

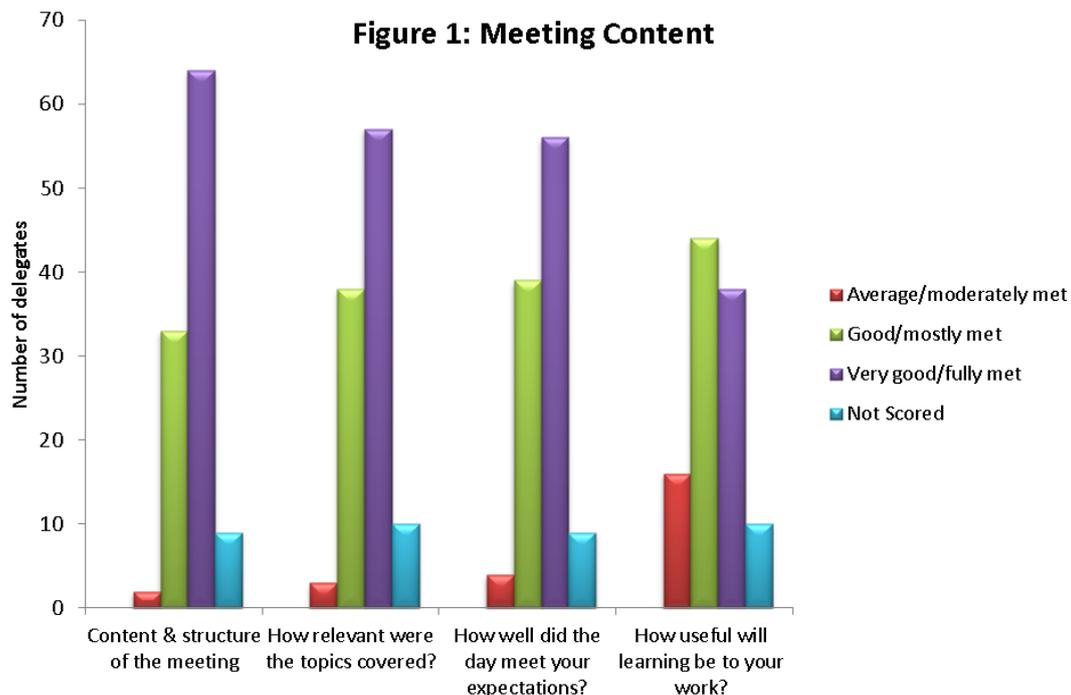
**British Society for Microbial Technology Symposium**  
**“Diagnostic microbiology – Lab life but not as we know it”**  
**15 May 2015**

**Evaluation Report**  
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**Education & Training Unit – Public Health England**

A total of 160 delegates (including committee) attended the BSMT Annual Meeting held at PHE Colindale on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015; 108 of those (68%) returned a completed evaluation form, 52 (32%) did not. The results presented in this report are based on the 108 returned forms.

