

# **COURSE ON EVIDENCE-BASED LABORATORY MEDICINE**

organized by the Committee on Evidence-Based Laboratory Medicine of IFCC

*under the auspices of IFCC/FESCC and in collaboration with the  
Screening and Diagnostic Test Methods Group  
of the Cochrane Collaboration*

**21-24 September 2005  
Budapest, Hungary**

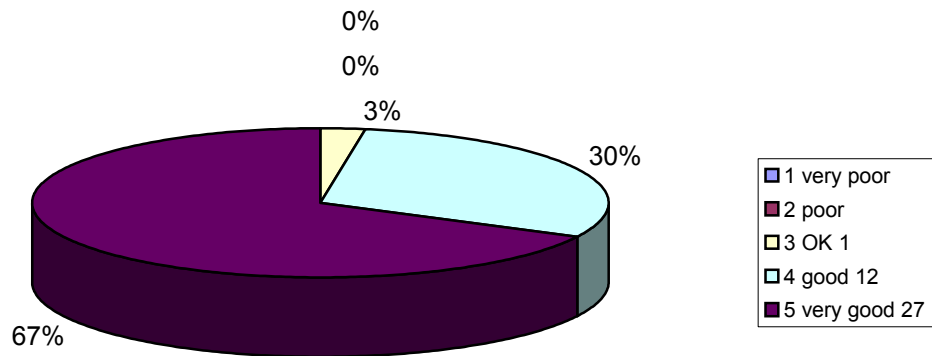
## **COURSE ASSESSMENT**



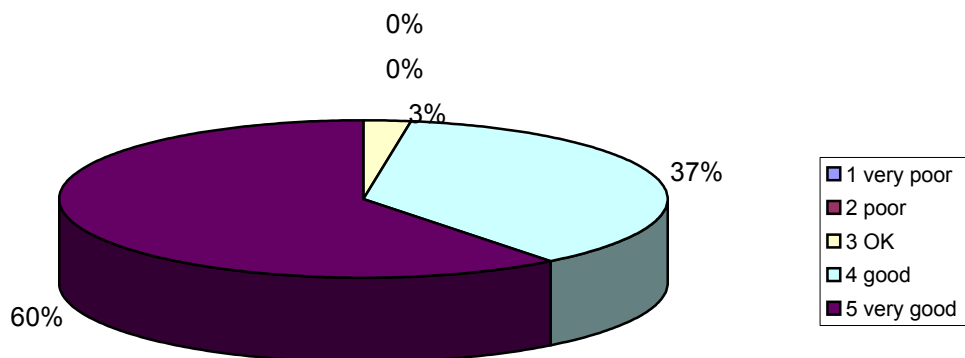
## TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES: 41

### I. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

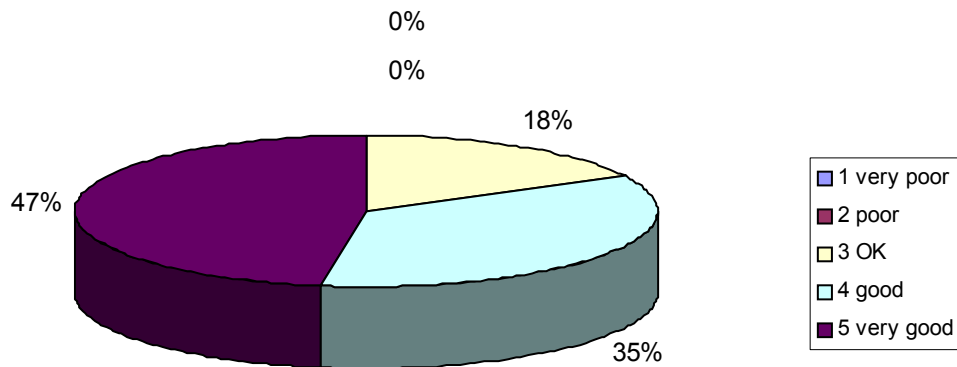
#### 1.1. Were the aims and objectives of the course clearly described?



