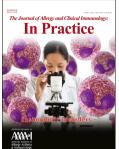
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#### Abstract 682

683 The traditional healthcare model is focused on diseases (medicine and natural science) and does not 684 acknowledge patients' resources and abilities to be experts in their own life based on their lived 685 experiences. Improving healthcare safety, quality and coordination, as well as quality of life, are 686 important aims in the care of patients with chronic conditions. Person-centred care needs to ensure that 687 people's values and preferences guide clinical decisions. This paper reviews current knowledge to 688 develop (i) digital care pathways for rhinitis and asthma multimorbidity and (ii) digitally-enabled 689 person-centred care (1). It combines all relevant research evidence, including the so-called real-world 690 evidence, with the ultimate goal to develop digitally-enabled, patient-centred care. The paper includes 691 (i) Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma (ARIA), a two-decade journey, (ii) 692 Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE), the evidence-693 based model of guidelines in airway diseases, (iii) mHealth impact on airway diseases, (iv) from 694 guidelines to digital care pathways, (v) embedding Planetary Health, (vi) novel classification of rhinitis 695 and asthma, (vi) embedding real-life data with population-based studies, (vii) the ARIA-EAACI strategy 696 for the management of airway diseases using digital biomarkers, (viii) Artificial Intelligence, (ix) the 697 development of digitally-enabled ARIA Person-Centred Care and (x) the political agenda. The ultimate 698 goal is to propose ARIA 2024 guidelines centred around the patient in order to make them more 699 applicable and sustainable.

700 

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704

705 Key words: ARIA, artificial intelligence, asthma, evidence-based medicine, person-centred care,

- 706 rhinitis, mHealth
- 707

#### **Abbreviations** 708

- 709 ACQ: Asthma Control Questionnaire
- 710 ACT: Asthma Control Test
- 711 AD: Atopic dermatitis
- 712 AHA: Active and Healthy Ageing
- 713 AIRWAYS-ICPs: Integrated Care Pathways for Airway Diseases
- 714 AIT: Allergen immunotherapy
- 715 AR: Allergic rhinitis
- 716 717 ARIA: Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma
- CARAT: Control of Allergic Rhinitis and Asthma Test
- 718 CSMS: Combined symptom-medication score
- 719 DCP: Digital care pathway
- 720 e-DASTHMA: Electronic daily control-medication score in asthma
- 721 EACCI: European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
- 722 EIP: European Innovation Partnership
- 723 GARD: Global Alliance against chronic Respiratory Diseases
- 724 GRADE: Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation

- 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 ICP: Integrated care pathway
- ICS: Inhaled Corticosteroids
- INCS: Intranasal corticosteroids
- LABA: Long-Acting Beta Agonists
- MACVIA: Contre les Maladies Chroniques pour un Vieillissement Actif
- MASK: Mobile Airways Sentinel networK
- MeDALL: Mechanisms of the Development of Allergy
- MPAzeFlu: Intra-nasal azelastine and fluticasone
- OAH: Oral H1-antihistamines
- OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- OTC: Over-the-counter
- PICO: Population, Interventions, Comparators and Outcomes
- RCT: Randomised controlled trials
- RNA: Ribonucleic acid
- RT-PCR: Real-time-polymerase chain reaction
- RWE: Real-world evidence
- SABA: Short-Acting Beta Agonists
- SCUAD: Severe Chronic Upper Airway Disease
- 740 741 742 743 744 SDM: Shared Decision Making
- UHC: Universal Health Coverage
- 745 VAS: Visual Analogue Scale
- 746 WHO: World Health Organization
- 747
- 748

### 749 Introduction

750 Allergic rhinitis (AR), caused by immunoglobulin E (IgE)-mediated reactions to inhaled allergens, is

- 751 one of the most common chronic conditions globally. (1) AR often occurs concomitantly with asthma
- 752 and conjunctivitis. AR impairs quality of life, affects social life, school and work, and is associated with

**753** substantial economic costs. (1, 2)

The Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma (ARIA) initiative classified AR into intermittent or persistent and mild or moderate/severe, as it proposed guidelines for AR and asthma multimorbidity. (3) Over the past 20 years, ARIA has evolved, with strong policy maker commitments, from the first multimorbidity guideline in respiratory diseases (3) to GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation) (4, 5) and next-generation guidelines enhancing the use of patient-centred data (person-centred care, real-world data) and chamber studies. (6)

Applying the GRADE methodology to appraise available evidence has considerably improved the understanding of AR treatment and guideline development. (4, 5, 7, 8) However, there is an increasing use as well as confusion regarding the role of the so-called real-world evidence (RWE) to inform the clinical practice on concerns about the applicability of results of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) with restricted inclusion criteria. (9)

765 Integrated Care Pathways for Airway Diseases (AIRWAYS-ICPs) (10) launched a collaboration to 766 develop multisectoral integrated care pathways (ICPs) for chronic respiratory diseases with a strategic 767 relevance to the European Union Health Strategy and the Digital Single Market. Initiated in 2013 under 768 the frame of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA, 769 Directorate General [DG] Santé & DG Connect), (10, 11) it was a GARD (Global Alliance against 770 chronic Respiratory Diseases, World Health Organization, WHO) Research Demonstration Project. (12, 771 13) MASK (Mobile Airways Sentinel network) was developed as the information technology (IT) 772 solution (14)deploy AIRWAYS-ICPs. (15)Digital Care Pathways (DCPs) to 773 employ digital technologies in ICPs.

774 The traditional healthcare model is focused on diseases (medicine and natural science) and does not 775 acknowledge patients' resources and abilities to be experts in their own life based on their lived 776 experiences and expectations. (16, 17) Improving healthcare safety, quality and coordination, as well as 777 health outcomes including quality of life, are important aims in the care of patients with chronic 778 conditions. Person-centred care needs to ensure that people's preferences, needs and values guide 779 clinical decisions. It provides care that is respectful of and responsive to patients and ensures that they 780 are empowered and involved in decision making. (18) Nine themes have been identified in person-781 centred care: (i) empathy, (ii) respect, (iii) engagement, (iv) relationship, (v) communication, (vi) shared

- decision making, (vii) holistic focus, (viii) individualised focus and (ix) coordinated care. (19) Digital
- tools are promoters for person-centred care practices in chronic care (20) but, alone, cannot achieve the
- ideals of person-centred care. (21) Politicians and policy makers have an increased interest in adopting
- and implementing person-centred care. (22, 23)

This global paper (Table E1) reviews the current knowledge to develop (i) DCPs for rhinitis and asthma
multimorbidity and (ii) digitally-enabled person-centred care (24) using the GRADE approach to
integrate both RCT and RWE. The ultimate goal is to develop guidelines centred around the patient in
order to make them more applicable.

