

# Accelerating ALS Drug Approval using Digital Health Technologies: Findings from the ADDS 2025 ALS Workshop [Poster ID: 44]

Rakesh Pilkar<sup>1</sup>, Nadia Sethi<sup>2</sup>, Fernando Vieira<sup>3</sup>, Marcin Straczek<sup>4</sup>, Katherine M. Burke<sup>5</sup>, Cory Holdom<sup>6</sup>, Collin Hovinga<sup>7</sup>, Sanjay Chandriani<sup>8</sup>, Frederik J Steyn<sup>9</sup>, Christine Guo<sup>1</sup>

1. Ametris, LLC, Pensacola, Florida, USA; 2. North Star ALS, Santa Barbara, CA, USA; 3. ALS Therapy Development Institute, Watertown, MA, USA; 4. Department of Measurement and Electronics, AGH University of Krakow, Krakow, Poland; 5. Neurological Clinical Research Institute and Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS, MA, USA; 6. Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, The University of Queensland, Australia; 7. Critical Path Institute, Tucson, AZ, USA; 8. Trace Neuroscience, South San Francisco, CA, USA; 9. School of Biomedical Sciences, The University of Queensland, Australia

## INTRODUCTION

### AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS)

- A devastating, incurable neurodegenerative disease with an urgent need for **effective treatments and therapies**.
- Despite extensive research, recent ALS drug development has faced significant setbacks, with multiple late-stage clinical trials failing to demonstrate meaningful efficacy.
- A contributor is the continued reliance on insensitive and variable outcome measures that are not patient-validated.

### WHAT WE NEED

- There **is an urgent need** for more sensitive, patient-centric and objective measures of disease progression and treatment effect.
- Sensitive measures in early-stage trials can provide **early evidence of treatment effect**, encouraging investment for further development.

### WHAT WE DID

- The ActiGraph Digital Data Summit (ADDS) 2025 ALS workshop brought together experts from academia, industry, regulatory agencies, and patient advocacy groups.
- Objective** -to explore how digital health technologies (DHTs), specifically actigraphy-based measures can accelerate ALS drug development and approval.

## METHODS

**PRESENTATIONS, ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS, WHITEBOARD ACTIVITIES** exploring **patient perspectives**, and the current state of **ALS drug development**, identifying **evidence gaps**, **patient-centered outcomes**, **digital measures**, **industry adoption challenges** and potential **regulatory pathways** for drug approvals.

**THE AGENDA** was structured into three thematic sessions

- Current Measurement Tools and Clinical Trial Use Cases
- Novel Digital Tools and Industry Adoption
- Evidence Generation and Regulatory Readiness



Fig. 1. ActiGraph Digital Data Summit (ADDS) 2025 at ActiGraph HQs in Pensacola, FL

## DISCUSSION

### PATIENT PERSPECTIVES

The survey demonstrated:

- HIGH DEGREE OF WILLINGNESS** to incorporate actigraphy into daily life
- ALL** open to wearing one or more device.
  - 76%** willing to wear devices all day.
  - 32%** willing to wear three or more devices
- Patients are more likely to show interest in actigraphy if it would **REDUCE IN-PERSON VISITS**
- Access to **REAL-TIME DATA** would help make decisions around care (83%) and may definitely/possibly improve quality of life (77%).
- 65%** thought that measures of actigraphy will help identify periods of fatigue or pain.