### Content of the Day

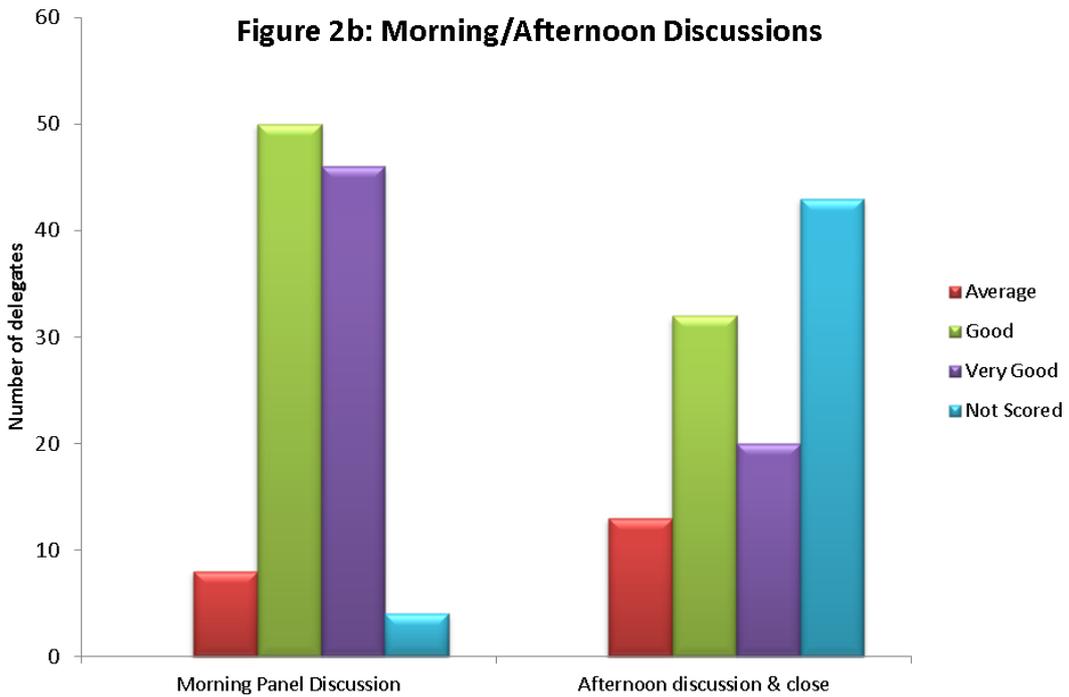
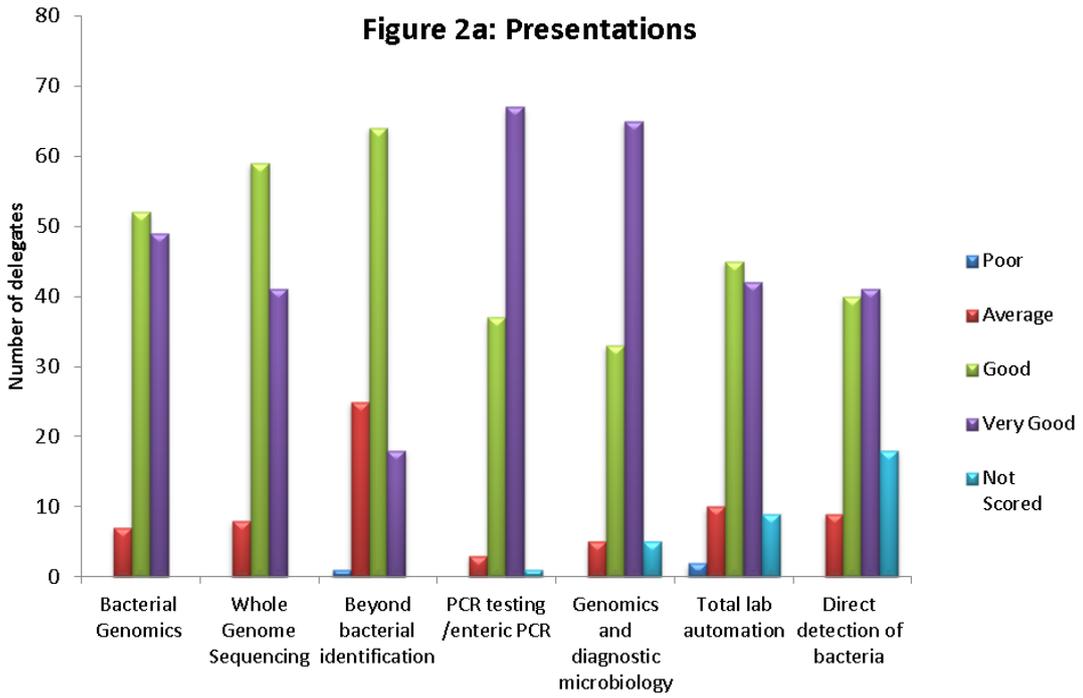
The majority (91%: 98/108) of delegates scored the content, structure of the day and relevance of topics as average, good and/or very good and the day to have moderately to fully met their expectations. Up to 10 delegates (9%) did not provide a score (Figure 1).