**790** Some diseases have not been considered in this document (Table 1)

## 791 **1- ARIA: A two-decade journey**

ARIA was initiated during a WHO workshop in 1999. (3) It has evolved in six phases:

#### 793 Phase 1 (1999-2009):

- Development and update of an evidence-based document (37) to provide a guide for the diagnosis
   and management of AR and asthma multimorbidity by physicians (3, 38) and pharmacists. (39) A
   specific focus was placed on developing countries.
- Dissemination and implementation: ARIA has been translated into over 50 languages, disseminated
   and implemented in over 80 countries. (40)
- Update using the same evidence-based system. (37, 38)

#### 800 Phase 2 (2010-2016):

- ARIA was revised using the GRADE approach for assessing the strength of evidence underpinning
   recommendations. ARIA was one of the first guidelines to use GRADE Evidence-to-Decision (EtD)
   Frameworks. (4, 41) An update was published in 2017.(5)
- Deployment to policy makers. (42)

#### 805 Phase 3 (2016-2018):

- An algorithm (MACVIA: Contre les Maladies Chroniques pour un Vieillissement Actif) was
   devised (43) and digitalised (44) to step-up or step-down AR treatment based on control (Figures
   1A and 1B). (43) Algorithms require testing with RWE that includes RCTs and observational
   research with person-centred care. (45-47) A consensus refined the algorithm. (43)
- Implementation of mHealth tools for individualised and predictive medicine to develop ICPs for the
   management of AR and asthma by a multidisciplinary team centred on the needs of patients
   (MASK). (48-50)

## **813** • Initiation of MASK-air<sup>®</sup>.(48)

#### 814 Phase 4 (2018-2019):

- Digital transformation of health and care. (24)
- Change management to improve population health and provide well-being for rhinitis and asthma
   sufferers across the life cycle, irrespective of their gender, age or socio-economic status and with
   the overarching aim to reduce health and social inequities. (51)
- Development of MASK-air<sup>®</sup>, the ARIA app.

#### 820 Phase 5 (2019-2021):

- Next-generation guidelines for the AR pharmacologic treatment were developed using existing
   GRADE-based guidelines for the disease, RWE provided by mobile technology and additive studies
   (allergen chamber studies) to refine the MACVIA algorithm. (6)
- MASK-air<sup>®</sup>, a Good Practice of DG Health and Food Safety: Digitally-enabled, patient-centred
   care. (24, 52)
- Value-added medicine for the repurposing of AR medications. (53)
- High-Level Meeting (Finnish Presidency of the European Union [EU]) on Planetary Health. (54)

#### 828 Phase 6 (2022-)

- Participation in initiatives on Planetary Health with climate change (EU Horizon Europe grant
   CATALYSE 2022-7). (55)
- Bigitally-enabled, person-centred care including Next-Generation care pathways embedding RWE
   based on data with the GRADE evaluation of interventions.
- ARIA has participated in several EU or WHO projects and grants and European Academy of Allergyand Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Task Forces (Table E1).

## 835 2- GRADE, the evidence-based model of guidelines in airway 836 diseases

#### 837 **2-1- Strengths**

- To evaluate the confidence in the evidence underlying estimates of effects of interventions and to develop recommendations in guidelines, the GRADE (4, 5) methodology explicitly considers all types of study designs from RCTs to case reports, although guideline developers often restrict guidelines to RCTs. (56-58) For the formulation of recommendations on interventions, GRADE considers not only their benefits and harms, but also – and among others – patients' values and preferences, costs and costeffectiveness, acceptability and feasibility. The EtD of GRADE allows the evidence to be considered
- 844 on all of these criteria, based on which recommendations are formulated.

The ARIA revision 2016, (41) the US Practice Parameters 2017 (7) and three questions of the US Practice Parameters 2020 (8) used GRADE as their methodological approach. Interestingly, the same questions were considered and the results of these guidelines supported the MACVIA algorithm. (43) The ARIA revision was used as the case scenario on the review published on "How to interpret guidelines." (59)

In cluster-randomised trials, guideline-driven treatment was reported to be more effective than free treatment choice. (60, 61) Moreover, guidelines (in AR or asthma) have led to a better understanding of the treatment of the disease and have had an important teaching role which has led to a change in the management.(51) Evidence from direct patient data, however, suggests that guidelines are not sufficiently followed, possibly because they would need to be closer to patients' concerns.

## 855 2-2- Combining information from RCTs with real-world data studies

Applicability of the results of RCTs is restricted due to some serious issues (Table 2). (9)

857 There is an increasing trend to use person-centred care to inform the clinical practice, especially as
858 RCTs are often limited to the generalisability and applicability of results (62). The trade-off that is
859 made is one between risk of bias, primarily selection and confounding bias, and applicability. Ideally,
860 both types of evidence are merged in a way to reduce bias and increase applicability. (9)

## **3. The mHealth impact on airway diseases**

## 862 **3.1. mHealth in allergic diseases and asthma**

In order to select apps for rhinitis, a new approach to market research was based on the automatic
screening of the Apple App and Google Play stores using a Java Script. (63) Three apps were available
internationally and could be used in 2021 (Vienna Pollen, (64) AllergyMonitor (65, 66) and MASKair<sup>®</sup>). (67)

MASK-air<sup>®</sup> was developed to implement AIRWAYS-ICPs. It is an app centred around the patient (50)
and is operational in 27 countries and 19 languages (Annex 1). Around 35,000 users with AR and/or
asthma have been registered. MASK-air<sup>®</sup> has been classified as a Medical Device regulation Class IIa.
It is a Good Practice of DG Santé on digitally-enabled, patient-centred care. (24) It is also a Best Practice
of OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). MASK-air<sup>®</sup> data has enabled
large observational person-centred care studies, novel phenotype discovery and characterisation, (68)
as well as novel insights into the management of AR. (69-71) MASK-air has also allowed for the

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874 development and validation of the ARIA-EAACI combined symptom-medication score for allergic 875 diseases (CSMS) and a daily electronic asthma symptom-medication score (e-DASTHMA). (72)

877

#### 876 3.2. Messages from MASK-air<sup>®</sup> in rhinitis pertinent to guideline development

878 Several digital studies in up to 35,000 users (39,000 weeks with 6 or 7 days of reporting and over 5,000 879 months with over 26 days of reporting) in 27 countries enabled an assessment of AR treatments. (73) 880 Their results yield important observations that should be considered in the management of AR (Table 881 3).

