**British Society for Microbial Technology Symposium**

***“Rapid Diagnostics – Time is Relative”***

**18 May 2018**

**Evaluation Report**

A total of 102 paying delegates, 12 committee members, 8 speakers/chairs, 5 guests and 26 trade representatives (a total of 153 requiring lunch) attended the BSMT Annual Meeting held at PHE Colindale on 18 May 2018. In addition to this, a small number of delegates had submitted application forms, but did not progress their submission. Two delegates received refunds, three have yet to pay and three delegates paid but did not attend. Forty delegates (29%) returned a completed evaluation form. The results presented in this report are based on the 40 returned forms.

**Content of the Day**

The majority (93%, 37/40) 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. All the 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.

**Presentations and Discussions**

Figure 2a shows the evaluation scores given for the individual presentations. Of all the delegates who gave a score, (98%) 39/40 rated the presentations as average, good or very good with one delegate giving a rating of poor. Up to 2 delegates did not provide a score.



Figure 2b shows the evaluation scores given for the morning and afternoon panel discussions. The morning session was evaluated by the majority of delegates (98%) 39/40 as average, good or very good. One delegate did not provide a score for this session. 33 delegates (83%) scored the afternoon discussion as either average, good or very good, with 7 delegates (18%) not providing a score

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**Venue, General Administration and Delegate Pack**

The majority of delegates (39/40, 98%) 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-nine delegates (39/40, 98%) rated their registrations as having been handled in an average, good or very good way. One delegate did not give a score.



**BSMT Education Grants**

Of the 40 delegates who were asked, 11 delegates (28%) were aware that the BSMT offered Education Grants, 27 delegates (67%) were not, and 2 delegates (5%) did not answer. Of these, 12 delegates said that they would be interested in applying for the grant, 3 delegates said maybe and 12 delegates said no. Thirteen delegates did not give an answer. The reasons given for not being interested in applying for the BSMT Education Grant were as follows:

*Lab is very specific to blood products*

*Not sure if grant suitable for overseas staff*

*Not lab based*

**Social Media**

22/40 (55%) delegates said that they were aware that they could receive regular update on the BSMT Twitter and Facebook account. 16/40 (40%) delegates were not aware and two did not answer the question.

35/40 (88%) delegates said they do not follow BSMT on Twitter and Facebook and 3/40 (8%) delegates said they did follow. Two delegates did not answer this question

**Additional Comments**

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

*Presentations on website so less paper*

*More paper presentation so you can annotate slides*

*Copies of all presentations*

*Not sure pack is needed*

*Paper copies of all presentations or on a stick*

*Much better with less commercial material*

*Receive presentations by email*

***Most enjoyed***

*Range of talks and speakers*

*Content of presentations*

*Morning lectures*

*Everything but particularly Gemma Clark and Justin O’Grady’s presentations*

*Varied and interesting topics*

*Dr Grant’s talk*

*Good range of seminars and great food*

*Good number of talks, good balance and speed. Nice lunch*

*Blood culture and orthopaedic lectures were very useful*

*Clarity of presentations and links to operational issues*

*Blood cultures / sepsis talk*

*NGS related seminars*

*Topics and organisations skills of committee*

*Clinical slants of most talks*

*Energy of crown*

*Networking, tight connection between talks*

*Good update on molecular / diagnostic issues and how to apply*

***Least enjoyed***

*Travel*

*Lunch/break and some of presentations too long*

*Viruses lecture as not relevant to my role*

*Speakers talking fast with no handouts*

*Finding parking*

*Food*

*Could start a bit earlier*

*Late lunch*

*Slightly too much time between sessions, possibly compress or add more speakers*

*More audience participation, quiz*

*Shorten lunch and trade shows*

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

*Hear about current tech*

*Topics*

*Enteric diagnotics
To remain updated*

*Interesting subjects*

*Education*

*Good speakers*

*Enjoyment*

*New advances and changes*

*CPD credit*

*Gain knowledge relevant to field*

*Want to introduce rapid diagnostics*

*One of the best meetings around , always current*

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

*Wifi*

*More central venue*

*Longer time for presentations*

*More lectures like Dancer’s, lectures applicable and introducible to routine lab to impact workflows*

*Presentations on white backgrounds easier to read*

*Bigger area for trade show*

*More audience participation*

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

*Email*

*From colleague*

*Offer at work*

*Notifications to senior management*

*Facebook*

*BSMT website*

*From line manager*

*Attend every year*

*PHE intranet*

*PHE weekly bulletin*

***Any other comments***

*Thumbs up, keep doing what you are doing*

*Excellent day, very useful*

*Lunch worked well*

*Would like clarification if grant is suitable for international healthcare staff*

*Food was great and organisation was excellent*

*Would like lectures sent via email*

*Excellent location, speakers, refreshments and day/time*

*Looking forward to next meeting*

*It should have more talks or presentations in future BSMT conference about what medical microbiology labs can do practically through molecular biology not just potential development*