### Presentations and Discussions

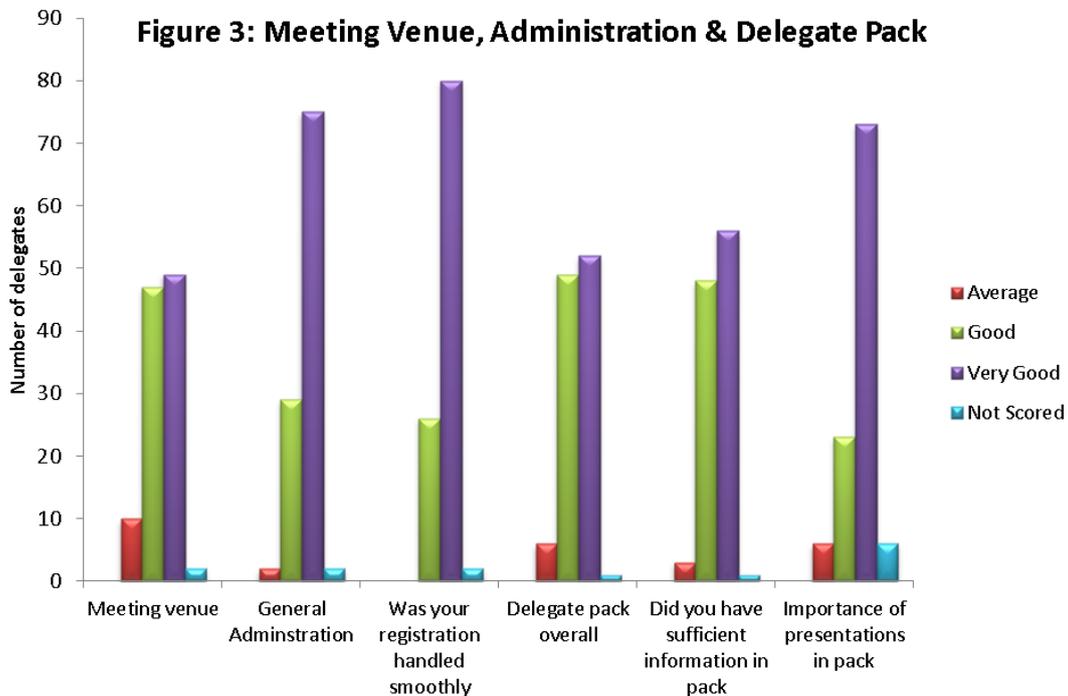
Figure 2a shows the evaluation scores given for the individual presentations. The majority (74%: 80/108) of delegates scored the presentations as average, good and/or very good. Up to 2 (2%) delegates evaluated two presentations as poor but did not provide any further comments for clarification. Up to 18 (17%) delegates did not provide a score.

Figure 2b shows the evaluation scores given for the morning and afternoon discussions. The majority (60%: 65/108) of delegates evaluated the discussions as average, good and/or very good. Up to 43 (40%) delegates did not provide a score.



### Venue, General Administration and Delegate Pack

The majority (94% 102/108) of delegates evaluated the venue, general administration and delegate pack as average, good and/or very good. Up to 6 (6%) delegates did not provide a score (Figure 3).