882 The current medications for allergic rhinitis are centred around continuous long-term treatment, and 883 medication registration is based on RCTs carried out for a minimum of 14 days with adherence  $\geq$ 70%. 884 Similarly to the Global Initiative of Asthma (GINA) in asthma, a novel approach to treating allergic 885 rhinitis involves suggesting an as-needed treatment regimen based on the presence and severity of 886 symptoms, as opposed to the traditional continuous treatment approach. (53)

#### 3.3. Digital health in shared decision making 887

888 There is a complete disconnection between the physician's prescription and the patient's behaviour 889 for the treatment of pollen-induced AR. (69) The vast majority of allergists prescribe medications for 890 the entire season, recommending the patient to use them regularly, even on days with few symptoms. 891 Some allergists prescribe a pre-season treatment without clear evidence of efficacy. (74) On the other 892 hand, the vast majority of patients use their medications on demand, when their AR is not well 893 controlled. They do not follow the guidelines. (49, 50)

894 When physicians are patients themselves, they behave like patients when they treat their own AR and 895 do not follow the prescriptions they would usually recommend to their patients (75). Health literacy is 896 an important component of adherence to medications (76, 77), but, given the behaviour of allergists 897 as patients, it appears that other factors are also important. Human behaviour appears to be a major 898 driver of adherence.

899 The shift from a paternalistic model of health care to a doctor-patient relationship (in which the doctor 900 and patient make shared decisions (shared decision making (SDM))) requires an actively involved 901 patient who takes responsibilities. (78, 79) Rather than being passive, mHealth solutions provide the 902 opportunity for the patient to be an active participant in his/her health. (80, 81) Informed self-903 management is a crucial aspect of patient care in AR but, as evidenced by MASK-air<sup>®</sup>, most patients 904 do not adhere to the recommended treatment regimens. (69)

## 905 4. Use of Artificial Intelligence in guideline development

906 In the future, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is most likely to have an important impact on guideline
907 development. Currently, it is already adept at expediting the evidence synthesis and translating content:
908 between languages, but also generating plain language summaries. Used appropriately (e.g. using
909 Retrieval Augmented Generation), it can help patients navigate contents of the guidelines.

910 "ARIA 2024, we will use ChatGPT in two different ways for question generation: (i) we will prompt
911 ChatGPT to either assume the role of a patient or of a healthcare provider and provide relevant guideline
912 questions in the PICO format; (ii) we will retrieve popular queries on allergic rhinitis using Google
913 Trends and use ChatGPT to classify these queries into those conveying potentially relevant questions
914 versus those not conveying questions (queries identified as potentially conveying relevant questions will
915 then be manually transformed into guideline questions in the PICO format)." -

916 In the future, AI-based methods may be used to support the analysis of real-world data (including direct
917 patient data from MASK-air<sup>®</sup>), allowing the obtention of findings that may support the development of
918 guideline recommendations.

## 919 5. Patient values and preferences

920 Healthcare interventions typically result in benefits and harms. Patients' values and preferences concern 921 the relative importance patients place on specific benefits and harms. Taking them into account is 922 therefore essential for patient-centred guidelines. For example, in AR, antihistamines can lead to 923 reduced allergy symptoms (benefits) and to an increased risk of side effects (risks). In order to formulate 924 recommendations on antihistamines, we would need to consider the importance that patients attribute to 925 the possibility of having their nasal symptoms improved over the risk of having mild side effects. Values 926 and preferences can be quantitatively measured using different approaches, the most common of which 927 involving utilities. Given that values and preferences are one of the criteria of the GRADE EtD 928 framework, they will be considered in the context of the ARIA guidelines. In fact, a systematic review 929 on patients' values and preferences for health states in AR has been conducted .(82) The results of this 930 systematic review will be considered when judging the balance of effects when comparing different 931 interventions – for example, in the comparison between two equally-safe treatments, we will say that a 932 treatment that results in a greater improvement in nasal symptoms may be favored over another that 933 results in a greater improvement in ocular symptoms (as patients tend more often to rate nasal symptoms 934 as more important compared to ocular symptoms).

## 935 6. From guidelines to DCPs

936 ICPs are structured multidisciplinary care plans detailing the key steps of patient care (83). They 937 promote the translation of guideline recommendations into local protocols and their application to the 938 clinical practice. They may be of particular interest in patients with multimorbidities since guidelines 939 often fail to adequately address their specific needs and concerns. (84, 85) ICPs should be carried out 940 by a multidisciplinary team including physicians, pharmacists (86, 87) and allied healthcare 941 professionals. (88) ICPs should integrate recommendations from clinical practice guidelines, but they 942 usually (i) enhance recommendations by combining interventions, integrating quality assurance and (ii) 943 describe care coordination. Self-care and SDM are at the forefront of ICPs with the aim of empowering 944 patients and their (professional / lay) caregivers.

DCPs should incorporate all the steps of disease management in a multisectoral ICP using digital 945 946 technologies. In ARIA 2019-2022, several consensus documents have been produced for ICPs (15, 89, 947 90): ARIA in the pharmacy, (91-93) allergen immunotherapy (AIT) (94, 95) and Next-Generation 948 guidelines. (6) However, DCPs need to embed environmental triggers (96, 97) and extend their 949 recommendations to non-medical treatments. (98) Indoor and outdoor pollution is important to include 950 but it is not known whether air pollution increases the severity of AR and/or its prevalence. (99-101) 951 Biodiversity, climate change (102) and Planetary Health should also be considered (Figure 2). (54, 103-952 105)

## 953 7. Embedding Planetary Health and nature deficiency in the ARIA 954 framework

There is an urgent need to safeguard our planet and our health in line with the Helsinki declaration. (104, 106) To protect human health in the Anthropocene epoch, human health and the health of the Planet should go together. (107, 108) In AR, as in other chronic diseases, it is important to understand both its close connection to natural systems as well as how much AR care affects the health of the Planet. Nature (biodiversity) loss is the loss or decline of the state of nature. (109) A novel concept, nature deficiency, refers to nature loss in the human body influencing health. The urban-like environment and lifestyle have weakened the connection of the human body as an ecosystem to wider ecosystems.