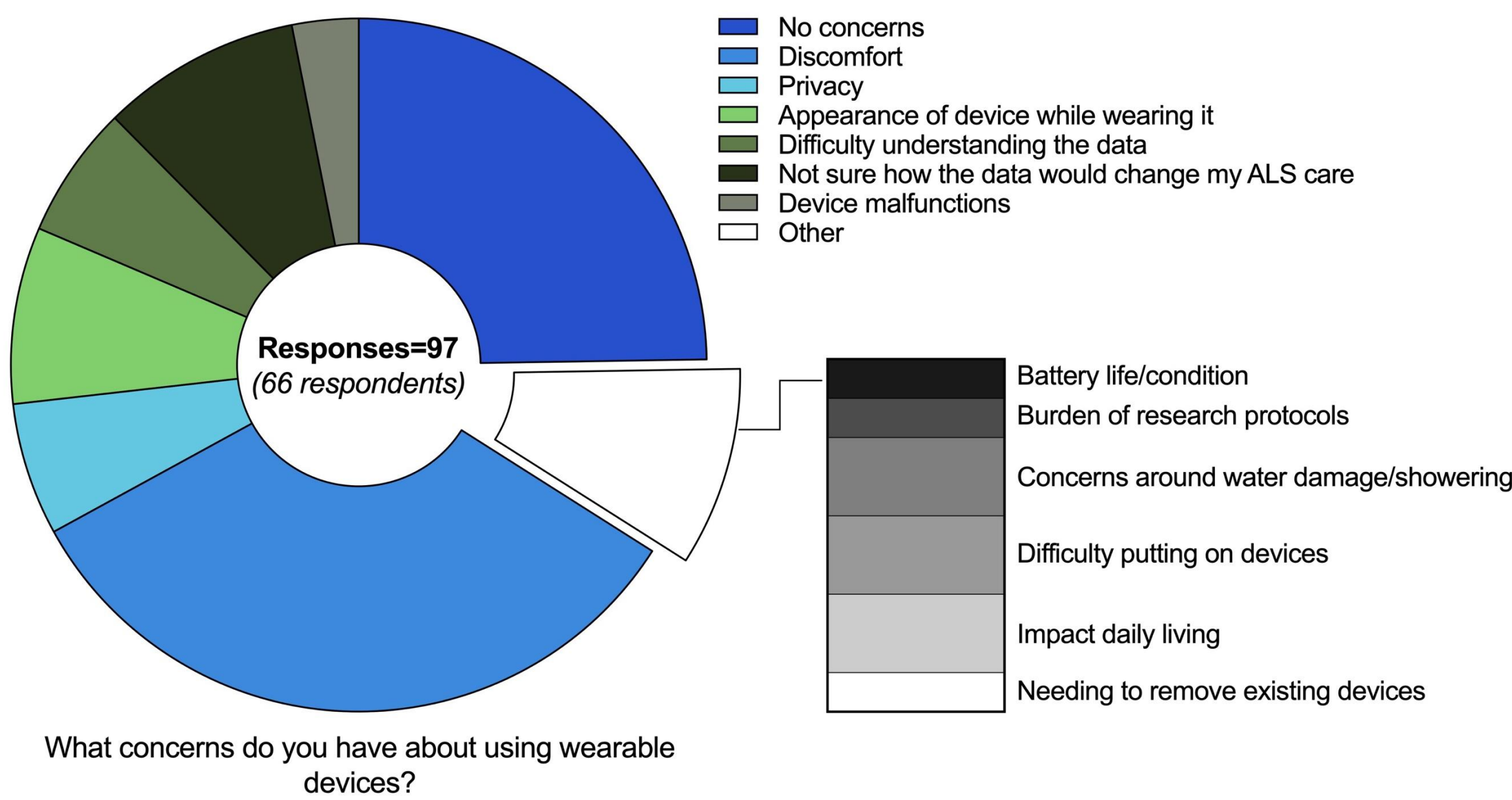


Fig. 2. Patient responses guiding feasibility and acceptance of DHTs in ALS

**48%** of patients with ALS identified comfort as a concern. **36%** reported no wearability concerns, affirming the feasibility and acceptability of actigraphy from a patient perspective.

### EVIDENCE GENERATION AND REGULATORY READINESS

Table 1. Evidence generation requirements for sponsor buy-ins and regulatory acceptance

| Evidence Needed                                                   | Sponsors' buy-in | Regulatory acceptance as surrogate biomarkers or intermediate clinical endpoint (Accelerated approval) | Regulatory acceptance as a primary or secondary endpoint (Full approval) | Priority |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Improved sensitivity over the ALSFRS-R                            | X                |                                                                                                        | X                                                                        | High     |
| Strong measurement properties (low variability, high reliability) | X                | X                                                                                                      | X                                                                        | High     |
| Correlations with clinical scales (construct validity)            | X                | X                                                                                                      | X                                                                        | High     |
| Ability to detect treatment effect                                | X                | X                                                                                                      | X                                                                        | High     |
| Precedence of success in other studies                            | X                |                                                                                                        |                                                                          | Moderate |
| Prioritizing a measure or two over many                           | X                |                                                                                                        |                                                                          | Moderate |
| Encouragement from regulatory bodies                              | X                |                                                                                                        |                                                                          | Moderate |
| Explicitly defined measure                                        |                  |                                                                                                        | X                                                                        | Moderate |
| Prognostic value                                                  |                  | X                                                                                                      |                                                                          | Low      |

