

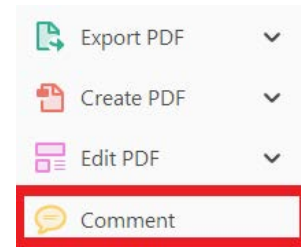
USING e-ANNOTATION TOOLS FOR ELECTRONIC PROOF CORRECTION

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Once you have Acrobat Reader open on your computer, click on the [Comment](#) tab (right-hand panel or under the Tools menu).


This will open up a ribbon panel at the top of the document. Using a tool will place a comment in the right-hand panel. The tools you will use for annotating your proof are shown below:



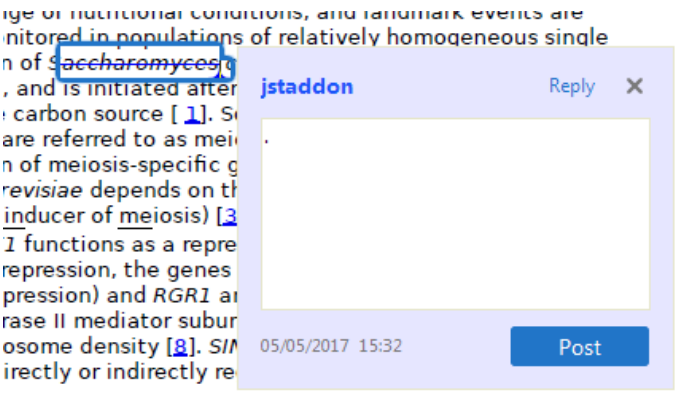
**1. Replace (Ins) Tool – for replacing text.**

 Strikes a line through text and opens up a text box where replacement text can be entered.


**How to use it:**

- Highlight a word or sentence.
- Click on .
- Type the replacement text into the blue box that appears.


*...age or nutritional conditions, and landmark events are monitored in populations of relatively homogeneous single n of **Saccharomyces**, and is initiated after carbon source [1]. Sporulation are referred to as meiosis of meiosis-specific genes in *S. cerevisiae* depends on the inducer of meiosis) [3]. I functions as a repressor repression, the genes RME1 (repression) and RGR1 (arase II mediator subunitosome density [8]. SIM directly or indirectly re*



**2. Strikethrough (Del) Tool – for deleting text.**

 Strikes a red line through text that is to be deleted.



**How to use it:**

- Highlight a word or sentence.
- Click on .
- The text will be struck out in red.



... experimental data if available. For ORFs to be had to meet all of the following criteria:

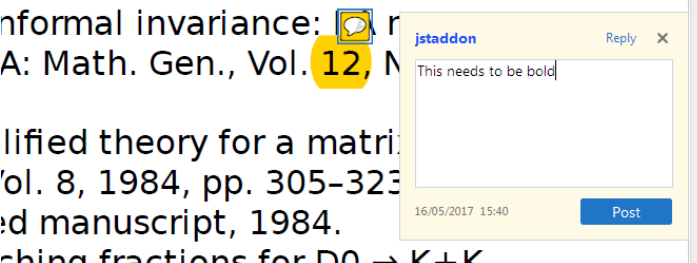
1. Small size (35-250 amino acids).
2. Absence of similarity to known proteins.
3. Absence of functional data which could not be the real overlapping gene.
4. Greater than 25% overlap at the N-terminal terminus with another coding feature; over both ends; or ORF containing a tRNA.

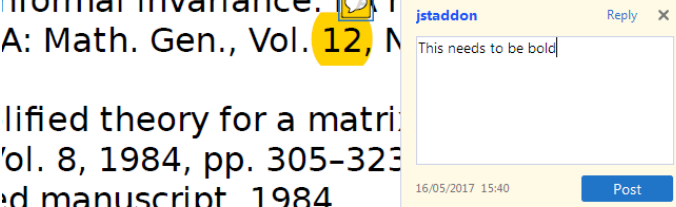
**3. Commenting Tool – for highlighting a section to be changed to bold or italic or for general comments.**

  Use these 2 tools to highlight the text where a comment is then made.


**How to use it:**

- Click on .
- Click and drag over the text you need to highlight for the comment you will add.
- Click on .
- Click close to the text you just highlighted.
- Type any instructions regarding the text to be altered into the box that appears.