ARIA has already been involved in these actions that now need to be deployed to citizens. *During the High-Level* meeting (Finnish Presidency of the EU and DG Research) on Planetary Health, (104, 106) *there was a session on MASK-air® in the frame of* Impact of air Pollution on Asthma and Rhinitis
(*POLLAR*). (54) *MASK-air® is one of the partners of a* new Horizon Europe grant, CATALYSE
(Climate Action to Advance HeaLthY Societies in Europe; grant agreement number 101057131). (55) *One of the CATALYSE aims is to develop* early warning systems and predictive models to improve the
effectiveness of adaptation strategies to climate change, including a specific tool for AR.

969 The ARIA 2024 guidelines will attempt to embed considerations of Planetary Health into guideline 970 development, by including it in the EtD framework for the formulation of recommendations. When 971 producing guideline recommendations, one aspects that will be taken into account will be how the 972 interventions fare in terms of their impact on planetary health. For example, for comparisons between 973 intranasal versus oral treatments, aspects such as the global warming potential and ozone depletion 974 potential of the different packaging types will be assessed. However, whilst we begin piloting this, the 975 methodological approaches necessary to embed Planetary Health into guidelines are under development. 976 (105)

977

## 978 8. Novel classification of rhinitis and asthma

979 Allergic diseases [asthma, AR and atopic dermatitis in early life (AD)] are associated with allergen-980 specific IgE and non-allergic mechanisms that may coexist. These diseases tend to cluster and patients 981 present concomitant or consecutive diseases (multimorbidity). Substantial clinical and immunological 982 differences exist between mono- and polysensitised subjects. (110, 111) The concept of "one-airway-983 one-disease", coined over 20 years ago, (3) is a simplistic approach of the links between upper- and 984 lower-airway allergic diseases. (112) Moreover:

- 985 The clinical observations that led to ARIA clearly indicated that only 30% of rhinitis patients suffer
   986 from asthma, whereas most patients with asthma suffer from rhinitis. (113, 114)
- 987 In birth and children's cohorts, mono- and polysensitisation to different allergens represent 988 expressions of distinct diseases. (115, 116) Compared to monosensitisation, polysensitisation was 989 linked to more robust global IgE response, disease phenotypes (rhinitis alone versus 990 asthma+rhinitis), symptoms and trajectories. Multimorbidity is partly independent of IgE 991 sensitisation, suggesting distinct causal (genomic and mechanistic) pathways. (117) There is an 992 association between IgE polysensitisation and multimorbidity including age of onset, number of 993 allergic multimorbidities (conjunctivitis and atopic dermatitis), severity of disease, (118) eosinophil 994 levels and total IgE levels.
- 995 MASK-air® The study showed that there is а multimorbid phenotype 996 (asthma+rhinitis+conjunctivitis) associated with more severe symptoms and a higher impact of 997 symptoms on work productivity compared to the observations with individual diseases. (68) This 998 phenotype was confirmed using rhinitis (119) or asthma (120) to perform cluster analyses.
- 999 These data were confirmed in canonical epidemiologic studies (121, 122). Rhinitis and
   1000 rhinoconjunctivitis are separate diseases. The extreme allergy phenotype including

asthma+rhinitis+conjunctivitis has been confirmed. (123-129) For all parameters studied,
 multimorbidity differs from asthma or rhinitis alone. In the French general population epidemiologic
 study Constances, participants with asthma+rhinitis had more severe symptoms than those with
 rhinitis alone as well as an earlier age of onset (129). This suggests that multimorbidity behaves
 differently than rhinitis alone.

1006 Genomic findings: Two methods (transcriptomics and RNA sequencing) yielded the same results in 1007 two different cohorts (Mechanisms of the Development of Allergy [MeDALL] and Epigenetic 1008 Variation and Childhood Asthma in Puerto Ricans [EVA-PR]): Multimorbidity was associated with 1009 seven genes of T2 signalling: IL5 (eosinophils) and IL33 (polysensitisation and eosinophilia). (130) 1010 27 genes were identified for rhinitis alone and included Toll-Like-Receptors (TLR) and IL-17. 1011 These studies suggest that rhinitis alone is a local IL-17-driven disease whereas T2-associated 1012 rhinitis+asthma are systemic IL-33-driven diseases. There are shared epigenetic patterns of allergic 1013 multimorbidities but, in children, these patterns were found only in rhinitis+asthma (and not in 1014 asthma alone).

There are therapeutic differences between patients with rhinitis and patients with rhinitis+asthma.
 Multimorbid patients more often reported a treatment with intranasal corticosteroids (INCS) and
 oral antihistamines (OAH) (129) which is associated with poor control. (71) In MASK-air<sup>®</sup>, the
 comedication pattern was associated with a poorer rhinitis control than in monotherapy. (73, 131)
 In the combined symptom-medication score, the distinction between rhinitis and asthma+rhinitis
 was clear with large effect sizes.

These studies lead to the recognition of two distinct diseases: rhinitis alone (local, IL-17 and TLR
 associated) and rhinitis+asthma (systemic, IL-33 associated) with almost no overlap. (112) This new
 classification needs to be integrated in guideline development, namely by providing – whenever justified
 – recommendations for patients with rhinitis alone *versus* rhinitis with asthma.

## **9. Real-life data from population-based studies**

Embedding MASK-air<sup>®</sup> data from general population studies allows the bridging of several fields in
order to assess the relevance of RCTs, observational studies, registries, research in the general
population and others. It appears to be particularly important to compare population and disease-specific
epidemiologic studies as an essential step for person-centred care (Figure 3).

