

Evaluation of an innovative postgraduate teaching programme for Obstetrics and Gynaecology trainees in the West of Scotland.

Dr Christy Lamont (ST7 Obstetrics and Gynaecology)

Dr David McMorran (ST3 Obstetrics and Gynaecology)

Dr Sarah Barr (Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Associate Postgraduate Dean for Simulation)

Background

The West of Scotland (WoS) region of the UK has 96 doctors training in obstetrics and gynaecology. A postgraduate teaching programme supports these clinicians in their learning.

Two major events in 2020 caused a reinvention of the programme:

- the new RCOG curriculum
- the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our aim was to create a programme of teaching events that was:

- Safe
- Accessible
- Flexible
- High quality
- Relevant to trainees' needs.

An Innovative Programme Design

We created an innovative programme of virtual content delivered over Microsoft Teams. Sessions which were available to all trainees on a monthly basis. We increased the content of the programme and mapped it to the RCOG curriculum, with learning objectives drawn from the new vertical themes of the Capabilities in Practice (CiPs). Sessions were recorded so they could be accessed retrospectively.

Innovative new sessions included:

- National symposia: a group of clinicians from all regions of Scotland formed to create an annual programme of four symposia accessible by all trainees in Scotland, allowing pooling of resources and expertise.
- Peer-led CTG teaching: advanced trainees undertaking the advanced labour ward practice ATSM leading discussion and teaching around CTG interpretation.
- Peer-led journal club: trainees interested in research leading discussion on innovative studies.

Is the virtual teaching programme fit for purpose?

An anonymised survey was created to evaluate the teaching programme from November 2020 to June 2021; addressing the parameters of accessibility, flexibility and relevance. The link was emailed to trainees within WoS. The data was collected through Microsoft Forms and analysed using Microsoft software. We assumed virtual teaching was the safest option during the pandemic. The quality of teaching was assessed by a feedback form for each session.

Results

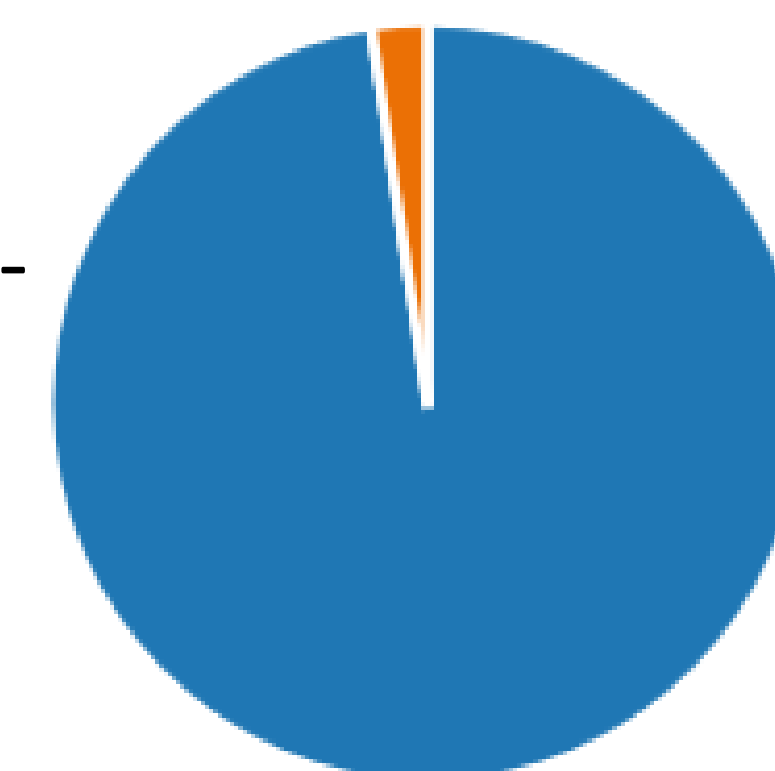
There were 41 responses from 96 trainees (43%) across with representation from all levels and hospitals.



Accessibility

Have you found the new MTeams programme more accessible than pre-covid face-to-face teaching?

