

Women's Health Webinar Teaching Series for Pre-Speciality Applicants in the UK: Impact and Future Direction

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INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) is a rewarding and versatile specialty with many opportunities and challenges including a competition ratio of 7:1 for a national training post (1-3). We sought to organise a national teaching series to raise trainee awareness and confidence about the application process.

OBJECTIVES/AIMS

Gaps in knowledge surrounding the application process were identified by representatives of the British Undergraduate Society of O&G (BUSOG); (1,3) a national network affiliated with the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RCOG) aimed to further the interests of medical students and pre-specialty doctors in O&G (Figure A). A teaching series was organised on applications to Women's Health.

A

Gaps in Knowledge

- Application cycle steps
- Portfolio Requirements
- Entrance exams
- Training stages and sub-specialties

Figure A-Schematic of gaps in knowledge regarding the application pathways in Women's Health. Original diagram. Created in <https://BioRender.com>

METHODS

We ran a national online webinar teaching series on MedAll, a virtual medical learning platform between 13th-27th November 2025 for UK medical students and resident doctors. Lectures were included on applying to: O&G; Community Sexual and Reproductive Health; and Academic Clinical Fellow Posts. The speakers consisted of specialty trainees in the aforementioned respective fields from Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS), Thames Valley and North East Deaneries. Speakers provided a lecture on the application process and provided insight into their post and experience; and Pre-Specialty Ambassadors from the BUSOG facilitated sessions. Confidence scores were compared before and after the sessions on applications and the interview process. Qualitative data on feedback was also collected (Figure B).

B

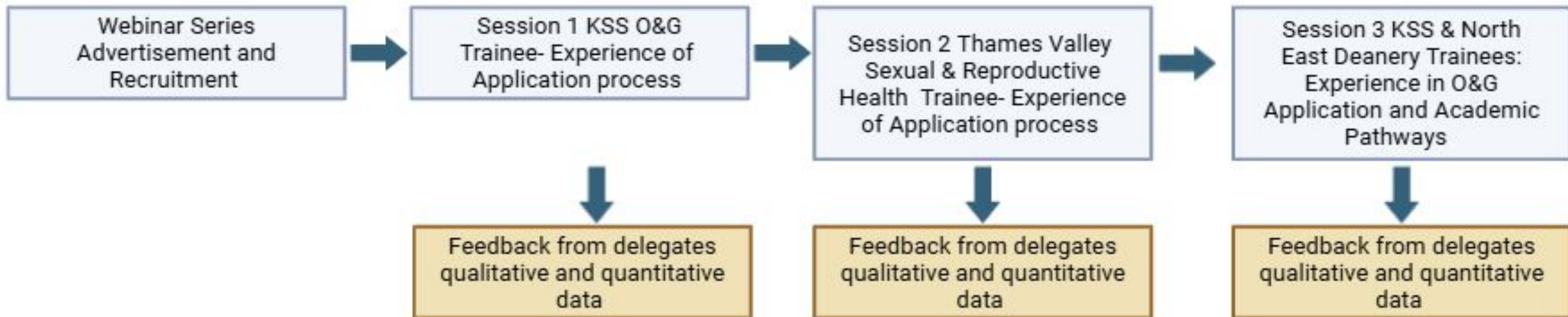


Figure A- Schematic describing the webinar series sequence of events . Original diagram. Created in <https://BioRender.com>.

RESULTS

123 individuals signed up for the webinar series, which included medical students (68.9%) and resident doctors (31.1%) (Figure C, Da). Confidence in applying to each specialty improved after the webinar ($p<0.05$,95%CI 0.09520-3.025) (Figure D b,c). Moreover, confidence in knowledge about the interview process improved after the sessions ($p=0.0516$,95%CI -0.02789-3.335). Participants found the content was useful for their training and encouraged them to pursue the specialty. Qualitative data collected from feedback was positive, for example, one attendee responded: "...Hearing about the presenter's journey not being the most conventional one was really inspiring, being a competitive specialty always made it feel like an unachievable goal, hearing their story makes it feel possible". (Figure D,d)