#### 1.2. Were the aims and objectives achieved by the end of the course?



**1.3. Did the aims and objectives of the course meet those of your own?**



**Further comments:**

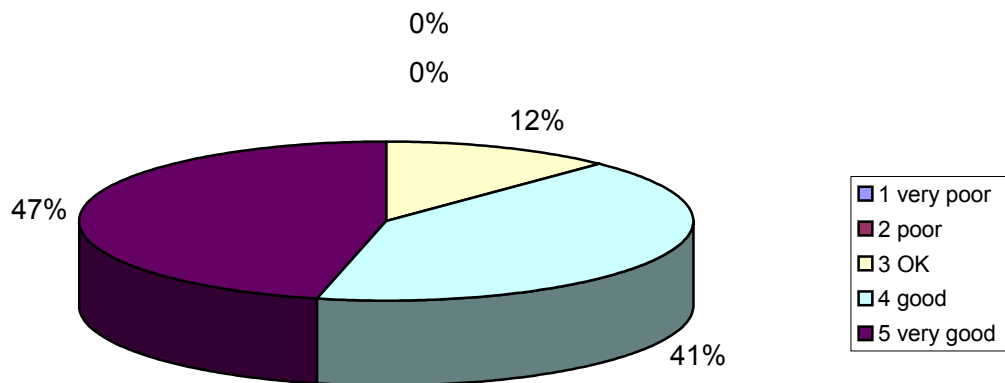
- Small working group should change once during course - because the level of the groups were very different!
- More work on systematic reviews (critical appraisal)
- Thank you very much for excellent organization.
- Excellent introductory course. Follow up courses preferably to focus more on implementation issues, examples.
- Great opportunity to meet "niche" experts over course of several days.

**Suggestions to improve the aims and objectives of future workshops:**

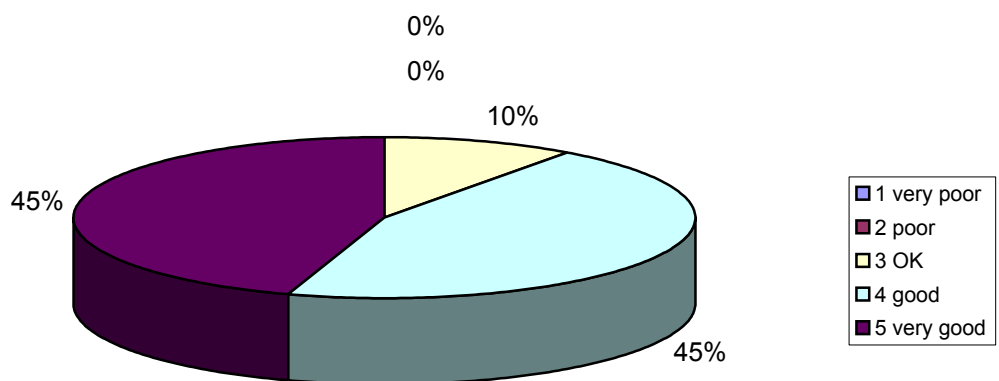
- More examples from laboratory medicine.
- What about an "advanced" course in EBLM?
- I would suggest to organize further courses for beginners and also advanced ones.
- Scope of material well chosen and organised.

