

**British Society for Microbial Technology Symposium**  
**“Topics in Microbiology – Join the Grapevine”**  
**12 May 2017**

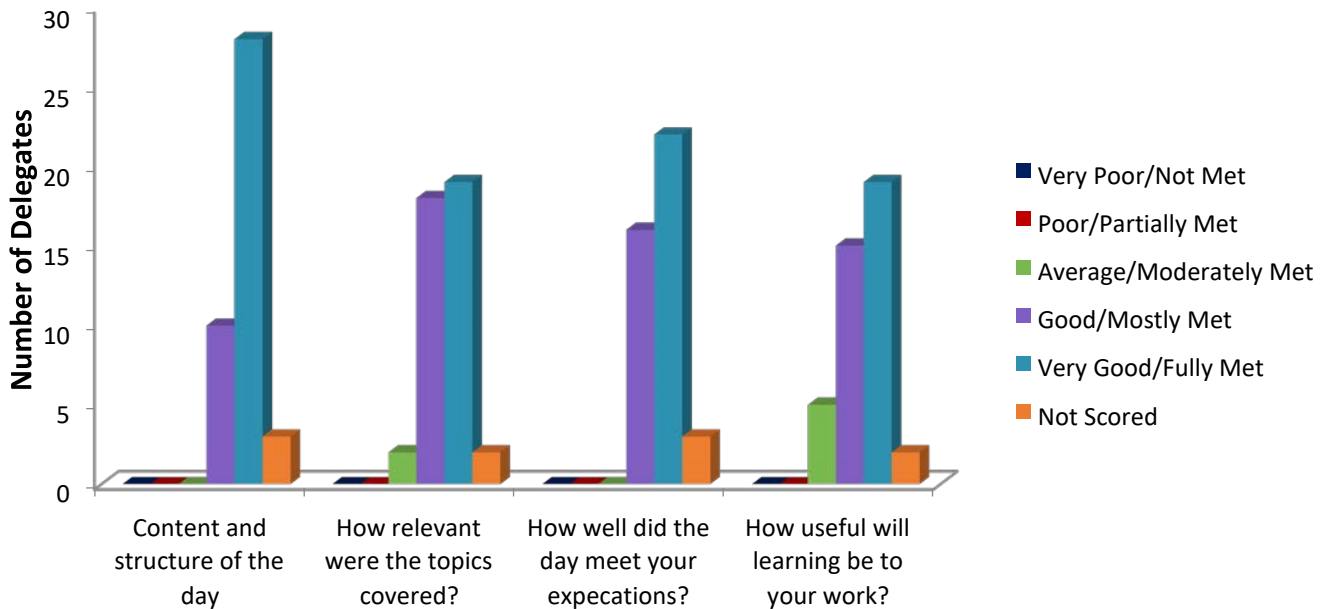
**Evaluation Report**  
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A total of 134 delegates (including committee members, speakers and guests) attended the BSMT Annual Meeting held at PHE Colindale on 12 May 2017. In addition to this, a total of 15 delegates, who had all submitted application forms, did not attend. Of these, 4 delegates received refunds, 3 did not pay and 8 delegates paid but did not attend. Forty-one delegates (30.6%) returned a completed evaluation form. The results presented in this report are based on the 41 returned forms.

**Content of the Day**

The majority (92.7%, 38/41) of delegates scored the content and structure of the day as good or very good, and scored the day to have mostly to fully met their expectations. The remaining three delegates did not provide a score. Thirty-nine (91.5%) delegates rated the relevance of topics, as well as the usefulness of the content in their work, as either average, good or very good. No delegates scored the meeting content below average. Up to five delegates did not provide a score (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Meeting Content**

