



## Tinnitus - Priority Setting Partnership



### JLA Tinnitus Survey

#### SETTING THE PRIORITIES FOR TINNITUS RESEARCH

Despite ongoing research activity in the UK and other countries, there are still so many questions about tinnitus assessment, diagnosis and treatment that remain unanswered. These unanswered questions will form the basis of future research and so it is important that we understand which of those questions to prioritise.

This survey is about identifying those priorities for future tinnitus research.

#### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

We are inviting you to take part in the survey by contributing what you think are the unanswered questions about tinnitus assessment, diagnosis and treatment. You should:

- Read the background information in Section 1 before completing the survey
- In Section 2, please write down what you think are unanswered question(s) on tinnitus.
- In Section 3, please provide us with a little background information about yourself.
- In Section 4, indicate if you would like to be kept informed on the project.

Please return your completed survey (Sections 2, 3 and 4) by **28<sup>th</sup> February 2012** either by post or by email to NAJIBAH MOHAMAD at:

Post:

National Biomedical Research Unit in Hearing  
Ropewalk House  
113 The Ropewalk  
Nottingham  
NG1 5DU

OR

JLA tinnitus survey  
British Tinnitus Association  
FREEPOST NEA 13451  
Sheffield S8 0WF

Email:

[msxwnw@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:msxwnw@nottingham.ac.uk)

#### Contacts

If you have any questions about the project please contact The British Tinnitus Association: [info@tinnitus.org.uk](mailto:info@tinnitus.org.uk), Telephone: 0114 250 9933

## **SECTION 1- BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The aim of the project is to identify the unanswered questions about tinnitus assessment, diagnosis and treatment from patient and clinical perspectives and then to prioritise those questions that patients and clinicians agree are the most important. This will help shape the future of tinnitus research in the UK and worldwide.

The project will be independently overseen by the James Lind Alliance, a non-profit making initiative. They specialise in bringing patients and clinicians together to identify and prioritise uncertainties, or 'unanswered questions', about the effects of treatments that they agree are most important. The James Lind Alliance is internationally recognised as an authoritative and independent organisation to guide this work and produce an unbiased result, which gives equal weighting to the views of patients and clinicians.

James Lind Alliance is funded by National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

For further information see [www.tinnitus.org.uk/jla](http://www.tinnitus.org.uk/jla)

### **Why are we doing this?**

Approximately 10 per cent of the UK adult population experience tinnitus. If not diagnosed and treated properly, it may have a significant impact on their lives.

It is therefore important to better understand the impact of current care for people with tinnitus, from assessment to treatments, and how effective it is. The outcome of the Tinnitus Priority Setting Partnership project will be a set of research questions, prioritised by patients and clinicians that can then be used to encourage researchers to investigate what is most important to both groups. Research funders can then use the list to identify research applications which will answer questions that patients and clinicians have agreed are a priority.

The project will also help to increase awareness of why research into tinnitus is necessary and important. It will be used to campaign for major funders to invest in tinnitus research, as there will have been an independent process to identify what research is necessary and relevant.

### **What are 'unanswered' questions about tinnitus assessment, diagnosis, and treatment?**

These are questions that cannot be answered at the moment by the existing research.

To help you understand what is an 'unanswered question', here are some examples of unanswered questions that were submitted for other health problems:

- Are breathing exercises helpful in controlling asthma?
- What is the evidence for gargling aspirin to relieve a sore throat?
- How safe is it for my baby if I am breastfeeding and taking antidepressant medication?
- Is monochloroacetic acid more effective for the treatment of warts than liquid nitrogen?

## SECTION 2 - YOUR UNANSWERED QUESTION/S

**What question(s) about tinnitus assessment, diagnosis or treatment would you like to see answered by research?** (You can submit as many or as few as you like.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

Please continue on a separate sheet if you have more than four (4) unanswered questions.

**Confidentiality and consent**

Your contact details will be treated with complete confidentiality, in accordance with the Data Protection Act. As part of the processes, your questions may be published in UK DUETs, and by participating in the survey you are agreeing to allow us to publish your questions. Your name/organisation will NOT be published in association with the question. For further information, or to see an example of what this will look like, go to [www.library.nhs.uk/duets](http://www.library.nhs.uk/duets).

### SECTION 3 - SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOURSELF

These questions will help us to understand the range of clinical professionals and members of the public who have responded to our survey. However, if you prefer not to answer then, just leave them blank. These details will NOT be published in association with your response or linked in any way to the UK DUET's database.

a. Which of these categories best describes you? (Please tick all that apply)

- I am a person with a tinnitus
- I am a partner or relative or carer of someone with a tinnitus
- I am the parent of a child aged under 16 who has a tinnitus
- I am a healthcare professional
- I am part of an organisation representing people with tinnitus –
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

b. Gender : Are you

- Male                       Female

c. Age : What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ years.

d. Ethnic group: Are you (or the person with a tinnitus)

- White                       Black
- Asian                       Mixed race
- Chinese or other ethnic group

e. You only need to answer this question if you are answering as a healthcare professional (Please tick ONE box)

Which is your primary profession?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audiologist                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Therapist             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENT Surgeon                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychologist                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GP                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech and Language Therapist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |  |

#### SECTION 4 - REQUEST FOR FURTHER UPDATE

Would you like more information about the next stage of the project, where the research questions will be prioritised?

Yes

No

If 'yes', please supply your contact details.

#### Contact details

Your contact details will be treated with complete confidentiality, in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your preferred method of contact?

Email

Post

Thank you for completing this survey.