## 2. CONTENT OF THE COURSE

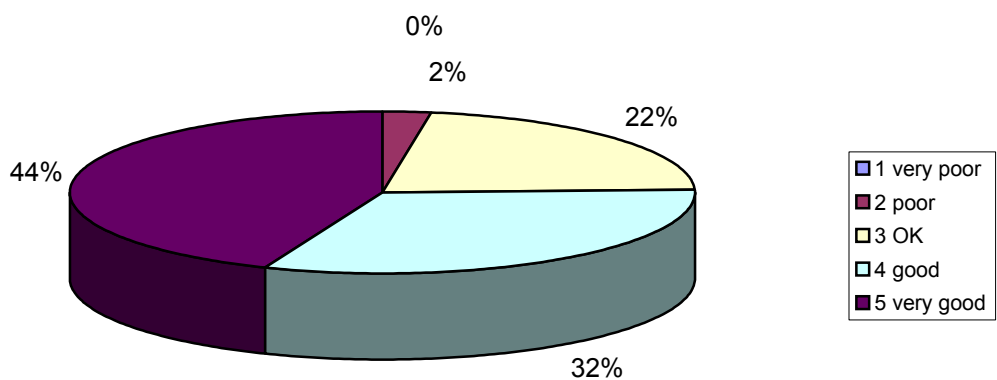
Day1 Lecture: Introduction (R Christenson)



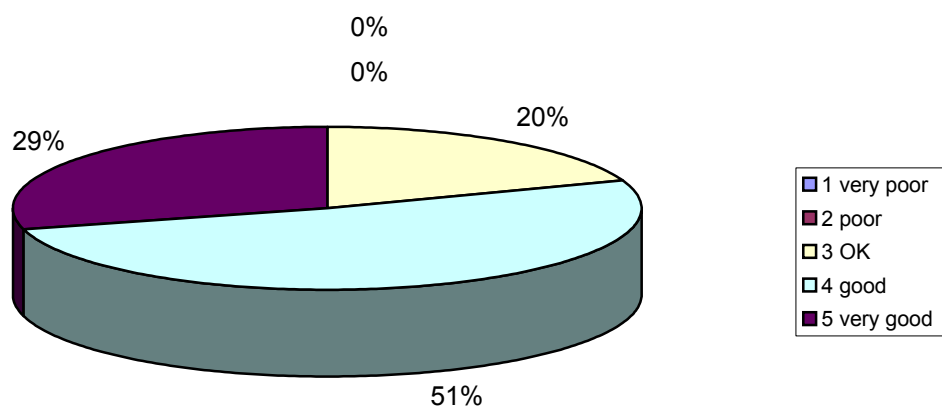
Day1 Lecture: Question Formulation (P Glasziou)



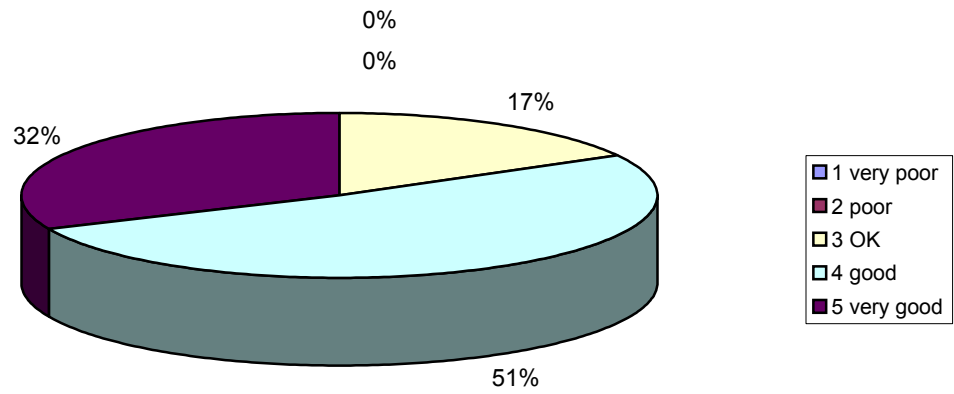
### Day1 Lecture: Study Design (P Bossuyt)