## **1030 10.** The ARIA-EAACI strategy for the management of airway

## 1031 diseases using digital biomarkers

1032 Biomarkers for the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of asthma or rhinitis patients are urgently needed. 1033 Although some biologic biomarkers exist in specialist care for asthma (e.g. sputum eosinophils or 1034 fractional exhaled nitric oxide [FeNO]), they cannot be largely used in primary care. There are no 1035 validated biomarkers in rhinitis or allergen immunotherapy (AIT) that can be used in the clinical 1036 practice. The digital transformation of health and health care (including mHealth) places the patient at 1037 the centre of the health system and is likely to optimise the practice of allergy. ARIA and EAACI 1038 developed a Task Force aimed at proposing digital biomarkers that can be easily used for different 1039 purposes in AR and asthma and that form a bridge between the clinical practice, RCTs and allergen 1040 challenges. (132) Using the MASK-air<sup>®</sup> app as a model, a daily electronic CSMS for allergic diseases 1041 (133) and asthma (e-DASTHMA) (72) was embedded in a strategy similar to the diabetes approach for 1042 disease control. The potential implications for the management of allergic respiratory diseases were 1043 proposed (Table 4).

1044 In diabetes, two types of biomarkers are defined to monitor disease control. (134, 135) The daily control 1045 monitoring is assessed using glycemia measurement, and longer-term monitoring using glycated 1046 haemoglobin (HbA1c) measurement. It is recommended that both tests should be used to optimise 1047 diabetes management. By analogy with the diabetes approach, two types of patient-centred digital 1048 biomarkers are available for rhinitis and asthma:

1049 • Long-term monitoring using control scores (analogous to HbA1c measurement): CARAT (Control 1050 of Allergic Rhinitis and Asthma Test) (136-138) is proposed as it combines rhinitis and asthma 1051 control. Furthermore, there is a recall period of 4 weeks, whereas many other rhinitis (e.g., Allergic 1052 Rhinitis Control Test (139), Rhinitis Control Assessment Test (140)) or asthma (e.g., Asthma 1053 Control Questionnaire - ACQ,(141)) control questionnaires are based on a one-week recall period. 1054 The Asthma Control Test (ACT) is based on a 4-week period. (142) These questionnaires, 1055 however, do not fully capture the control in patients with fluctuating symptoms (particularly those 1056 with severe asthma).

Daily monitoring of the control (analogous to glycemia measurement): This can be measured using
 the ARIA-EAACI allergy CSMS (133) or the e-DASTHMA. (72)

## 1059 **11.Development of digitally-enabled ARIA Person-Centred Care**

1060 The development of guidelines according to the GRADE methodology involves a stepwise approach 1061 resulting in the formulation of recommendations for a set of selected questions. For ARIA, we propose 1062 the development of guidelines that are (i) digitally enabled, by formally integrating into the guideline 1063 development process real-life data obtained from mobile apps such as MASK-air<sup>®</sup> and from web 1064 searches, (ii) person-centred, by taking into account patients' values and preferences when issuing recommendations (as recommended by GRADE) and (iii) AI-assisted, by formally integrating largelanguage models (LLM) into the guideline development process (Figure 4).

## **1067 11.1. Generation and prioritisation of PICO questions (Step 1)**

1068

## 11.1.1 Question generation

Questions for the ARIA guidelines will follow the Population, Interventions, Comparators and
Outcomes (PICO) framework. In the first phase, questions to be considered by the panel members will
be:

- **1072 1- Questions developed for ARIA 2010** (4) **and 2016**. (5)
- **Questions suggested by panel members:** Panel members will suggest questions that have not
   been considered in ARIA 2010 or 2016, which may include some of the questions of the US practice
   parameters. (8)
- 3- Real-life data-driven questions: Studies based on MASK-air<sup>®</sup> data will be systematically assessed
   by two independent members of the methodology team. Additionally, AR-related popular queries
   will be obtained using Google Trends, as web searches may provide a glimpse into what is of most
   interest to internet users and, therefore, contribute to the development of patient-centred guidelines.
   Foreground questions will be developed based on (i) the hypotheses and conclusions in MASK air<sup>®</sup> studies and (ii) the search queries on Google Trends.
- 1082 4-AI-assisted questions: LLMs, namely ChatGPT (version 4.0., OpenAI, San Francisco, California), 1083 will be used for the generation of direct guideline questions (Sousa-Pinto et al., draft). Additionally, 1084 ChatGPT will be used to help with processing and classifying Google Trends queries. In detail, we 1085 will use ChatGPT in two different ways for question generation: (i) we will prompt ChatGPT to 1086 either assume the role of a patient or of a healthcare provider and provide relevant guideline 1087 questions in the PICO format; (ii) we will retrieve popular queries on allergic rhinitis using Google 1088 Trends and use ChatGPT to classify these queries into those conveying potentially relevant 1089 questions versus those not conveying questions (queries identified as potentially conveying 1090 relevant questions will then be manually transformed into guideline questions in the PICO format).
- 1091

A consensus meeting to review the set of proposed questions will be held before question prioritisation.

1092

## 11.1.2. Question prioritisation

Panel members will be asked to use a Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) to rate the priority of each question
on a scale of 1-9. The ratings will be reviewed by panel co-chairs and the results discussed in a panel
meeting. A consensus will then be reached with regards to the questions to be approached in the
guidelines.

1097

#### 11.1.3. Outcome generation and prioritisation

1098 The questions described previously will also include a list of potential patient-important outcomes 1099 identified by the co-chairs, panel suggestions and a systematic review of patients' values and preferences 1100 (Brozek *et al.*, submitted). Panel members will be asked to use a VAS to rate the priority of each 1101 outcome. To ensure that panel members envision the same outcome when discussing the evidence, we 1102 will develop health-outcome descriptors to create common definitions that describe the outcomes with 1103 respect to symptoms, time horizon, testing and treatment, and consequences (Vieira *et al.*, draft).