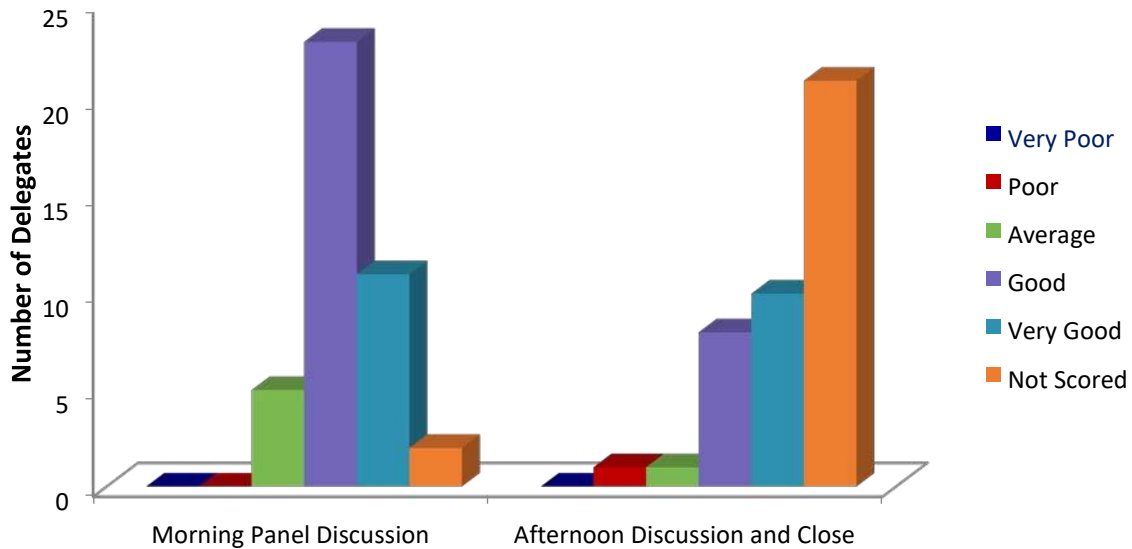


**Discussions Sessions**

Figure 2 shows the evaluation scores given for the morning and afternoon discussions. The morning session was evaluated by the majority of delegates (95.1%, 39/41) as average, good or very good. Two delegates did not provide a score for this session. 19 delegates (46.3%) scored the afternoon discussion

as either average, good or very good, with 21 delegates (51.2%) not providing a score and 1 delegate (2.4%) scoring the session as poor (although no additional comment was provided to explain this).

**Figure 2: Morning and Afternoon Discussions**

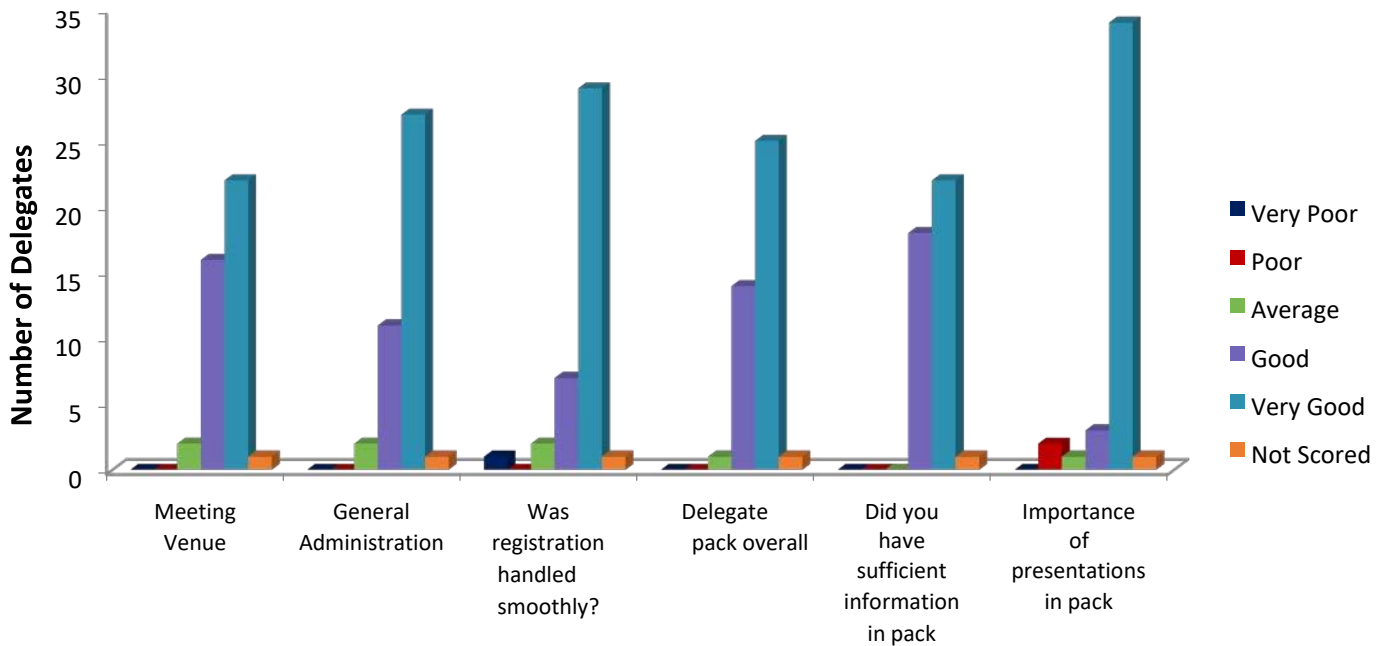


**Venue, General Administration and Delegate Pack**

The majority of delegates (40/41, 97.6%) evaluated the venue, general administration and delegate pack as either average, good or very good. One delegate did not give a score (Figure 3).