...nformal invariance:  r  
A: Math. Gen., Vol. 12, M  
...lified theory for a matrix  
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


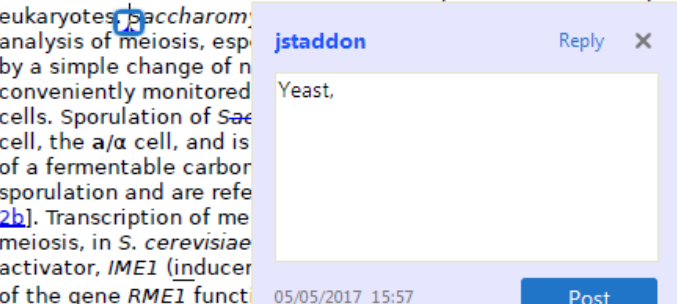
**4. Insert Tool – for inserting missing text at specific points in the text.**

 Marks an insertion point in the text and opens up a text box where comments can be entered.


**How to use it:**

- Click on .
- Click at the point in the proof where the comment should be inserted.
- Type the comment into the box that appears.


Meiosis has a central role in the sexual reproduction of nearly all eukaryotes.  *Saccharom* analysis of meiosis, especially by a simple change of conveniently monitored cells. Sporulation of *Sac* cell, the  $a/\alpha$  cell, and is of a fermentable carbon sporulation and are referred to [2b]. Transcription of meiosis, in *S. cerevisiae* activator, *IME1* (inducer of the gene *RME1* function Rme1p to exert repression of GAL1 gene expression) and *RGR1* are required [1, 2, 3, 4]. These genes are DNA-dependent RNA polymerase II-mediated subunits (RNAP II) which are



**5. Attach File Tool – for inserting large amounts of text or replacement figures.**

 Inserts an icon linking to the attached file in the appropriate place in the text.


**How to use it:**

- Click on .
- Click on the proof to where you'd like the attached file to be linked.
- Select the file to be attached from your computer or network.
- Select the colour and type of icon that will appear in the proof. Click OK.


The attachment appears in the right-hand panel.

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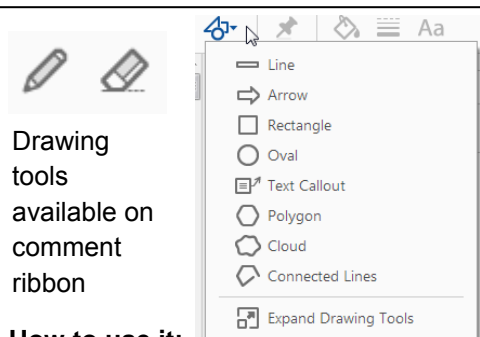
**6. Add stamp Tool – for approving a proof if no corrections are required.**

 Inserts a selected stamp onto an appropriate place in the proof.

**How to use it:**

- Click on .
- Select the stamp you want to use. (The **Approved** stamp is usually available directly in the menu that appears. Others are shown under *Dynamic*, *Sign Here*, *Standard Business*).
- Fill in any details and then click on the proof where you'd like the stamp to appear. (Where a proof is to be approved as it is, this would normally be on the first page).

of the business cycle, starting with the  
on perfect competition, constant ret  
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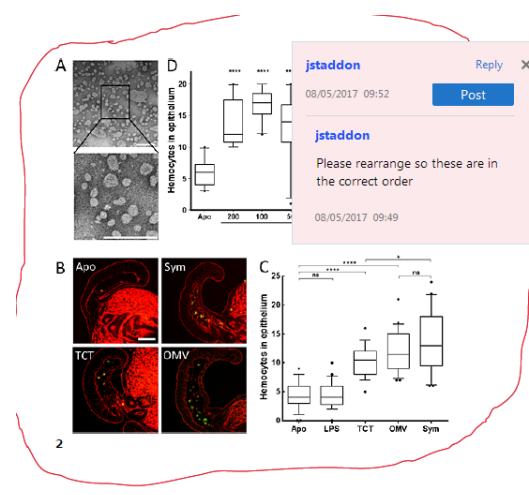


**How to use it:**

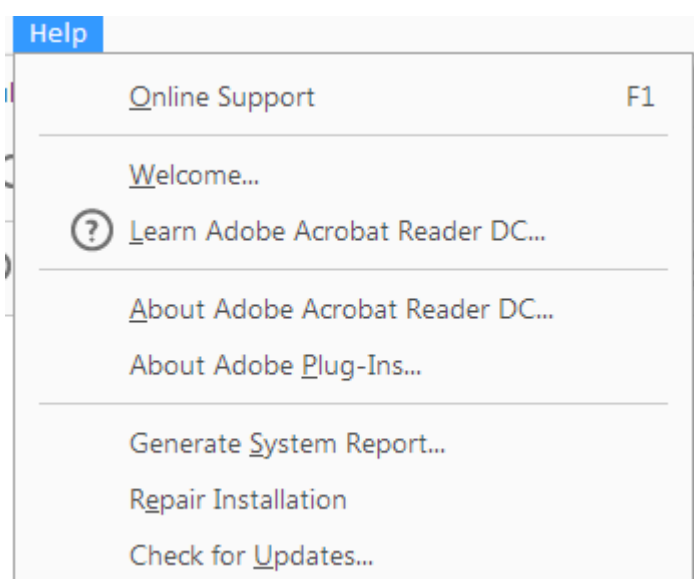
- Click on one of the shapes in the **Drawing Markups** section.
- Click on the proof at the relevant point and draw the selected shape with the cursor.
- To add a comment to the drawn shape, right-click on shape and select *Open Pop-up Note*.
- Type any text in the red box that appears.