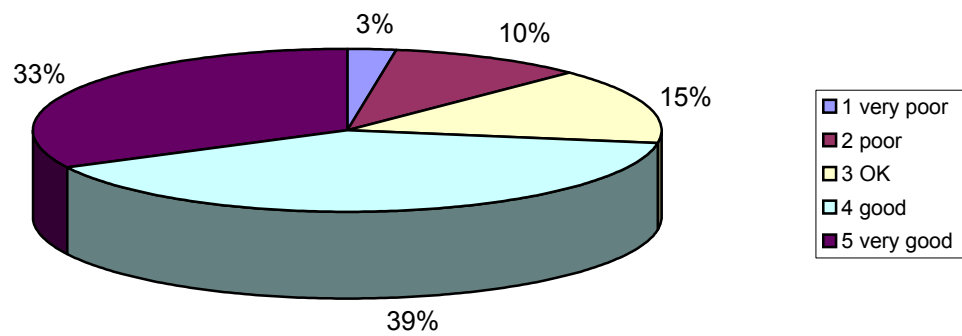
### Day1 Small group work: Which study will answer my question best?



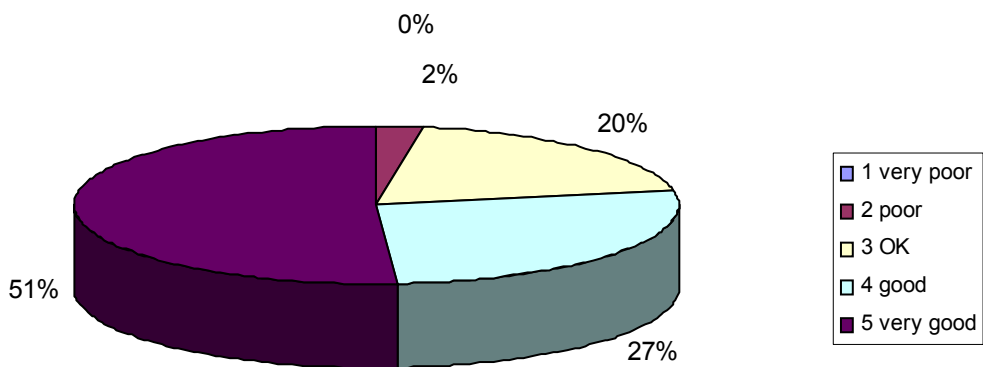
**Day2 Lecture: Literature Search (D Pewsner)**



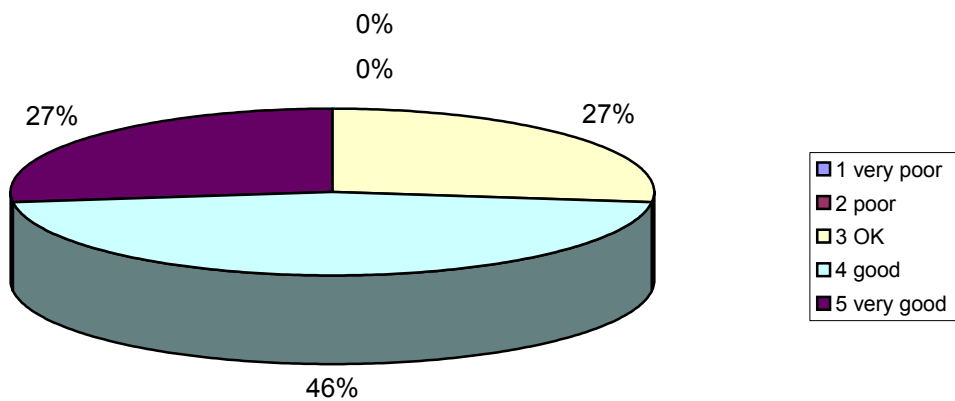
**Day2 Small group work: Searching for the evidence (P Glasziou/M Viragos)**