C

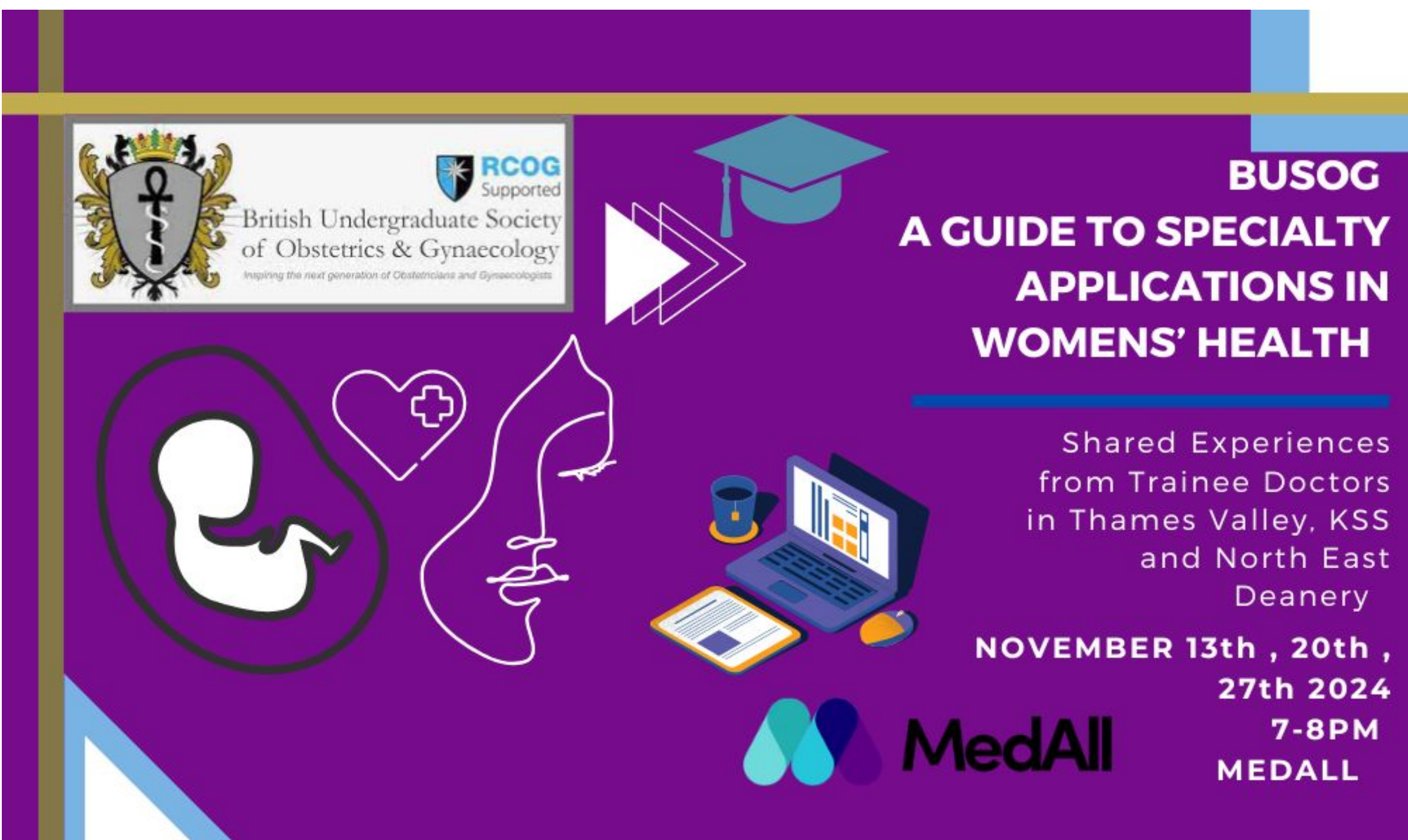


Figure C-Recruitment Advertisement Poster. Original diagram.

