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An important part of AS research programmes is trying to understand all of the myriad ways in which this disease impacts the lives of patients.

Increasingly, patients are being asked to play a more active role in developing standardized questionnaires that can be used all over the world.

We have written to you before about the work that ASAS (Assessment of Spondyloarthritis International Society) is doing to develop an index for measuring health and functioning in people with AS.

The first time round with the initial questionnaire ASAS got an excellent response from Ireland, as part of 2000 responses and this has allowed the creation of an improved and reduced question set.

This round of the survey is a collaborative effort of members of AS organisations in just 6 countries all over the world. We are aiming for 600 patients in 6 countries (Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, UK and USA) to complete this round of questions.

With this email we are asking you to participate in developing this questionnaire, by giving us information on your own health status and the impact of AS on functioning.

The impact of disease on functioning is the essential information for our medical teams when reporting on and managing the health problems of individuals. The questionnaire is based on the ASAS/WHO International Classification System for Functioning, Health and Disability core set for AS. This is a framework and a classification system to define the spectrum of problems in functioning. The spectrum ranges from restricted mobility, over impairment in activities and participation (eg social participation) to the influence of environmental factors.

Thus, the health index will go beyond of questionnaires for measuring quality of life. In addition, the aim of ASAS is to produce licence-free assessments to improve the care of patients with AS.

Please use the web link to respond.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ASASHealthIndex_2nd