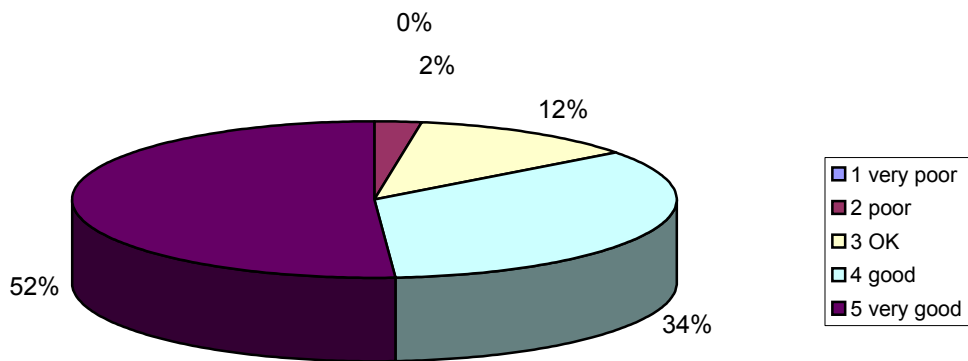
Day 2 Lecture: Appraising diagnostic accuracy studies (P Bossuyt)



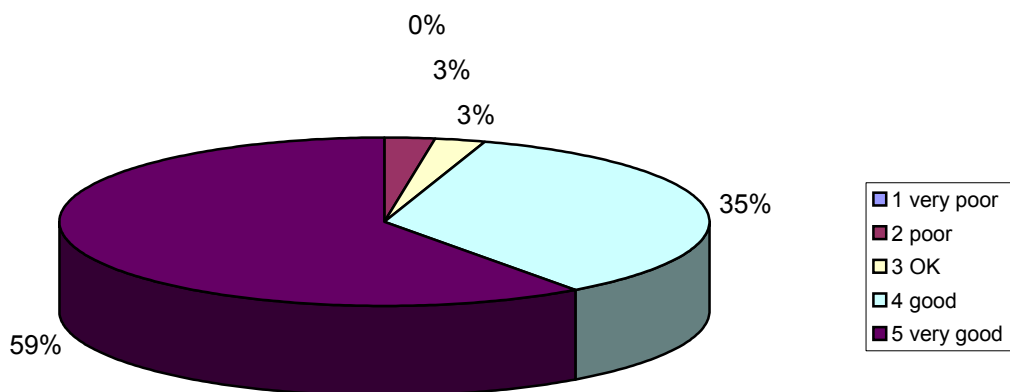
Day2 small group work Critical appraisal of diagnostic studies (D Pewsner/W Oosterhuis)