**7. Drawing Markups Tools – for drawing shapes, lines, and freeform annotations on proofs and commenting on these marks.**

Allows shapes, lines, and freeform annotations to be drawn on proofs and for comments to be made on these marks.



For further information on how to annotate proofs, click on the **Help** menu to reveal a list of further options:



## Author Query Form

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**Journal: Journal of Intellectual Disability Research**

**Article: jir\_12500**

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- If you intend to annotate your proof electronically, please refer to the E-annotation guidelines.
- If you intend to annotate your proof by means of hard-copy mark-up, please use the standard proofing marks. If manually writing corrections on your proof and returning it by fax, do not write too close to the edge of the paper. Please remember that illegible mark-ups may delay publication.

Whether you opt for hard-copy or electronic annotation of your proofs, we recommend that you provide additional clarification of answers to queries by entering your answers on the query sheet, in addition to the text mark-up.

Query No.	Query	Remark
Q1	AUTHOR: Please provide the corresponding author's detailed address and salutation (e.g. Mr, Ms, Dr, Prof etc).	
Q2	AUTHOR: Please provide short title.	
Q3	AUTHOR: Please confirm that forenames/given names (red) and surnames/family names (green) have been identified correctly.	
Q4	AUTHOR: Please verify that the linked ORCID identifier is correct.	
Q5	AUTHOR: Please check that authors' affiliations are correct.	
Q6	AUTHOR: Please provide missing department for this affiliation.	
Q7	AUTHOR: Please provide missing department for this affiliation.	
Q8	AUTHOR: Please provide missing department for this affiliation.	
Q9	AUTHOR: Please provide missing department for this affiliation.	
Q11	AUTHOR: Please provide missing department for this affiliation.	
Q12	AUTHOR: Abstract in structured format is required. Please provide abstract with the following subheadings: Background, Method, Results, and Conclusions.	
Q13	AUTHOR: "The question before the Summit was..." This sentence has been reworded for clarity. Please check and confirm it is correct.	
Q14	AUTHOR: "The Summit recommended an investment..." This sentence has been reworded for clarity. Please check and confirm it is correct.	

Query No.	Query	Remark
Q15	AUTHOR: Please check that level headings are correct.	
Q16	AUTHOR: "other intellectual disability" has been changed to "other intellectual disabilities" and abbreviated as "other IDs" for consistency. Please check.	
Q17	AUTHOR: The citation "DeLeon & Reisberg, 1999" has been changed to "de Leon and Reisberg, 1999" to match the author name/date in the reference list. Please check if the change is fine in this occurrence and modify the subsequent occurrences, if necessary.	
Q18	AUTHOR: The citation "Reisberg, Ferris, deLeon, & Crook, 1982" has been changed to "Reisberg, Ferris, de Leon, and Crook, 1982" to match the author name/date in the reference list. Please check if the change is fine in this occurrence and modify the subsequent occurrences, if necessary.	
Q19	AUTHOR: The citation "Menendez, 2005" has been changed to "Menéndez, 2005" to match the author name/date in the reference list. Please check if the change is fine in this occurrence and modify the subsequent occurrences, if necessary.	
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Q21	AUTHOR: The citation "Visser, 1997" has been changed to "Visser et al., 1997" to match the author name/date in the reference list. Please check if the change is fine in this occurrence and modify the subsequent occurrences, if necessary.	
Q22	AUTHOR: "At the most basic level of screening and..." This sentence has been reworded for clarity. Please check and confirm it is correct.	
Q23	AUTHOR: The citation "Jokenin et al., 2013" has been changed to "Jokinen et al., 2013" to match the author name/date in the reference list. Please check if the change is fine in this occurrence and modify the subsequent occurrences, if necessary.	
Q24	AUTHOR: "There is even greater diagnostic uncertainty..." This sentence has been reworded for clarity. Please check and confirm it is correct.	
Q25	AUTHOR: "Precipitous decline and shorter duration of dementia add to..." This sentence has been reworded for clarity. Please check and confirm it is correct.	
Q26	AUTHOR: The citation "Nagdee, 2010" has been changed to "Nagdee, 2011" to match the author name/date in the reference	