Thirty-eight delegates (92.7%) rated their registrations as having been handled in an average, good or very good way. One delegate did not give a score and one delegate rated their registration as very poor, due to having to repeatedly ask their Trust if their payment and application had been received. Despite the delegate stating that it was the fault of their Trust, they also stated that they did not have a solution to the problem.

**Figure 3: Meeting Venue, Administration & Delegate Pack**



### BSMT Education Grants

Of the 41 delegates who were asked, 11 delegates (26.8%) were aware that the BSMT offered Education Grants, 24 delegates (58.5%) were not, and 6 delegates (14.6%) did not answer. Of these, 9 delegates said that they would be interested in applying for the grant, 2 delegates said maybe and 13 delegates said no. Seventeen delegates (41.5%) did not give an answer. The reasons given for not being interested in applying for the BSMT Education Grant were as follows:

*Not a teaching lab*  
*Department has little time for any practical research*  
*Lack of time and resources*  
*My work is not practical laboratory based*  
*Not applicable*  
*I don't know enough about it yet*

### Additional Comments

All delegates were asked to provide additional comments in the form of free text. A selection of these has been provided below:

***How could we improve the delegate pack?***  
*Ensure consistency – I had no information pack (inc. handouts of presentations) in mine*  
*Very good pack – doesn't need improvement*  
*Provide, if possible, all the lecture notes*  
*Less advertising*  
*Nothing – excellent*

*Nothing to fault  
It has everything needed  
Put less in it. Such a waste of paper. We can get the slides off the website & what we are interested in from the trade stands*

**Most enjoyed**

*Content of talks, networking with other scientists  
The ambience and interaction  
The trade show  
All very beneficial, particularly the MALDI-TOF Detection of Mycobacteria  
Variety of talks  
Excellent current topic & relevance to diagnostic Microbiology  
Enjoyed all the topics discussed - MALDI very relevant for us  
Lectures, food & meeting other colleagues in other organisations  
Very nice lunch  
Both sessions looking at clinical issues  
Presentations  
The topics covered - increased my knowledge of other topics out there  
Good combination of speakers  
Candida auris + lab detection of CPO/CPE  
Keeping up to date  
The afternoon resistance/outbreak talks as they are very relevant at the moment Variety of topics, Dr Templeton's talk & Dr Bamford's talk very very good  
The lectures were really good esp. the Candida talk & the talk by Dr Katie Hopkins  
The topics chosen for the day & the speakers  
Excellent relevant talks & helpful admin team.  
Nice balance of topics - pure science, IPC, clinical, diagnostics  
Questions at end of sessions  
Relaxed learning opportunity away from the lab, where CPD is impossible*

**Least enjoyed** *The early start from home!*

*Packed exhibition room  
Nothing  
Food  
Long wait to get the lunch  
Lack of biscuits! Also lecture theatre was a bit warm  
Details of methodologies used but this may be due to lack of experience  
No sweet treats in morning registration  
Too cramped in trade show  
Lecture theatre too warm  
Just the wait between end of morning session & lunch. Even with visiting trade show, there's still plenty of 'spare' time  
No biscuits/snacks with morning coffee (not a big problem!)  
Some lectures over-ran  
Too little time for questions & answers The journey!  
The temperature in the trade show area*

**Please tell us your main reason for attending**

*Keeping up to date*

CPD  
Learning  
Information  
Sepsis talk  
Update knowledge & technique  
Education  
Interest  
Increase knowledge  
CPD  
Always a good meeting  
Interesting subject  
CPD/CME  
Topical issues  
"Current" issues dealt with  
Gain more knowledge  
CPD  
Update + Network  
Education + CPD  
Information

**How could we improve the meeting?**

Nil  
Can't think of anything  
It was very good & organised  
Larger trade show venue to add more trade  
Bigger room for trade show  
Larger venue, more exhibitors  
Less lunch break, maybe extra talk  
Perfect and enough topics covered  
The meeting is great, and I always enjoy it year after year that I attend  
No suggestions  
Central London More time for questions at  
the end of the day Nothing really. Different  
menu? Pie and chips!  
More moveable microphone

**Where did you hear about the meeting?**

Email  
Email mailing list  
Public Health website  
Organised through the Training Officer at my Trust  
Email - Valerie Bevan  
Online  
IBMS  
Email link from previous delegate  
Email from BSMT  
Work newsletter  
Email  
Regular attendance so on mailing list  
Informed in work  
On BSMT list  
Colleague

*Email*

*Attend every year, so keep an eye out for the meeting*

*IBMS website*

*On committee*

*Email to laboratory manager (better to training lead)*

*Email*

*Posted in department*

*Journal advert*

*Email since attended previous BSMT meetings.*

*Email*

***Any other comments***

*Overall good & organised Great  
content, very organised!*

*Probably need to ensure a bit more Virology*

*Excellent, well organised day, thanks*