**Day3 lecture: Data analysis (J Deeks)**

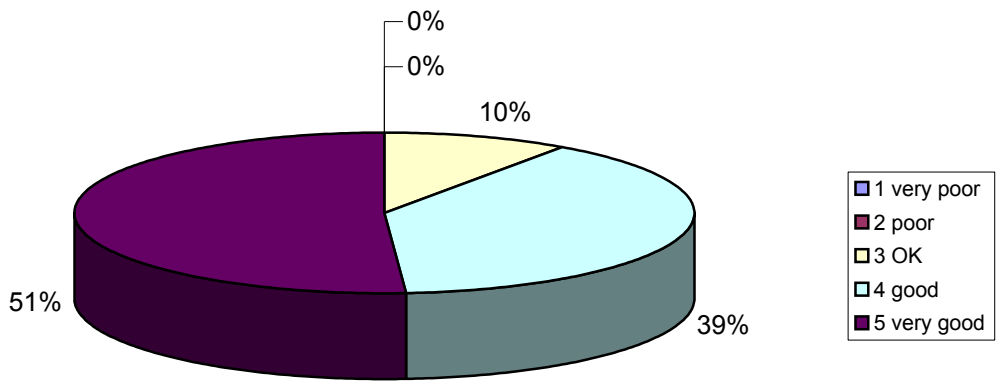


**Day3 Small group work: Statistical exercises (J Deeks/R Horvath)**

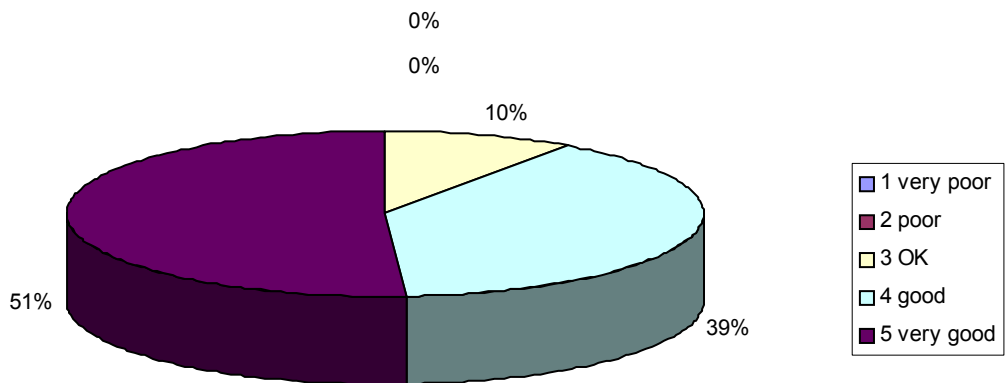




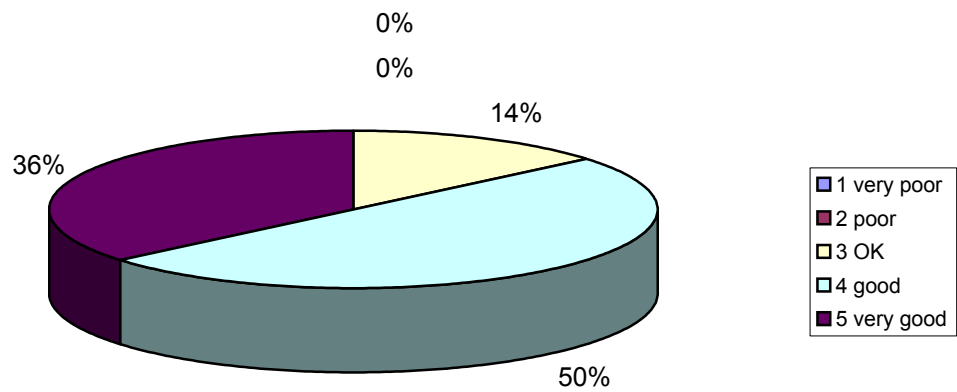
**Day3 lecture: Systematic Reviews (M Egger)**



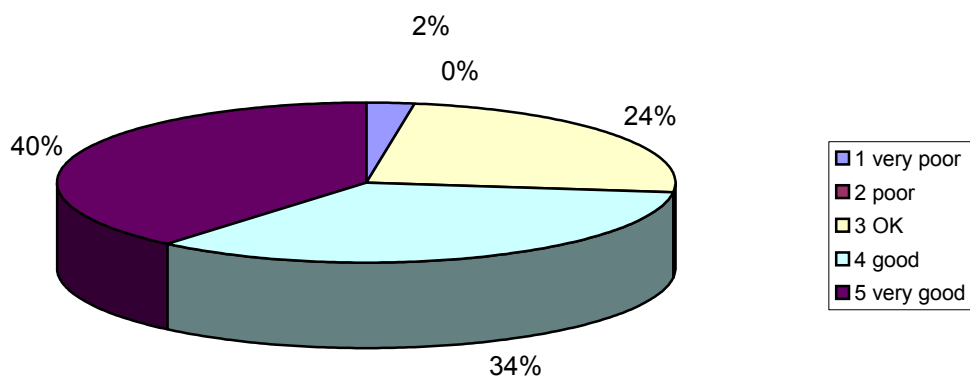
**Day3 Small group work: Critical appraisal of systematic reviews (M Egger/J Watine)**