### Additional Comments

All delegates provided additional comments and selections of these are provided below:

#### ***How could we improve the delegate pack?***

*Nothing - found it very interesting*

*Good to have printouts*

*No improvements required*

*With a pen!*

*Electronic copies sufficient*

*Able to make notes, but only if notes resemble presentations*

*Place fewer fliers/industry papers*

*Maybe add blank paper. A glossary explaining how some of the platforms mentioned work.*

*Less paper - provide all information online (less paper, less noise)*

*Short description on where paper used is sourced from. Would like to see if a sustainable source is used*

*Very good, colourful and lots of information*

*Add some trade freebies*

*Include paper/notepad*

*CD or USB of powerpoints*

*Some fonts on slides too tiny to read but otherwise very good*

*Maybe a recycling box so can remove gumph during the day.*

*Print outs - only do 2 slides to a sheet*

#### ***Most enjoyed***

*Speaker's engagement with the audience but during lectures and in breaks.*

*The morning session*

*Opportunity for networking - opportunity to discuss topics with colleagues*

*Future technologies*

*Future potentials*

*Presentations & Networking*  
*Enjoyed the Enteric PCR Lecture*  
*Well organised, good topics*  
*Topics, trade show & networking*  
*PCR Enteric*  
*Opportunity to meet with colleagues, some interesting and informative talks*  
*Range of topics covered*  
*Imaginative presentations*  
*A good balance of talks/speakers. Useful to have a later lunch*  
*Talks that included diagnostic lab applications*  
*Speakers, content of lectures, "current" topics going into the future.*  
*Talk relevant to current work in microbiology*  
*General Interaction*  
*Current topics, thought provoking, looking at the future (possible). Also meeting up with old colleagues.*  
*Kate Templeton's presentation and subsequent (panel) debate afterwards*  
*Group discussion*  
*Speakers and choice of subjects*  
*Useful overview of developments in micro diagnostics*  
*Dr Templeton's talk, however all speakers were good*  
*WGS talk and morning panel discussion. Before the day I was apprehensive, being a student I thought I wouldn't understand but on the contrary, it didn't make it difficult.*  
*Challenging and Thought provoking presentations*  
*Very informative and thought provoking for strategy development*  
*As a whole, good CPD day, topics interesting.*  
*Dr Mark Wilks' presentation*  
*Reference to patient care and advances in application of tests*  
*The passion of speakers was quite inspiring.*  
*Meeting colleagues*  
*Kate Templeton and Denise Cook's*  
*Good range of speakers*  
*Trade show and presentations.. Rick Holliman's presentation was my favourite*  
*Great discussion at the end of the morning & last talk about plex ID*  
*Meeting people, lectures. Sufficient time for questions. Good Chair.*  
*Yummy spring rolls and chicken kebabs*  
*Understanding genomics & metagenomics*  
*The range of interesting talks especially Dr Wilks talk*  
*All presenters were interactive and interesting*  
*Meeting the committee again*  
*Panel discussions, afternoon lectures*  
*Well organised*  
*Particularly enjoyed Rick Holliman and Denise Cook's talks. They were very informative and gave me plenty to think about regarding the future role of microbiology labs.*  
*Majority of talks were very good and relate to changes happening in Microbiology.*  
*Food arrangements considerate and interesting! Interesting speakers of course. Questions challenging reality versus "Blue Sky" tendencies*  
*Discussion sessions*  
*Excellent food*  
*The question is how this ties up with other segments of the patient pathway.*  
*Sense of enthusiasm*

**Least enjoyed**  
*Lack of science in the afternoon session*  
*Some presentations complication (Data Heavy)*  
*Genomics difficult to understand so need to concentrate as I don't know much about it*  
*WGS companies were not present.*  
*Talks with lots of questions but no answers. Not real world of Lab*

*Slides with small illegible text especially when presenter indicates hard/unable to read - why use it especially if presenter introduced as a trainer or lecturer - they should know better!*  
*The ambient lighting in talks made me drowsy*  
*Lecture theatre/food too cramped. If this many people are interested, how about running a duplicate day.*  
*Very warm and stuffy in trade room, too small*  
*Tradeshows - perhaps a different one in the afternoon. Really enjoyed Denise Cook's talk - its not just technology that needs to change but the whole system, thanks.*  
*Long time sitting in cramped seats*  
*Did not enjoy Dr Jung's talk.*  
*Presentations didn't seem to talk about lab automation as such. Good but didn't think it relevant to title*  
*Claire Gordon talk because I heard it before.*

