

## **Introduction:**

Historically, perspectives from individuals with lived experience of alcohol use disorder (AUD) and alcohol-related liver disease (ARLD) have been inadequately represented in research. This priority setting partnership (PSP) aims to multi-stakeholders in delineating research priorities in diagnosing, managing, and caring for people with AUD and ARLD.

## **Methods:**

The study employed an adapted nominal group method, incorporating individuals affected by Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) and/or Alcohol-Related Liver Disease (ARLD), their caregivers, participants from patient support groups, and healthcare professionals. The KLIFAD partnership (<https://klifad.org.uk/>) served as the steering group, collaboratively determining all facets of the priority-setting partnership. This project was inspired by the James Lind Alliance (JLA) Priority Setting Partnership method, and a modified version was implemented based on JLA principles and methodology.

## **Results:**

The first survey was distributed to a purposive sample of 60 individuals. Twenty-three people responded and 127 potential research questions were submitted. Thematic analysis was applied to the survey responses, leading to the exclusion of duplicate, redundant, and out-of-scope questions. The resulting themes were organized into summary questions. The refined set comprised 31 unique questions. A literature search was conducted and the KLIFAD steering group including members of the public with lived experience of AUD were consulted to confirm the novelty of these questions, and questions considered to be already answered were removed. Subsequently, the 22 remaining unanswered questions were taken to a final workshop held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, involving ten patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) members and eight healthcare professionals, the latter including representatives of the British Association for the Study of the Liver (BASL), British Liver Trust (BLT), and the Centre for Ethnic Health Research (CEHR). During the workshop, the 22 unique questions underwent rigorous critical appraisal and were subjected to three rounds of ranking to ascertain the top 10 research priorities (**Table 1**).

## **Conclusions:**

Priorities were identified in the form of critically important unanswered questions. The top-ranked question seeks to understand how to engage both people from ethnic minorities and under-represented groups in alcohol addiction research. The second is to determine how best to provide mental health support for those with AUD. The third is to understand whether it is useful to increase education on alcohol awareness in different settings including schools and for frontline healthcare workers. Other questions covered topics including early diagnosis of liver disease in at-risk populations, and the development of effective strategies to mitigate the social stigma associated with AUD. This PSP has set the stage for researchers to formulate grant proposals, thereby addressing areas of unmet need and advancing care for individuals living with Alcohol Use Disorder and Alcohol-Related Liver Disease.

**Table 1:** Top 10 research prioritise in alcohol use disorder and alcohol-related liver disease

<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Research question</b>
1	What is the best way to engage people from minority ethnic groups or other under-represented groups in research about alcohol addiction?
2	What are the most effective ways to provide mental health/psychological support for those living with alcohol dependency?
3	Is it beneficial to have more education about alcohol awareness in schools, wider community settings and for all frontline healthcare workers?
4	What are the best ways of identifying alcohol-related liver disease, and how can early detection improve signposting to support and treatment services?
5	What are the best interventions for people with a combination of metabolic (e.g. obesity, diabetes) and alcohol risk factors for liver disease?
6	How do hormones, menopause, and ageing affect people living with alcohol-related difficulties? Do they impact recovery and what support do they need?
7	How effective are current care pathways for those living with alcohol dependency, and how well are they understood, navigated, and accessed by those needing support?
8	What is the best way to support people with alcohol-related difficulties, and what information and awareness would be helpful to them?
9	What are the social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors contributing to drinking behaviour, alcohol use and addiction?
10	What stigma and distrust is there across support and treatment services, and how can we tackle this?