Query No.	Query	Remark
	list. Please check if the change is fine in this occurrence and modify the subsequent occurrences, if necessary.	
Q27	AUTHOR: The citation "Zellinger et al., 2013" has been changed to "Zeilinger et al., 2013" to match the author name/date in the reference list. Please check if the change is fine in this occurrence and modify the subsequent occurrences, if necessary. Throughout the text.	
Q28	AUTHOR: There were two definitions provided for the abbreviation "FAST": "Functional Assessment Staging Tool" and "Functional Assessment Staging Test". "Functional Assessment Staging Tool" was used in this article as the definition for FAST. Please check.	
Q29	AUTHOR: "pain, chronic constipation, sensory impairments and oral and pharyngeal..." This sentence has been reworded for clarity. Please check and confirm it is correct.	
Q30	AUTHOR: Figure 1 caption/legend has been modified. Please check.	
Q31	AUTHOR: "The Summit agreed with and supports..." This sentence has been reworded for clarity. Please check and confirm it is correct.	
Q32	AUTHOR: Reference "World Health Organization 2002" is mentioned in the text but not in the reference list. Please provide full publication details in the reference list or delete the citation from the text.	
Q33	AUTHOR: "The Summit noted concerns related to..." This sentence has been reworded for clarity. Please check and confirm it is correct.	
Q34	AUTHOR: "Continued attention to systematic baseline screening..." This sentence has been reworded for clarity. Please check and confirm it is correct.	
Q35	AUTHOR: Please check the website address in references "Alzheimer's Australia n.d.", "Alzheimer's Society, 2017", "National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practice, 2012", and "World Health Organization, 2016" and confirm that it is correct.	
Q36	AUTHOR: Please supply the retrieved date for references "Alzheimer's Australia n.d.", "Alzheimer's Society, 2017", "National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practice, 2012", and "World Health Organization, 2016".	
Q37	AUTHOR: If reference de Leon & Reisberg, 1999 is not a one-page article, please supply the first and last pages.	
Q38	AUTHOR: If reference McCarron & Griffiths, 2003 is not a one-page article, please supply the first and last pages.	
Q39	AUTHOR: "McCarron et al, 2010" has not been cited in the text. Please indicate where it should be cited; or delete from the Reference List.	



# Supporting advanced dementia in people with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities: consensus statement of the International Summit on Intellectual Disability and Dementia

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## **Q12** Abstract

The International Summit on Intellectual Disability and Dementia (Glasgow, Scotland; October 2016) noted that advanced dementia can be categorised as that stage of dementia progression characterised by significant losses in cognitive and physical function, including a high probability of further deterioration

**Q13** and leading to death. The question before the Summit was whether there were similarities and differences in expressions of advanced dementia between adults with intellectual disability (ID) and adults in the general population.

The Summit noted challenges in the staging of advanced dementia in people with ID with the criteria in measures designed to stage dementia in the general population heavily weighted on notable impairment in activities of daily living. For many people with an ID, there is already dependence in these domains generally related to the individuals pre-existing level

of intellectual impairment, that is, totally unrelated to dementia. Hence, the Summit agreed that as was true in achieving diagnosis, it is also imperative in determining advanced dementia that change is measured from the person's prior functioning in combination with clinical impressions of continuing and marked decline and of increasing co-morbidity, including particular attention to late-onset epilepsy in people with Down syndrome. It was further noted that quality care planning must recognise the greater likelihood of physical symptoms, co-morbidities, immobility and neuropathological deterioration. The Summit recommended an investment in research **Q14** to more clearly identify measures of person-specific additional decline for ascertaining advanced dementia, inform practice guidelines to aid clinicians and service providers and identify specific markers that signal such additional decline and progression into advanced dementia among people with various levels of pre-existing intellectual impairment.

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**Keywords** assessment, carers, dementia, intervention

## Introduction

**Q15** As part of an invitational meeting (the International Summit on Intellectual Disability and Dementia held in Glasgow, Scotland, on 13–14 October 2016), attendees examined various dementia-related issues affecting people with ID and particularly those presenting with advanced dementia. Given that criteria-defined dementia is at times 2–5 times more common among some persons with an ID, with a shift in risk to younger age groups compared with the general population (Strydom *et al.* 2009), this topic was given special consideration.

Specifically, there was consideration of the characteristics of advanced dementia in adults with ID and of the similarities and differences in expressions of advanced dementia in adults in the general population and what differences were notable between adults subject to early-onset dementia (such as those with Down syndrome) and other aetiologies of ID. One challenge was to define what might be considered advanced dementia in adults with Down

**Q16** syndrome or other IDs and to examine the utility and/or usefulness of tools developed to identify stages of dementia in the general population. These considerations added to the Summit's outcomes, which resulted in a series of consensus statements and reports, including this statement on advanced dementia.