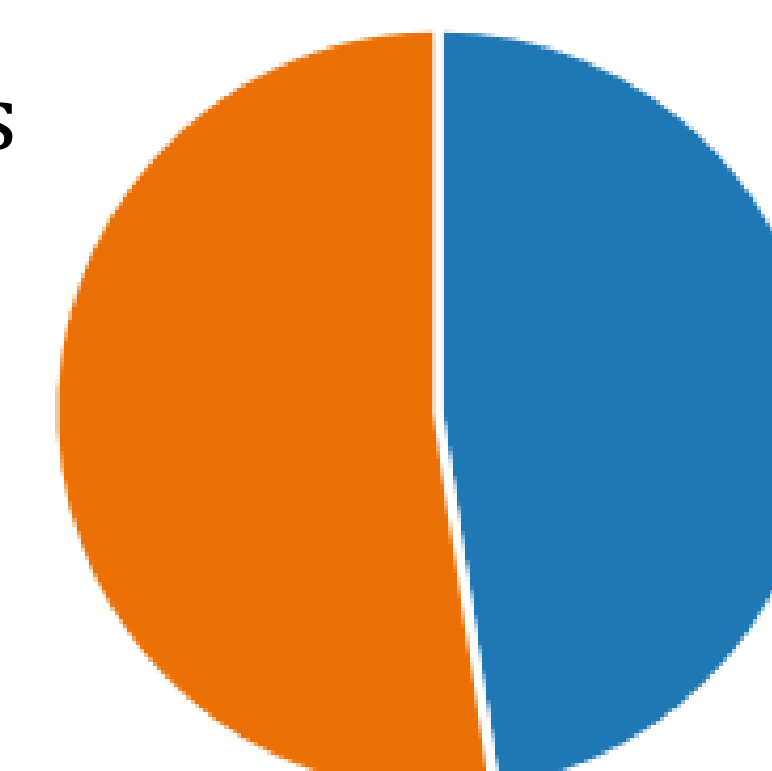
- Yes
- No



Flexibility

Have to accessed teaching sessions retrospectively?

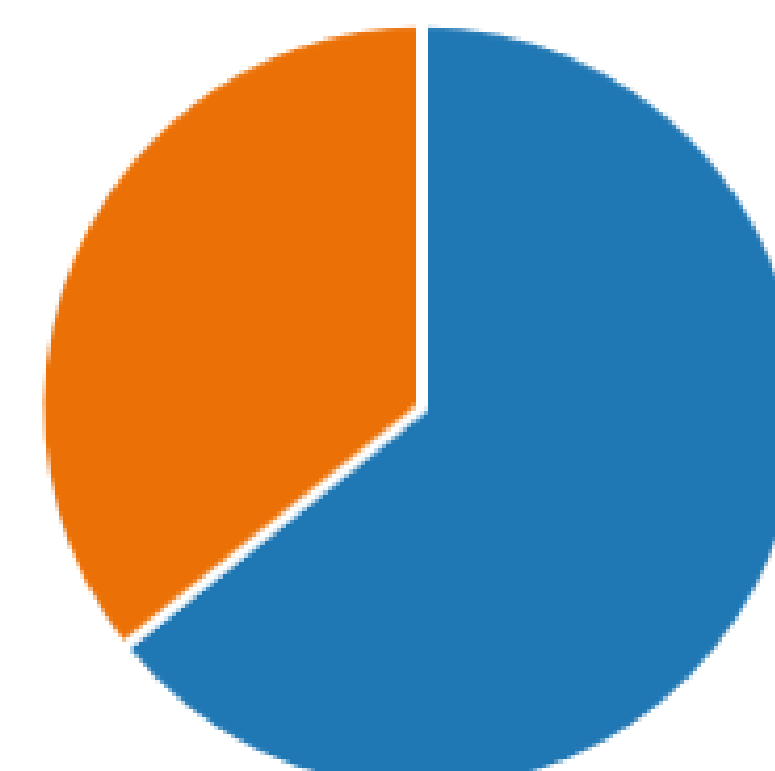
- Yes
- No



Relevance

How relevant was the content of the teaching programme to your learning needs?

- Very relevant
- Relevant
- Not relevant



New innovations: peer-led teaching

Are the CTG sessions useful?

