023)
- The Steering Committee discussed lessons learned from the ACCORD process to date (see Figure) at a face-to-face meeting held in Oxford, UK in September 2022, via email in October and November 2022, and at an online meeting in March 2023
- The full project timeline to date is available as supplementary information (see QR code, bottom right)
- The ACCORD reporting guideline is expected to be finalised and submitted for publication in Q2 2023



FIGURE: LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE ACCORD PROJECT STAGES



OVERALL PROJECT LESSONS

- 1. Early planning and clarity of focus are vital.** Do not underestimate the time required for the planning process or the overall time that will be required for the project.
- 2. Transparency is critical.** Show your thinking/working by publishing and registering your protocol, ensuring that users of your tool can understand your process, and sharing your findings and experiences widely.
- 3. Regular meetings maintain momentum.** Ensure actions receive regular updates and that outputs from different workstreams are shared with the full Steering Committee.
- 4. Be pragmatic.** A protocol is a roadmap that captures the best available understanding of the route to obtain study results. However, consensus is an iterative process. Allowing for minor adaptations—and reporting them—can enhance usability and incorporate nuanced information into the final results.

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 NH was an employee of Ogilvy Health, London, UK when the ACCORD project was initiated. He is now an employee of Open Health, Marlow, UK. AP has nothing to disclose. CCW is an employee, Director, and shareholder of Oxford PharmaGenesis, Oxford, UK, 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, Oxford. DT has nothing to disclose. ELH is an employee of Open Health, Marlow, UK. EJvZ has nothing to disclose. KHG is an employee of AbbVie, North Chicago, IL, USA. MR is an employee of Oxford PharmaGenesis, Oxford, UK. PL is a member of the UK EQUATOR Centre, Oxford, UK, an organization that 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. PL is funded by Cancer Research UK. WG is an employee of Bristol Myers Squibb. This poster was presented at the annual meeting of the International Society of Medical Publication Professionals (24 April 2023, Washington DC, USA).