## Background

Adults with ID are as susceptible to Alzheimer's disease and other causes of dementia generally at the same rates as persons in the general population; however, adults with Down syndrome are at greater risk (Strydom *et al.* 2010), with many such adults showing symptoms of early onset in their late 40s or early 50s (Holland *et al.* 2000; Coppus *et al.* 2006; McCarron *et al.* 2014). People with ID who do not have a diagnosis of Down syndrome or people with ID from other aetiologies generally show onset symptoms at an age mirroring the general population. It is well established that diagnosing dementia in people with ID is more complex than in the general population due to varying levels of pre-existing intellectual impairment, communication difficulties and frequent staff turnover with a loss of informants with knowledge of the individual's level of

functioning, particularly in basic and instrumental activities of daily living (ADLs). One additional factor complicating identifying advanced dementia in people with Down syndrome and other IDs is the variations in innate cognitive functions and confusion over whether these deficits are a reflection of ID or of the progression of dementia.

## Advanced dementia

Dementia in an advanced stage is usually characterised as when progression proceeds to where significant losses in function are evident and where there is a high probability of further deterioration, leading to death (Alzheimer's Australia n.d.; Alzheimer's Society 2017). In most staging schemes, this latter stage generally signals extensive personal care by carers and can last up to 2.5 years (Reisberg **Q17** *et al.* 1982; de Leon & Reisberg 1999). In the general population, the clinical features of advanced stage dementia have been previously described as 'profound memory deficits (e.g. inability to recognise family), minimal verbal communication, loss of ambulatory abilities, the inability to perform activities of daily living, and urinary and fecal incontinence. The most common clinical complications are eating problems and infections, and these require management decisions' (p. 2534; Mitchell 2015). The clinical features of advanced dementia in people with Down syndrome and other IDs (as noted in Table 1) are similar to those described by Mitchell (2015). One important exception is that among adults with Down syndrome, rates of late-onset seizures may range up to 70–80% (Menéndez 2005; Crespel *et al.* 2007; McCarron *et al.* 2014).

## Determination of advanced dementia

The identification of the presence of dementia can be confounded by lack of knowledge among many health and social care professionals on the clinical presentation of dementia in people with ID and the applicability of commonly used standardised test instruments. At the most basic level of screening and establishing symptoms of dementia, instruments used in the general population, such as the Mini-Mental State Examination (Folstein *et al.* 1975) and assessment scales such as the Clinical Dementia Rating Scale (Morris 1993) and the Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale – Cognitive section (Rosen

**Table 1** Characteristics of advanced dementia for persons with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities

Neurocognitive	Progressive worsening memory Inability to verbally communicate Apathy – depression Confusion and disorientation (place, time and person) Delirium Unresponsiveness
Functional	Immobility with hypertonia Need for total assistance of ADLs Incontinence Frailty Weakness, fatigue
Nutritional	Loss of appetite Lack of ability to self-feed Swallowing difficulties Propensity to aspirate
Co-morbid conditions	Seizures in Down syndrome Constipation and complications of immobility Respiratory difficulties and repeat pneumonia

**Q21** **Q20** Sources: Visser *et al.* 1997; Cosgrave *et al.* 2000; McCarron *et al.* 2005, Prasher 2005; Coppus *et al.* 2008; Strydom *et al.* 2010; McCarron *et al.* 2014.  
ADLs, activities of daily living.

*et al.* 2004), are inappropriate for people with pre-existing cognitive impairment, as most people with even mild ID are likely to meet screening cut-off criteria for these instruments. Thus, most clinicians tend to turn to specialised instruments applicable to persons with Down syndrome and other IDs. A number of sources have identified the utility of a number of these specialty instruments (Aylward *et al.* 1997; Jokinen *et al.* 2013; British Psychological Society 2015).

Increasingly, it is recognised that diagnosing dementia in people with Down syndrome and other IDs is predicated on having an understanding of decline/change from the individual's previous level of functioning (see, e.g. Strydom & Hassiotis 2003). To increase diagnostic accuracy, it is important to have a reliable baseline measure of functioning and a key informant who has known the individual over an extended period of time. Unfortunately, baseline measurement of functioning is more often an exception rather than the norm, with frequent staff changes in out-of-home placements and lack of regular assessment in family situations often meaning

that there is poor knowledge, understanding or measurement of decline/change. This often results in the individual progressing to a more advanced stage of dementia before any diagnosis is made, further confounding difficulties in the staging of dementia. Moreover, dementia may present differentially within various syndromes or aetiologies of ID. For all of these reasons, the ability to ascertain advanced dementia will be improved if there is earlier and more comprehensive attention to the development of baseline functioning and the pursuit of earlier diagnosis so that there is a new time of diagnosis baseline established against which progression to advanced dementia can be measured and ascertained. The same measures now being more widely used and recommended in the diagnosis of dementia in people with Down syndrome and other IDs are likely to be the most sensitive to measuring such changes. However, clinical impressions and information from informants will also be important.