1104 1105

## 11.2. From evidence to recommendations and digitally-enabled ARIA Person-Centred Care (Steps 2 and 3)

For each of the prioritised guideline questions, new or updated systematic reviews of RCTs will be conducted to obtain the best available evidence. In the GRADE approach, incorporation of the best available evidence for the formulation of recommendations involves the use of the EtD framework. The EtD comprises 12 criteria (including, among others, the priority of the problem, benefits and harms, patients' values and preferences, resource use and cost-effectiveness, impact on health equity, feasibility and acceptability), enabling each prioritised question to be answered by the formulation of recommendations. When relevant, evidence from RCTs will be complemented by:

- evidence obtained by observational studies, including the Constances general population cohort or
   national health data.
- real-life direct patient data from MASK-air<sup>®</sup>: The database (currently 600,000 days) will be used to provide complementary evidence to the guideline questions, especially for subgroup analyses (e.g. considering patients with AR+asthma and AR without asthma), resource use, feasibility and acceptability of interventions. This aims to incorporate evidence more aligned with the actual experiences of patients in the decision-making process.
- Importantly, the EtD framework includes patients' values and preferences as one of the criteria for decision making. Therefore, we conducted a systematic review to synthesize and appraise all available evidence on patients' values and preferences for health outcomes associated with AR (Brozek et al., submitted), thereby allowing for panel members to issue recommendations aligned with patients' values and preferences.
- 1125

## 11.3. Consensus to develop the final ARIA 2024 recommendation

A consensus will be made using recommendations obtained from EtDs of RCTs and real-life data (Step
3). Importantly, the EtD framework includes patients' values and preferences as one of the criteria for
decision-making. Therefore, we conducted a systematic review to synthesize and appraise all available

evidence on patients' values and preferences for health outcomes associated with allergic rhinitis (82),
thereby allowing for panel members to issue recommendations which are aligned with patients' values
and preferences.

#### 1132 **11.4. ARIA covers all age groups (Steps 2b and 3b)**

As already done in ARIA 2010, special attention will be paid to children and old-age people, even
though the number of RCTs or RWE studies is relatively low. A special subgroup will assess this
important topic.

## 1136 **12. The political agenda**

1137 Current digital health tools such as MASK-air<sup>®</sup> were developed initially for rhinitis and asthma. 1138 However, the technology itself is generic and can be applied to other diseases (e.g. the Chronic Urticaria 1139 Self Evaluation [CRUSE] mobile app in urticaria). (143) The digital tool enables patients to be guided 1140 for an ICP to adapt the medication based on symptom load but also to allow better SDM. The success 1141 strongly depends on the patients' adherence, particularly among the elderly, to these digital tools.

1142 Building an alliance among patients, healthcare providers and policy makers is therefore essential for 1143 saving healthcare costs and providing better care for the patients. Healthcare providers or insurers could 1144 offer a financial reward to encourage patients with chronic disease to use digital health tools. Allergic 1145 diseases are the most frequent chronic diseases in the younger population of industrialised countries. It 1146 has been shown that up to €100 billion can be saved every year in socio-economic costs, mainly due to 1147 presenteeism, if patients are correctly treated. (2) Saving socio-economic costs will not only present a 1148 short-term benefit for the healthcare system but could also result in a strong benefit for society. 1149 Therefore, an urgent need also exists for support from policy makers to optimise patient care.

1150 Several policy-focused initiatives have been made in collaboration with ARIA. They include the Polish 1151 Presidency of the EU (2012: Prevention and control of childhood asthma and allergy in the EU from the 1152 public health point of view) (144), the Vilnius declaration (2019, Vilnius Declaration on chronic 1153 respiratory diseases: multisectoral care pathways embedding guided self-management, mHealth and air 1154 pollution in chronic respiratory diseases) (145), the Finnish Presidency of the EU (2019) Europe that 1155 protects) (54, 104, 106) and UCRAID (2023, Ukrainian Citizen and refugee electronic support in Respiratory diseases, Allergy, Immunology and Dermatology) (146). Moreover, MASK-air<sup>®</sup> is a Best 1156 1157 Practice of OECD (Organisation for economic co-operation and Development) for Public Health on 1158 integrated care for chronic diseases (147) and it has been endorsed by the ministries of health of Ukraine 1159 (2023) (146) and Poland (2024).

MASK-air<sup>®</sup> has recently been listed as one of the 13 OECD Best Practices of an integrated care model
of key strategic interest to policy makers. (148) UCRAID (Ukrainian Citizen and refugee electronic
support in Respiratory diseases, Allergy, Immunology and Dermatology), developed by ARIA and
UCARE (Urticaria Centers of Reference and Excellence), is under the auspices of the Ukraine Ministry
of Health as well as EAACI, the European Respiratory Society (ERS), the European Society of
Dermatologic Research (ESDR) and national societies. (146)

1166 A special effort needs to be undertaken to globalise the care pathways. The first ARIA report involved 1167 low and middle-income countries. (149) A specific group of members of developing countries will be 1168 involved in ARIA 2024. Smartphone ownership is growing rapidly around the world. In 2015, there were more than 7 billion mobile telephone subscriptions across the world, of which over 70% were in 1169 1170 low- or middle-income countries (150). The joint WHO-ITU (International Telecommunication Union) 1171 initiative "Be He@lthy, Be Mobile" for the prevention and management of noncommunicable diseases, 1172 their comorbidities and their risk factors, including improving disease diagnosis and tracking, is of 1173 significant importance. MASK-air<sup>®</sup> is one of the examples of the "Be He@lthy, Be Mobile" handbook 1174 on how to implement mBreatheFreely for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. (151) The 1175 ultimate goal of the initiative would be to propose a "Universal Health Coverage (UHC)", although this 1176 may be beyond the scope of ARIA 2024. (https://www.who.int/westernpacific/health*topics/detail/universal-health-coverage*) 1177

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# **Figure captions**

- Figure 1A: Management algorithm of untreated symptomatic patients using control (VAS) (from (31))
- Figure 1B: Management algorithm of treated symptomatic patients using control (VAS)
- Figure 2: Digital care pathways in rhinitis and asthma and the evidence ecosystem (from (2))
- Figure 3: Impact of the interaction between MASK-air and population studies
- Figure 4: Stepwise approach for the development of the ARIA 2024 recommendations

# Tables

### Table 1: Excluded diseases

Although **non-allergic rhinitis (NAR)** is very common and may be associated with AR, it cannot be considered in ARIA because (i) there are many distinct NAR diseases (25) and many phenotypes that may overlap and are still poorly defined (26). (ii) Although in clinical practice questionnaires (27) and treatments are proposed (28), many medications have been tested in RCTs and most were not effective, possibly because the NAR phenotypes were not characterized (29). Moreover, many trials have not been published because of lack of efficacy. In published trials, the effect of treatment is often insignificant (30), low, incomplete or found only in some types of NAR (31-34). Observational studies cannot be used in guideline development if NAR phenotypes are not considered. Well-conducted randomized controlled trials in different phenotypes of NAR are required to further advance our understanding of the effectiveness of treatments in NAR. Based on these limitations, a meta-analysis would be difficult to interpret and recommendations for NAR cannot be developed using the EtD (Evidence to Decision) GRADE method used in this document.