D

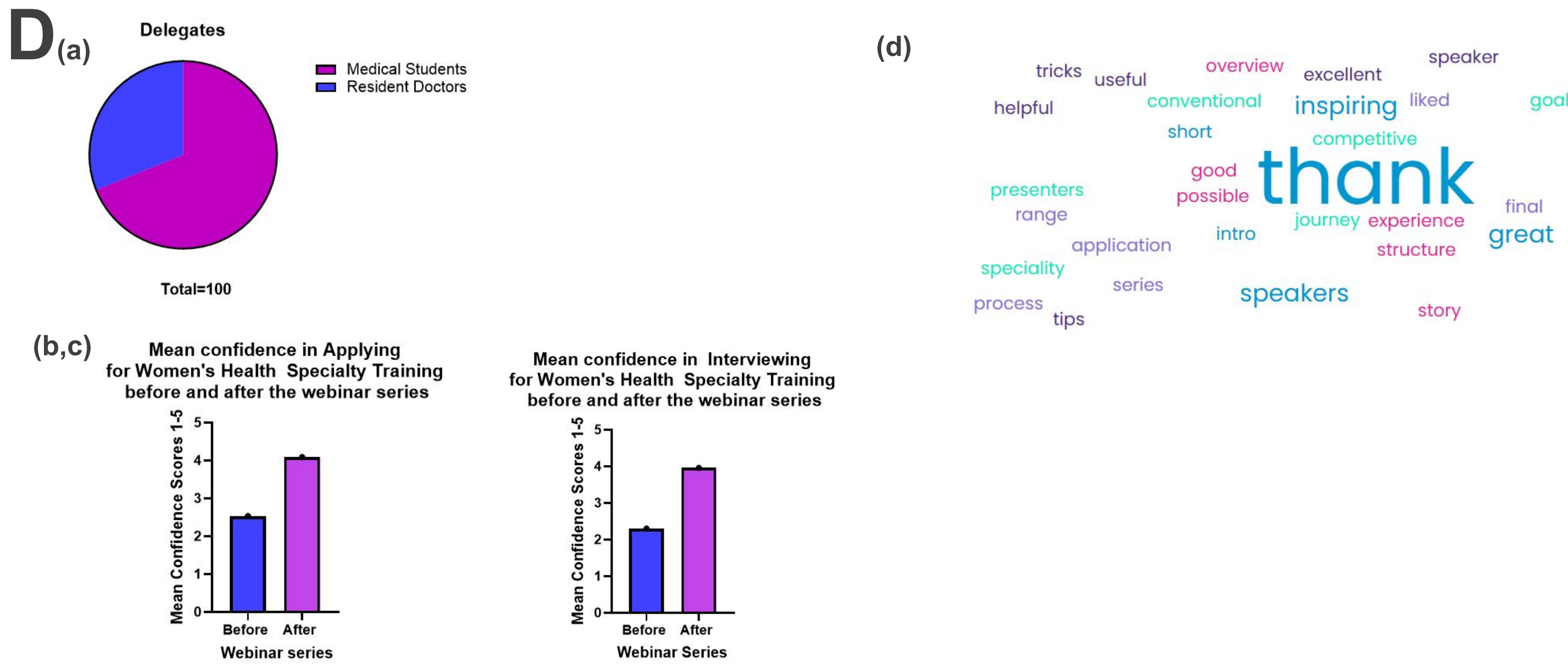


Figure D- (a) Delegate stage of training. (b) Confidence in applying before and after the session. (c) Confidence in the interview before and after the session. (d) Word Cloud of collated feedback. Original diagram.

CONCLUSIONS

We conducted a national webinar teaching series on specialty applications to women's health. The course improved trainee confidence in the interview and application process. The success of this webinar reiterated the need for transparency in specialty recruitment and to provide applicants with sufficient knowledge to make an informed choice when applying. It also highlighted that there is scope to expand similar teaching series to sub-specialties within O&G and develop resources to further support applicants.

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