### PROPOSED STAKEHOLDER CONTRIBUTIONS ACROSS DIGITAL BIOMARKER DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE

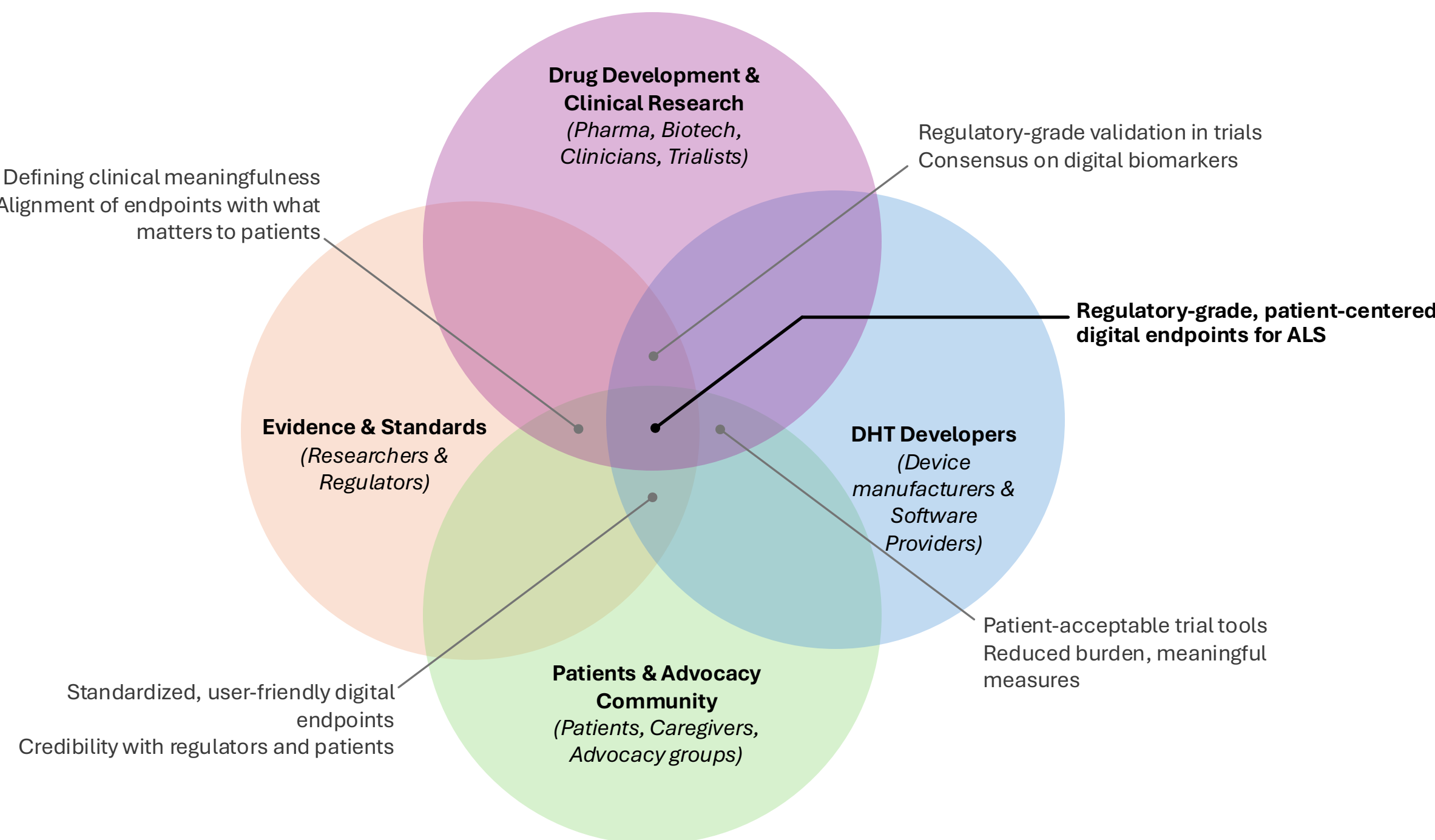


Fig. 4. Proposed stakeholder contributions across the digital biomarker development landscape