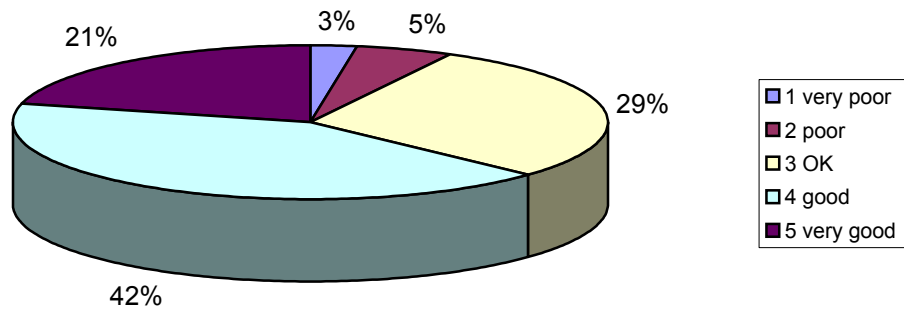
### Day4 Lecture: Testing and Outcome (C Price)



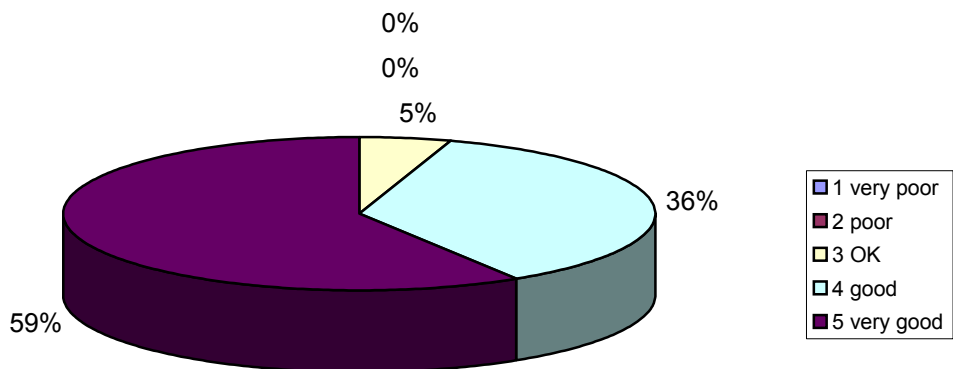
### Day4 Lecture: Monitoring (P Glasziou)



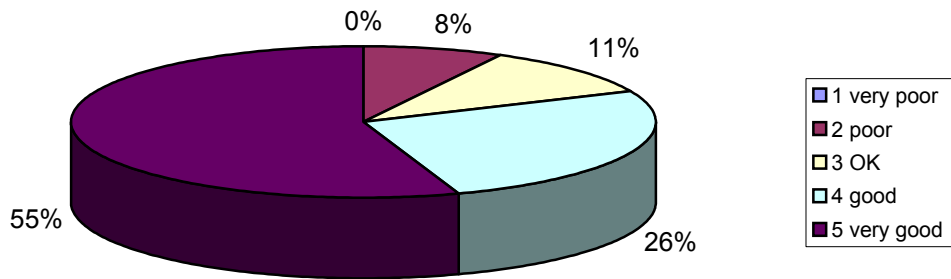
**Day4 Lecture: The role of EBLM in guidelines  
(W Oosterhuis)**



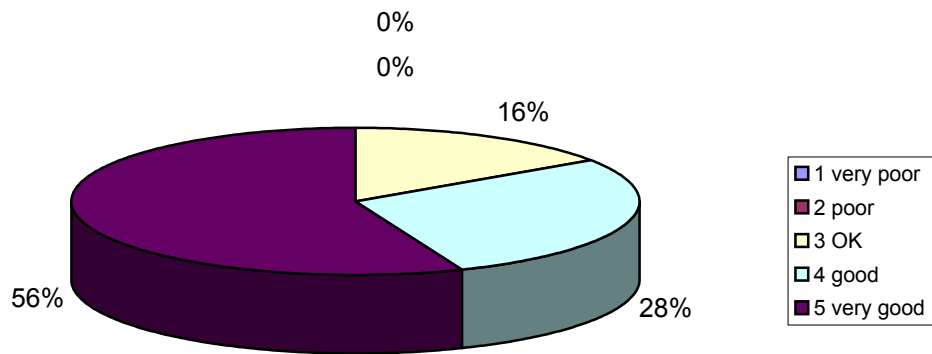
**Day4 Lecture: Quality of guidelines (R Horvath)**