**Local allergy** is a well-characterized phenotype (35) and it was identified as a research question by the ARIA group. However, it was not prioritized since there is apparently no pharmacologic RCT in this IgE-mediated phenotype (36). Large-scale observational studies are also lacking.

Rhinosinusitis.

|                            | RCT                           | Putative problems  |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Severity/control           | The worst controlled patients | The recommendations may not apply to<br>patients with mild or partly controlled<br>symptoms which represent the largest<br>population of patients  |  |
| Patient selection criteria | Asthma usually excluded       | <ul> <li>Treatment differences exist in patients<br/>with rhinitis alone or rhinitis and asthma</li> <li>However, patients with uncontrolled<br/>disease may respond equally</li> <li>Do not consider the patient's experience<br/>with previous treatments</li> </ul> |  |
|                            | Other exclusion criteria      | Less than 10% of patients seen in primary care can be enrolled in RCTs (152)   |  |
| Adherence to treatment     | In most studies ≥ 70%         | Only a small subset of rhinitis patients is<br>adherent ≥70%   |  |

### Table 2: Some weaknesses of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of rhinitis interventions

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### Table 3: Patient-centred lessons in rhinitis provided by MASK-air<sup>®</sup> data

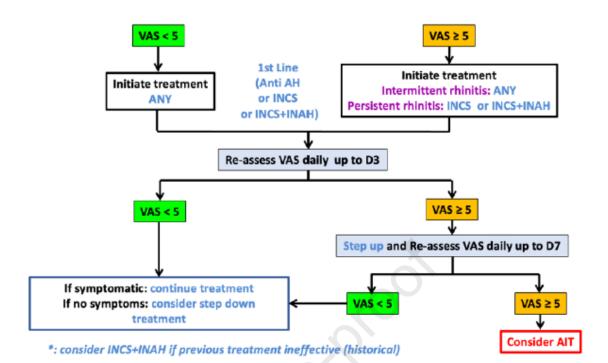
- Patients are poorly adherent to treatment. (153, 154)
- Most AR patients use on-demand treatment when they are sub-optimally controlled. This is suggested by the fact that days on which patients do not take medications are usually well-controlled. (153, 155) (69, 119, 156) Switching of treatment is common. (69, 119)
- The vast majority of patients do not follow the prescriptions of their physicians, who, often, do not follow guidelines. (153-155) Medication use peaked during the pollen season in all of the investigated European countries (156) whereas cultural behaviours assessed using Google Trends (157) differed. Oral antihistamines (OAH) were the most common medications reported in monotherapy and combined medications (comedication). This is against guideline recommendations and does not accord with the dispensing of medications (OTC and prescribed) in the pharmacy. (157)
- On most of the days with patients reporting a worse control, an increased number of medications is used (69-71, 73, 153, 155). This accords with the concept of SCUAD (Severe Chronic Upper Airway Disease). (158)
- Days with OAH monotherapy are associated with a poorer level of control than days with intranasal corticosteroid (INCS)-containing medications. Days with INCS are associated with a poorer control than those with azelastinefluticasone (MPAzeFlu). (153, 155) Days with co-medication use are associated with a poorer level of control than those reporting monotherapy. (69-71, 153, 155)

ournal

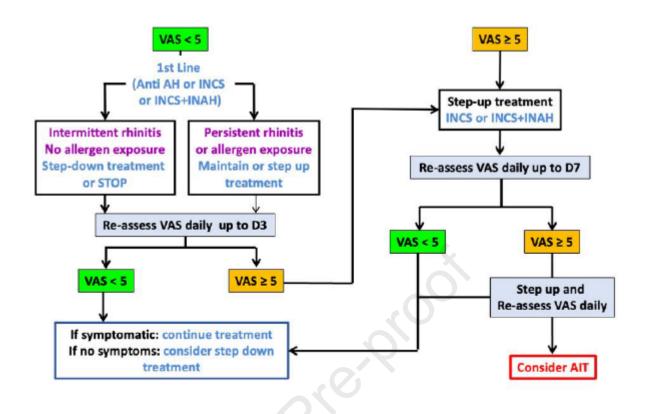
# Table 4: Potential implications of the allergy combined symptom-medication score (CSMS) (from Bousquet et al. (132))

### 1- Clinical practice

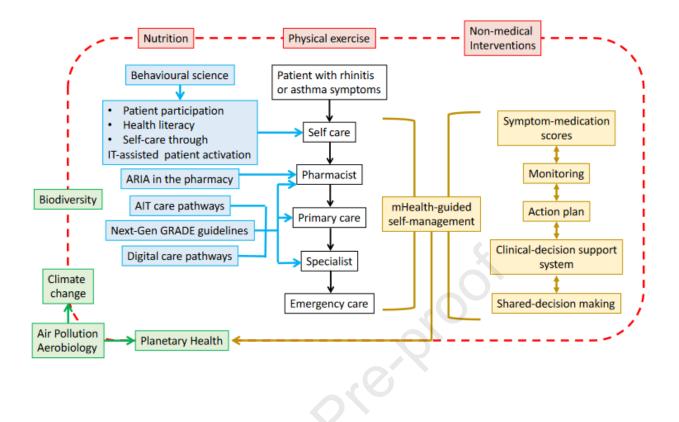
- Indication of a treatment in stratified patients.
- Follow-up of a treatment and early stopping rule.
- Follow-up of a treatment and regular review of efficacy.
- Follow-up of the patient when the treatment is stopped.
- Re-introduction and follow-up of the treatment in patients who relapsed.
- 2- **Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs):** mHealth biomarkers are currently exploratory endpoints but may become primary end points mimicking real life after validation.
- 3- **Observational studies** can triangulate RCTs and make a link with the clinical practice.
- 4- Direct-patient data (Real-world data) are the data relating to patient health status and/or the delivery of health care routinely collected from a variety of sources including apps. This data can be obtained by performing large simple trials and pragmatic clinical trials.
- 5- Epidemiologic studies will use the same approach to better relate RCTs and the clinical practice.
- 6- Allergen challenge can triangulate RCTs and make a link with the clinical practice.



