

Groningen, The Netherlands, July 2018

**Invitation to participate in Groningen Consensus Statement(s) on Tendinopathy**

Dear colleague,

As you know, many different terms are used to describe the clinical condition of chronic tendon pain, thickening/swelling and impaired performance with repetitive loading. Furthermore (clinical) tendinopathy research often lacks uniform selection criteria and an agreed set of commonly used tendon outcome measures. This hampers transparent research, valid comparison(s) between studies and ultimately also clinical outcome.

In order to achieve consensus on these 3 important issues, we are organizing an expert meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2018, the day before the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> ISTS 2018 congress in Groningen the Netherlands.

Aims of this project/meeting are to reach consensus on:

1. Clinical terminology of different tendinopathies to be used in clinic and tendinopathy studies (project leader Alex Scott)
2. A set of minimal selection criteria to be used in the reporting in clinical tendinopathy studies (project leader Ebonie Rio)
3. A Core Outcome Set for tendinopathy to be used in reporting of clinical tendinopathy studies (project leader Bill Vicenzino)

We aim to publish these in the BJSM and also want to disseminate our statements to relevant organisations.

**Since you are an expert in the field of tendinopathy we would like to ask for your input and feedback to a survey/list of statements which will be sent to you by the end of July (online survey). We also like to invite you to join the preconference consensus meeting in Groningen.**

Two weeks before the meeting you will receive a first draft of the statements which will be further discussed during the meeting.

We believe this is an excellent opportunity to share your tendon related knowledge and to work together to take tendinopathy research to the next level. Workload for you will be limited and of course you will be co-author of the paper(s).

In order to run this project smoothly we believe some rules for participation are necessary.

Rules for participation

1. *Agree with rules of participation and authorship*
2. *Participation on invitation; however, since we are on a limited budget we unfortunately cannot provide reimbursement for travel and lodging*
3. *Only those who actually give input are considered project members, advisors and co-authors*
4. *Please provide timely response. Respond to mailing/questionnaires/input drafts within 10 days; otherwise your input and authorship will not be incorporated*
5. *If you cannot be present at preconference meeting but give input before and after the consensus meeting:*
  - a. *You will be considered advisor and will be co-author*
  - b. *It will not be possible for you to change the main parts of the agreements made on the day by the live group or make major edits to the paper (to prevent never-ending discussions via mail after composing final draft)*

- c. *If you disagree with the paper and prefer to opt-out of authorship, this will be reported in the manuscript, but respectfully and protecting your anonymity.*
6. *During the consensus process (online survey) an item for consideration for inclusion into the consensus statement will be presented and explained. There will then be 3 levels of agreement:*
- Yes (agree)*
  - No (disagree)*
  - Unsure / I do not know.*

*Further, in the online survey, there will be opportunity for you to provide your rationale/reasoning for your responses, to identify any missing items (including rationale for inclusion), and if there is a need to aggregate any overlapping items.*

7. *During the consensus meeting in Groningen results of the online survey will be summarized. Items for which no agreement was reached in the survey will be presented and discussed and again considered for inclusion into the consensus statement. There will then be 2 levels of agreement:*
- Yes (agree)*
  - No (disagree)*
8. *Both in the survey and the meeting consensus on items will be defined as  $\geq 70\%$  agreement.*
9. *During the whole process (survey, meeting, preparation of manuscript) project members have the possibility to opt out in case they strongly disagree with the process and/or content. The project member will then be excluded from the list of authors.*

#### Rules for Authorship

*First author: project leader*

*Second author: to be determined by first author depending on contribution before/during project (not necessarily as part of the consensus process)*

*In between: Attendants and advisors in alphabetical order*

*Last author: Chair ISTS2018*

*As stated above, unfortunately we have no funding for this project so **travel and accommodation will be at your own expense**. We will provide lunch and refreshments during the meeting on the day.*

#### **For now we have two questions**

- 1. Do you want to participate in this tendinopathy consensus project?**
- 2. Will you come to ISTS2018 in Groningen and will it be possible for you to join the preconference meeting?**

Looking forward to your response,

Best regards,

On behalf of,

Ebonie Rio, Alex Scott, Bill Vicenzino (project leaders) and Adam Weir (project advisor)



Hans Zwerver, chair ISTS2018