### CURRENT MEASUREMENT TOOLS AND THE WISHLIST

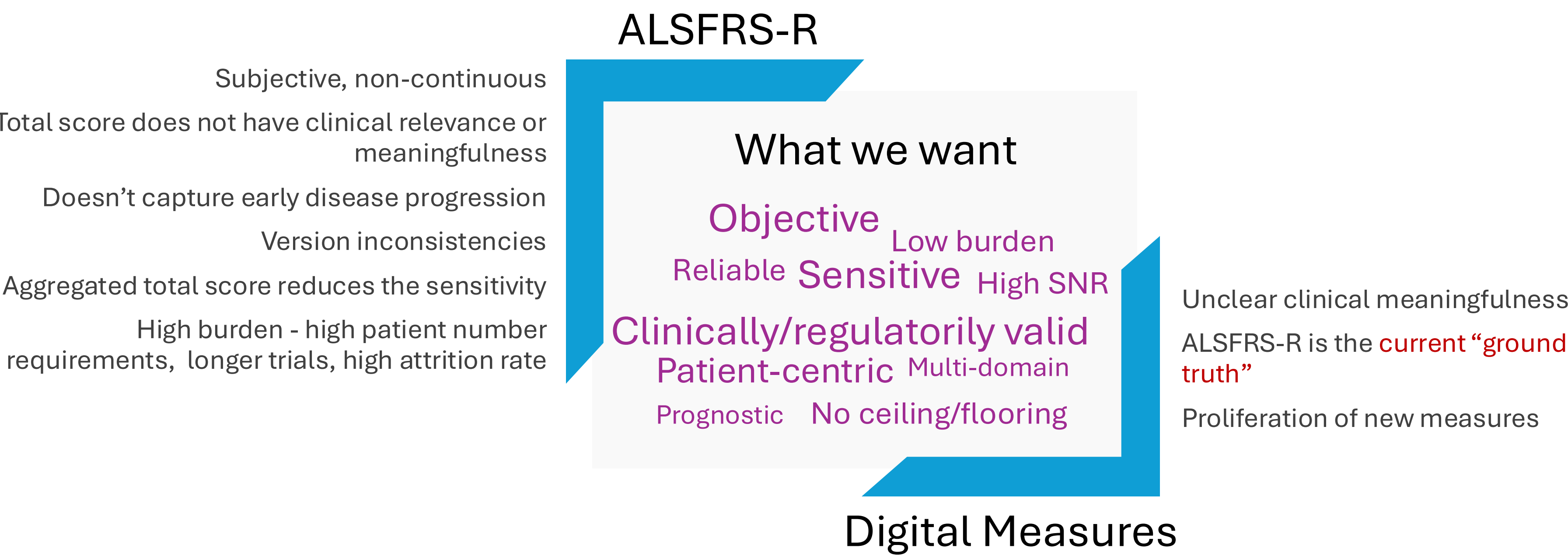


Fig. 3. Highlights of current measurement tools, their limitations and what the future measures should look like



Correspondence: rakesh.pilkar@ametris.com

### References:

- Van Eijk, R. P. A., De Jongh, A. D., Nikolakopoulos, S., McDermott, C. J., Eijkemans, M. J. C., Roes, K. C. B., & Van Den Berg, L. H. (2021). An old friend who has overstayed their welcome: The ALSFRS-R total score as primary endpoint for ALS clinical trials. *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Degeneration*, 22(3-4), 300-307.
- Petrov, D., Mansfield, C., Moussy, A., & Hermine, O. (2017). ALS Clinical Trials Review: 20 Years of Failure. Are We Any Closer to Registering a New Treatment? *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnagi.2017.00068>
- Ferrer. (2024, October 1). *Ferrer reports top-line results from Phase III ADORE study in ALS*. <https://www.ferrer.com/en/results-study-ADORE-ALS>
- TUDCA ALS. (2024, March 27). *The TUDCA-ALS consortium announces top-line results from the European phase 3 clinical trial of TUDCA in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)*. <https://www.tudca.eu/top-line-results-announcement/>
- Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative. (2022, April 6). *Regulatory Engagement Opportunities when Developing Digitally Derived Endpoints*. Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative. <https://ctti-clinicaltrials.org/topics/mobile/developing-novel-endpoints/quick-reference-guide-to-processes-for-interacting-with-the-fda-regarding-novel-endpoint-development/>