Standard neuroimaging such as computed tomography/magnetic resonance imaging scanning generally used to support diagnosis in the general population is less helpful in people with ID. The most consistent structural change of early Alzheimer's dementia in the general population is atrophy of the medial temporal lobe, but among people with Down syndrome, for example, medial temporal lobe atrophy occurs at an earlier age and is totally unrelated to dementia. Because of lack of standardisation in other syndromes, neuroimaging is of limited value to the diagnosis of dementia in people with ID (British Psychological Society 2015). All of these issues add additional complexity in diagnosing and staging of dementia in people with ID and make it difficult to recognise the transition across stages, including when the person has progressed to a more advanced stage.

There is even greater diagnostic uncertainty in older age as many adults with ID, especially those with Down syndrome, are also at increased risk of other health conditions that often mimic dementia and/or confound diagnosis such as hypothyroidism, sensory impairments, B12 and folate deficiency and depression (Prasher 2005). The presence of these conditions may further complicate staging diagnosis. As well as increased risk of earlier age of onset, syndromes associated with precocious aging (e.g. Cockayne, Sanfillipo and Williams syndromes) may mean a precipitous decline and shorter dementia



duration (Janicki, Henderson, Rubin, & the Neurodevelopmental Conditions Study Group 2008), although the literature on the prevalence of dementia in these 'orphan' syndromes is sparse.

**Q25** Precipitous decline and shorter duration of dementia add to the difficulty in staging. There are similar challenges with persons with ID who also have been diagnosed with head trauma or brain injury (Nagdee 2011).

The Summit, after a review of related anecdotal and clinical information, as well as research data, supports characterising late-stage or advanced-stage dementia into its neurocognitive, functional, nutritional and co-morbid health condition aspects. Data from a number of studies, including an Irish cohort of 77 women with Down syndrome followed over 20 years from pre-diagnosis to diagnosis to end-stage disease (McCarron *et al.* 2014; McCarron *et al.*, under review) and from other studies, for example Coppus *et al.* (2008), have confirmed the value of this approach to establishing advanced dementia.

The Summit noted increased interest in staging in light of the progressive nature of dementia and the need to tailor care, environments, work and day programming to changing needs (McCarron *et al.* 2002; McCarron & Griffiths 2003; NTG 2012; Jokinen *et al.* 2013). However, staging in the general population is based upon measurement of notable impairment of daily activities. For many people with ID, there is dependence in basic ADLs mostly due to the pre-existing ID and therefore decisions to change care due to advanced dementia must be informed by a more robust assessment of decline into advanced dementia. As is true for any assessment for people with Down syndrome and other IDs, it is important to focus on changes from the person's prior functioning and/or in new symptoms as compared with prior health status. For advanced dementia, these changes are from the functioning and the staging established at time of diagnosis. Again, decline and staging of dementia in this population appears best achieved by annual assessments (from the age of 40 in Down syndrome and from the age of 50 in people with other IDs) using scales recommended for persons with Down syndrome and other IDs (Aylward *et al.* 1997; **Q27** Zeilinger *et al.* 2013).

The Summit participants agreed that reliance upon information from informants as well as objective measures is always an issue in dementia diagnosis

(Cordell *et al.* 2013) but is particularly of concern for people with Down syndrome and other IDs who frequently have communication difficulties. The sensitivity of assessment instruments seeking information on changes to baseline functioning are also challenged by the subtleness of change (Mulryan *et al.* 2009). There is a growing history on the use of such instruments in people with Down syndrome and to some extent with other IDs, and insights have emerged on the strengths and weaknesses of available measures (for a review, see Strydom & Hassiotis 2003; Jokinen *et al.* 2013; Zeilinger *et al.* 2013). There is a need for a similar attention to instrumentation for the identifying progression into the later stages of dementia. One attempt to operationalise identifying possible progression to an end-of-life state in advanced dementia can be found in McCallion *et al.* (2017).