- Very useful
- Useful
- Not useful

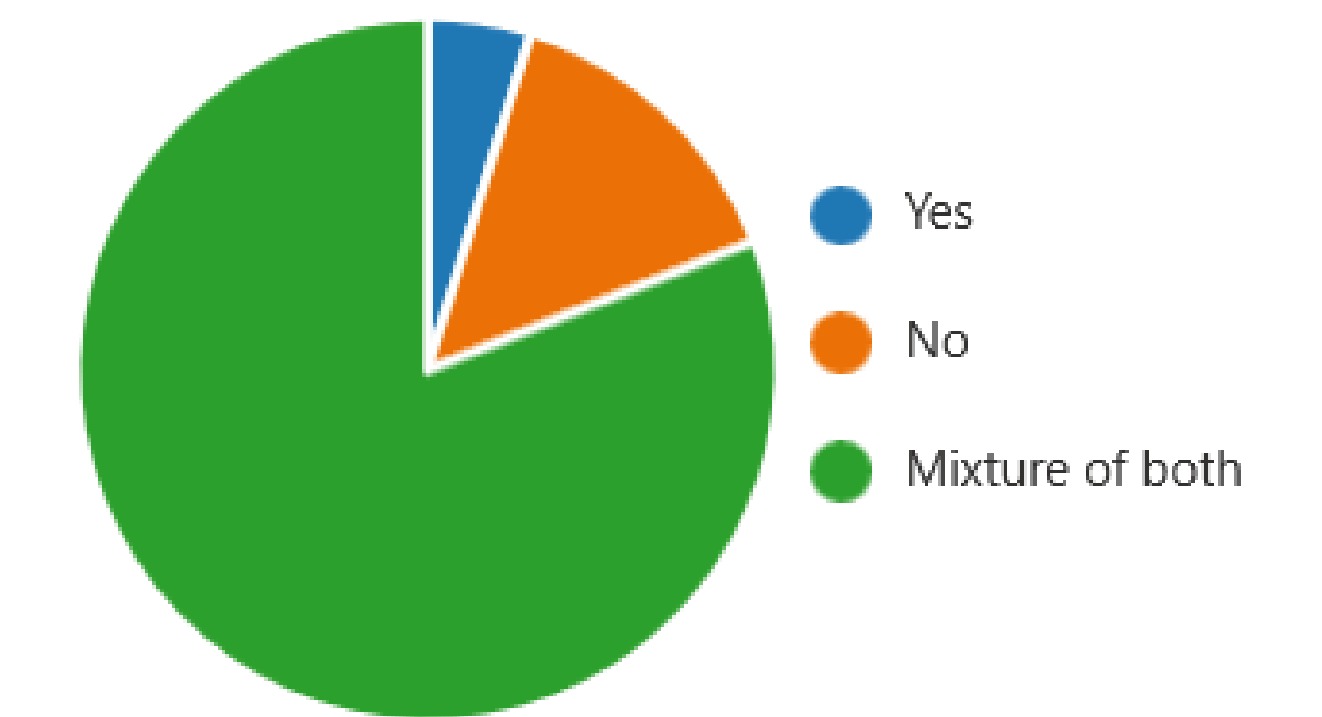


Are the journal club sessions useful?



What should the future hold?

In the future, would you prefer to return to face-to-face teaching?



White box suggestions for future improvements:

Three main themes emerged:

- robust communication of teaching dates with trainees
- continued frequent teaching sessions with broad curriculum content
- continued use of recording for retrospective access

Conclusion

The survey results suggest that the teaching programme has been adapted appropriately and admirably navigated a challenging period for postgraduate education. The aims of accessibility, flexibility and relevance to trainee needs have been achieved and the virtual programme appears fit for purpose.

The majority of trainees would like a future of hybrid teaching to combine the accessibility and flexibility of virtual sessions with the networking and social aspect of in person learning.

The response rate from all trainees in WoS was 43%. It is possible that those who did not respond may continue to have difficulty with accessibility and flexibility. We will continue to prioritise development of the training programme and plan a follow up survey in Summer 2022.

While the future remains uncertain, the ingenuity of our education team will ensure that we will continue to deliver an accessible, flexible teaching programme that is relevant to our trainee needs.