***How could we improve the meeting***

*Keep it the same*  
*Make it more scientific*  
*Trade room too hot and overcrowded*  
*Keep lecture theatre cooler*  
*Bring NGS companies to meeting*  
*Previous meetings were videotaped, this was not*  
*Great number/buzzing meeting but too many people in trade, unable to move properly*  
*Maybe provide cold drinks/refreshments during talks. Trade show could do with being larger for the number of people*  
*More room for sponsors to display products*  
*It was very good*  
*Have the meeting in Central London*  
*Good, keep going*  
*Perhaps "After session" in relaxed environment (option: champagne) where delegates can "meet and greet" speakers and main bodies at the meeting.*  
*Provide the PP to the participants*  
*Maybe not a Friday, lots of people left early.*  
*Maybe move venue to easier access & Parking. Video presentations.*  
*Some speakers a little muffled, microphone issues.*

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

*High number heard by Email*  
*Colleague*  
*Email, and previously attended*  
*BSMT Website*  
*IBMS Website*  
*Forthcoming events bulletin (PHE) and Training*  
*PHE website*  
*Line Manager*  
*Work*  
*Placement programme organiser*  
*Flyer*  
*IBMS Magazine*  
*Committee*  
*Email from Val*  
*Training officer*  
*Micro Lab*  
*Sfam Website*  
*Colleague*  
*Notice board*  
*Invited by Mark Wilks*

**Any other comments?**

*Many new members of staff didn't realise the rich history of PHE - perhaps a history lesson might be appropriate.*

*Very enjoyable & Informative*

*One of the best BSMT meetings I have attended*

*Provide car parking or paid parking*

*Number of people was high and difficult to see trade show.*

*Excellent meeting, once again. Look forward to next year. An excellent forum for current/future topics by experts*

*Really educational/informative day, thankyou*

*\*vegetarian option was delicious as well as desserts - thankyou.*

*Q&A might have been better if all speakers were able to answer all questions instead of the morning/afternoon split*

*Good tone of presentations very enlightened.*

*Well done - keep up the good work*

*Overall very good*

*I was hoping to hear about the development of kiestra lab and total lab control motion as we are about to become a kiestra lab... however the discussion of future pathology and near patient care was also thought provoking.*

*Very good meeting & Trade show*

*Please email out Dr Mark Wilks Panel Slides*

*Online payment when registering would be good*

*The trade show room is not big enough for people to move around and network.*

*Zoe Walker deserves a mention because she goes out of her way to help delegates when booking with her excellent communications.*

*Excellent Programme exceeded my expectations!*

*Good to get out of the lab in these financially constrained times, don't need a conference "Bag"*

*Great meeting thankyou! Lovely food*

**Suggested topics for future events**

*The impact/science of the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak*

*Best method for carbapenamase screening. Sensitivities testing - compare methods.*

*Enteroinvasive Escherichia Coli and MCST application/investigation*

*New IS standard implication for micro lab*

*Will it be possible to have an education/training inclusion/theme?*

*Carbapenemases*

*Role of microbes in the fight against obesity*

*More talks on Microbial Technology. Impacts on education and integrating more medical technology in Medical/clinical science curriculum*

*"Resistance" is future.....*

*Qualification for HCPC registration*

*Other rapid methods*

*How to use Bioinformatics, IT and Links into future*

*Quasispecies*

*TB resistance. LGV testist. How to improve GP knowledge & understanding patient needs*

*Total automation - where we are now*

*Mycology*

*Emerging of new technologies in the diagnostic Laboratory*

*Global epidemiology and its impact locally*

*Microbiology in developing countries*

*ISO 15189 e.g. how to achieve it, its impact etc.*

*Opportunistic infections, TB, POCT*

*LRTI/Pneumonia i.e. approach programme*