### Ascertaining advanced dementia

For the general population, there are recommended instruments for ascertaining the transition to advanced dementia (Sheehan 2012), such as the Global Deterioration Scale (Reisberg *et al.* 1982) and the Functional Assessment Staging Tool (FAST; see **Q28** stage 7; Reisberg 1988). These instruments combine clinical impressions with data on growing inability of the person to dress, prepare meals, eat and drink independently, walk without assistance, attend to personal hygiene, maintain continence of urine and stool and speak or meaningfully communicate. Clinical impressions are also called for in assessing people with Down syndrome and other IDs, but ADLs items have little utility in assessing advanced dementia in people with Down syndrome and other IDs, as many already have such challenges and deficits unrelated to dementia and instead characteristic of their pre-existing level of intellectual impairment.

The combination of existing life-long cognitive impairments among people with ID, along with compromises due to dementia, frequently mean that what would otherwise be considered relatively small changes in functioning in the general population could become major changes for a person with Down syndrome and other IDs, depending on their level of functioning.

Therefore, all of these factors have implications for the staging of dementia in people with Down

1 syndrome and other IDs using instruments such as  
 2 the Global Deterioration Scale and the FAST  
 3 validated for use in the general population. The pre-  
 4 existing difficulties apparent in many people with  
 5 Down syndrome and other IDs in relation to  
 6 communication, mobility and ADLs may mean these  
 7 instruments may prematurely categorise those adults  
 8 with ID as being at an advanced stage of dementia. By  
 9 way of illustration, data from one major study  
 10 (McCarron *et al.* 2011) showed that 92.2% of adults  
 11 with severe/profound ID with no dementia diagnosis  
 12 had difficulty in making themselves understood when  
 13 speaking, 78% required assistance with eating and  
 14 80% required assistance with dressing, items that  
 15 would cause them to be scored with advanced  
 16 dementia in dementia staging scales (they would  
 17 score as stage 6 of the FAST tool) used in the general  
 18 population. The use of standard ADL/instrumental  
 19 activities of daily living instruments if compared with  
 20 the person's own prior level of functioning as opposed  
 21 to scale norms may still be useful in assessing people  
 22 with Down syndrome and other IDs, even if the  
 23 resulting rates of change are small (Strydom &  
 24 Hassiotis 2003).

25 The Summit believes that it may be premature to  
 26 determine if the existing general population  
 27 instruments are of value or if new instruments or  
 28 criteria need to be established for people with Down  
 29 syndrome and other IDs. Instead, it may be of more  
 30 value to develop better understanding of the  
 31 presentation of stages of dementia, particularly  
 32 advanced dementia, in people with Down syndrome  
 33 and other IDs, in order to inform decisions about the  
 34 best measures to be used. The literature is more  
 35 developed for those with Down syndrome, and some  
 36 unique issues for this group such as early onset and a  
 37 clearer relationship with epilepsy are already  
 38 emerging. Nevertheless, the Summit participants also  
 39 believed that more research is needed in defining  
 40 behaviour and function in adults with ID in the later  
 41 stages of dementia and determining whether  
 42 differences in expression do in fact exist among  
 43 syndromes and whether, as a group, adults with  
 44 Down syndrome differ significantly in latter stage  
 45 expression from other adults with ID from other  
 46 aetiologies.

47 The Summit further supports that any use of  
 48 general population instruments for staging dementia  
 49 be informed by (1) a comparison with the person's

52 prior level of functioning at time of diagnosis, (2) a  
 53 recognition that small changes in functioning are  
 54 significant changes for people with ID and that (3)  
 55 there is a need to utilise key informant information to  
 56 monitor for symptoms of ill health that may be signs  
 57 of increased co-morbidity and frailty that coexist with  
 58 advanced dementia, (4) it is important to maintain  
 59 particular vigilance to identify such subtle changes  
 60 and (5) among adults with Down syndrome, special  
 61 attention should be paid to the development of new  
 62 late-onset seizures.

### 63 Developing responsive quality services 64

65 The Summit agrees that in advanced dementia, the  
 66 changes in functioning and the needs for support  
 67 often call for a shift in the focus of care management,  
 68 to increased attention to personal care and  
 69 resourcing of skilled nursing and medical support.  
 70 Care planning and resourcing must recognise the  
 71 greater likelihood of 72

- 73 • pain, chronic constipation, sensory impairments **Q29** 74
- 75 and oral and pharyngeal dysphasia with major 75
- 76 challenges with eating, drinking and difficulties 76
- 77 with swallowing; 77
- 78 • recurrent chest and urinary tract infections, ini- 78
- 79 tially difficult to recognise and which, leading to 79
- 80 treatable acute and re-occurring episodes of delir- 80
- 81 ium, may instead be misinterpreted as dementia 81
- 82 advancing; 82
- 83 • skin integrity and complications of immobility 83
- 84 concerns; and 84
- 85 • management needs for seizures and other co- 85
- 86 morbid health conditions such as hypothyroidism, 86
- 87 arthritis and diabetes (McCarron *et al.* 2002; 87
- 88 Prasher 2005; McCarron *et al.* 2017). 88

