The International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI) was founded in 2013 with the goal of developing new global standardised terminology and definitions to describe texture modified foods and thickened liquids used for individuals with dysphagia of all ages, in all care settings, and all cultures. This poster describes the process used to arrive at the new IDDSI terminological framework, which was launched in September, 2015. Full details of the framework can be accessed at www.iddsi.org.

IDDSI Task Force Process
1. Scoping the challenge (see IDDSI resources on the right)
A review of existing standards clearly illustrated the need for new standardised terminology.

2. Practice Survey
An international survey of >2000 health professionals, food service professionals, people with dysphagia, caregivers, care organisations, researchers and industry partners identified widespread confusion regarding existing terminology.

3. Systematic Review (see IDDSI resources on the right)
An extensive review of existing literature identified what is known about the influence of food texture and liquid consistency on oral processing and swallowing behaviours.

4. Framework Development
Draft descriptors of texture and flow behaviour were developed at a consensus meeting involving sampling and testing of a large number of products.

5. Stakeholder Consultation
A survey of >3100 individuals in 57 countries around the world showed overwhelmingly positive feedback to the proposed framework. Specific responses were used to guide framework refinement for official launch.

Conclusions
An international framework for standardised classification of texture modified foods and liquids has been completed. A review of existing standards, available evidence and collaborative efforts with stakeholder groups has resulted in a framework that is culturally sensitive, measurable and applicable to individuals of all age groups in all care settings.

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