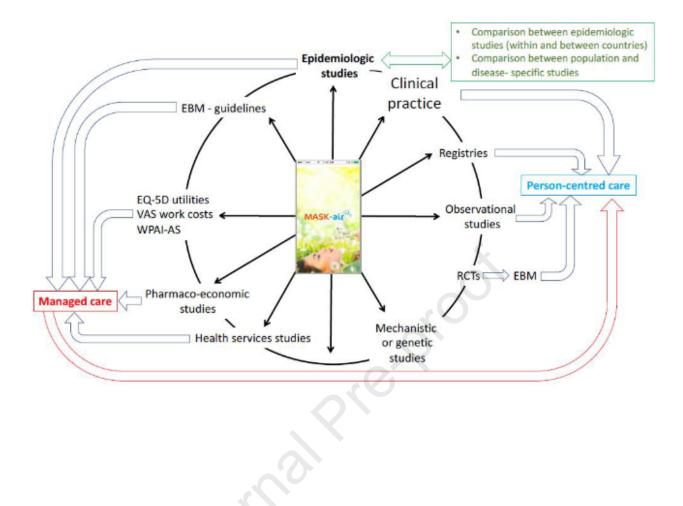
AH: H1-anti-histamine INAH: Intra-nasal H1-anti-histamine INCS: Intra-nasal corticosteroid AIT: Allergen immunotherapy VAS: Visual analogue scale



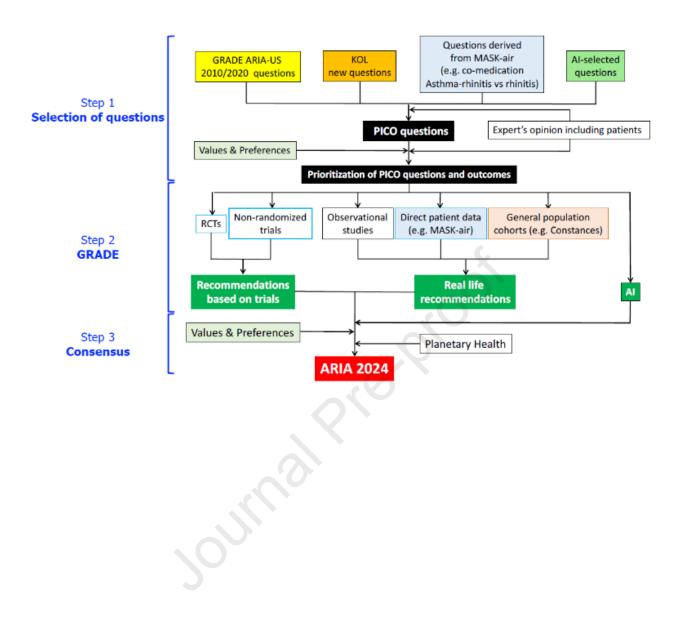
AH: H1-anti-histamine INAH: Intra-nasal H1-anti-histamine INCS: Intra-nasal corticosteroid AIT: Allergen immunotherapy VAS: Visual analogue scale



#### Journal Pre-proof







|                      | Acronym & ref   | Name   | Dates        |  |  |
|----------------------|---|--|--------------|--|--|
| wн                   | O-associated pro  | jects  |              |  |  |
|                      | ARIA (E2-E6)  | Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma   | 1999-        |  |  |
|                      | WHO Collaborating   | Center for Asthma and Rhinitis (Montpellier)   | 2004-14      |  |  |
|                      | GARD (E7)   | Global Alliance against chronic Respiratory Diseases, demonstration project  | 2003-23      |  |  |
|                      | WHO-ITU (E8)  | "Be He@Ithy, Be Mobile" handbook on asthma and COPD  | 2017         |  |  |
| EU                   | grants and projec   | ts   |              |  |  |
|                      | GA <sup>2</sup> LEN (E9)  | Global Allergy and Asthma European Network (FP6)   | 2004-        |  |  |
|                      | MeDALL (E10,  | Mechanisms of the Development of Allergy (FP7)   | 2009-14      |  |  |
|                      | E11)<br>EIP on AHA (E12)  | European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (DG Santé & CONNECT)  | 2012-20      |  |  |
|                      | Joint Research Center (JRC) Scientific and Policy Reports on Strategic Intelligence Monitor on Personal<br>Health Systems Phase 3 (SIMPHS3) (E13) |  |              |  |  |
|                      | MACVIA (E14)  | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF-Région Languedoc-Roussillon)  | 2016-7       |  |  |
|                      | Twinning (E15)  | Transfer of Innovation (DG Santé & CONNECT)  | 2017-9       |  |  |
|                      | DHE Twinning<br>(E16)   | Transfer of innovation in severe asthma (H2020)  | 2019-20      |  |  |
|                      | POLLAR (E17, E18)   | Impact of air Pollution on Asthma and Rhinitis (EIT Health)  | 2018-9       |  |  |
|                      | CATALYSE (E19)  | Climate change (Horizon Europe)  | 2022-        |  |  |
|                      | MASK@PACA   | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF-Région PACA)  | 2021-2       |  |  |
| Good Practice DG San |   | anté on digital health (DG Santé) (E20)  | 2018         |  |  |
|                      | Best Practice OECD-   | DG Santé (E21)   | 2023         |  |  |
| ARI                  | A-EAACI Task For  | ces and projects   |              |  |  |
|                      | Combined symptom-medication scores for allergic rhinitis (CSMS) (E22)   |  | 2021         |  |  |
|                      | Digital biomarkers in   | n rhinitis and asthma including electronic daily symptom-control score in asthma (e-   | 2022         |  |  |
|                      | DASTHMA) (E23, E2   |  | 2022         |  |  |
|                      | -   | n allergen immunotherapy (in press)  | 2023<br>2023 |  |  |
|                      |   | UCRAID (Ukrainian Citizen and refugee electronic support in Respiratory diseases, Allergy, Immunology and Dermatology) (E25) |              |  |  |
|                      | INTERAID (International travel electronic support in Respiratory, Allergy, Immunology and Dermatology)  |  |              |  |  |

### Table E1: ARIA strategic overview (updated from (E1))

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