89 Consequently, the Summit contends that, more  
 90 practically, particularly in advanced dementia,  
 91 addressing the physical, emotional, psychological and  
 92 spiritual care needs of the person is imperative. The  
 93 dramatic and extensive changes in care needed  
 94 further emphasise the need for more accurate  
 95 establishment of when persons with Down syndrome  
 96 and other IDs are moving towards the advanced  
 97 dementia stage. A systematic approach is also needed  
 98 to support such assessments, and the Summit  
 99 acknowledges anecdotal support for using what has  
 100

- 1 **F1** been called the AFIRM framework (Fig. 1) (Irish  
2 Hospice Foundation 2015).
- 3 **Q31** The Summit agreed with and supports various  
4 consensus reports (e.g. World Health Organisation  
5 **Q32** 2002, 2016; McCarron 2009; Mitchell *et al.* 2009) that  
6 guided by understanding of futile and comfort care and  
7 person-centred, relationship-centred and palliative  
8 principles; care strategies that support effective  
9 and compassionate decision-making for persons with  
10 ID and advanced dementia should include
- 11 • Determining what is in the ‘best interest’ of the
  - 12 person in light of the terminal nature of dementia;
  - 13 • Establishing the intent of treatment and the po-
  - 14 tential for beneficial outcomes versus burden;
  - 15 • Recognising that care decisions are best deter-
  - 16 mined by care teams when they reflect the per-
  - 17 son’s wishes and family/friend input; and
  - 18 • Pursuing care management using a five-step pro-
  - 19 cess: (1) clarify the clinical situation, (2) establish
  - 20 primary goals of care, (3) present the treatment
  - 21 options and their risks and benefits, (4) weigh
  - 22 the options against values and preferences and
  - 23 (5) provide additional and ongoing support.

### 24 **Commentary**

- 25 **Q33** The Summit noted concerns related to identifying the  
26 transition to an advanced stage of dementia for  
27 persons with Down syndrome and other IDs. The  
28 Summit concluded that the advanced dementia stage  
29 is also an emotional and value-laden time

30 complicated by relationship bonds (staff as well as  
31 family) and conflicts and limited ability to know and  
32 understand the wishes of the person. Understanding  
33 that the person has arrived at or is approaching the  
34 advanced stage of dementia is important in  
35 determining and modifying recommended  
36 approaches to care. Having discussions about  
37 advanced dementia care is not a simple undertaking,  
38 and it requires all staff/family supporting the person to  
39 be able to acknowledge and understand the person’s  
40 level of understanding, their life history, their ability  
41 and involvement in life decisions prior to dementia  
42 and to agree on the stage of dementia arrived at  
43 (McCallion *et al.* 2017).

44 Advanced dementia may signal the last stage of  
45 neurodegeneration associated with dementia, but for  
46 adults with Down syndrome as well for those with  
47 other IDs, there remains imprecision in  
48 measurement. Further, as measurement improves,  
49 there may also be the capacity to offer responsive care  
50 practices, which aim to improve the quality of life and  
51 death for the person through the prevention and relief  
52 of suffering by means of early identification and  
53 impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and  
54 other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual  
55 (World Health Organisation 2016). Such  
56 considerations also led the Summit participants to  
57 make the following recommendations:

- 58 **I** Continued attention to systematic baseline **Q34**  
59 screening, assessment and follow-up of people  
60 with Down syndrome and other IDs using agreed  
61 standardised instruments;

62 **ACKNOWLEDGE** the person’s concerns or questions

63 **FIND** out what the person/staff and family knows about the condition

64 **IMMEDIATE** concern to be addressed by providing adequate information within the  
65 scope of your work

66 **RESPOND** to subsequent questions by providing accurate information within the scope  
67 of your work

68 **MEETING** suggested to review findings and to discuss concerns.

69 **Figure 1** AFIRM framework.

- 2 Compare the trajectory of dementia in people with Down syndrome to trajectories in people with ID from other aetiologies;
- 3 Undertake research to develop more valid and reliable instruments for assessing advanced dementia-related cognitive and physical deterioration among adults with Down syndrome and people with ID;
- 4 Develop practice guidelines and widespread related training and education to support quality care when adults with an ID have advanced dementia;
- 5 Identify additional markers and prognostication models that may help signal decline and progression into advanced dementia among people with various levels of pre-existing intellectual impairment.

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