**Day4 Lecture: Using guidelines (S Sandberg)**



**Day4 Small group work: Critical appraisal of laboratory guidelines (P Bunting/S Sandberg)**



**Which topic(s) would you delete from the programme and why?**

- Study design could be presented more briefly, for this kind of course
- Appraising diag. Accuracy.
- Day 2 - literature search. Only 1 lecture, 10 small group. Some of the tips/links were helpful but too much time was wasted. Guideline discussion too lengthy - 1/2 day would be enough.
- Not delete but shorten practical literature search.
- None
- Research strategies for systematic reviews - the topic is too advanced for the course level, maybe, although the teacher was very clear.
- I thought that all topics are necessary although some of them are heavy. It is good to see every subject totally.
- None.
- No one.
- None - but would rework Bossuyt's lectures to short time.
- Critical appraisal - I obtain the filling how to evaluate and summarise reported information in articles.

**Which topic(s) would you add to the programme and why?**

- More on implementation into practice.
- More real life lab stories and examples on implementing EBLM
- Basics on quality improvement.
- Add calculation of sample size in studies ( in order to estimate number of subjects needed for a certain statistical confidence)
- more about EBLM
- More statistical exercises to analyse the data.
- Result interpretation
- More statistical analysis and more explanations about plots, statistical tests for heterogeneity etc.
- I think everything had been included.
- Add: more time for statistical, data analysis.
- More laboratory-oriented scenarios for example: which assays to choose, interpreting results from different assays and their systematic appraisal.
- Don't know enough to make a suggestion.
- Introduction lecture contents.

**Suggestions to improve the content of future courses:**

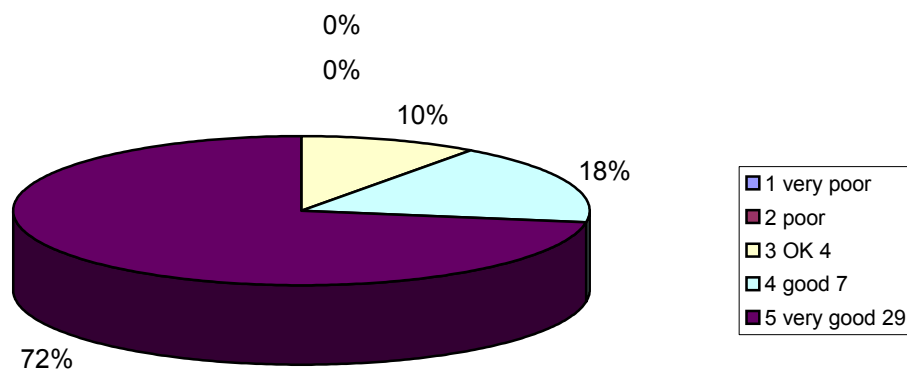
- More plenary discussion, but then ask audience to stand and speak up loud.
- Last morning less lectures
- For laboratory people more about EBLM
- Facilitators could have agreed before .... To "facilitate" small groups. Moderation of discussion?
- Systematic Reviews - small group work up to 4 with 1 facilitator and 2 computers.
- The content was very good.
- To discuss appraisal less.
- more clinical epidemiology stuff and even more practical work.
- Attention should be paid to the content of the examples (cases) used - some (many) of the attendees do not have a medical degree.
- The facilitators should have a clearer idea of the workshop objectives (but that's a small criticism).
- Everything was excellent. It should be maintained like this.

Question formulation, study design: more and simpler (explicit?) example.

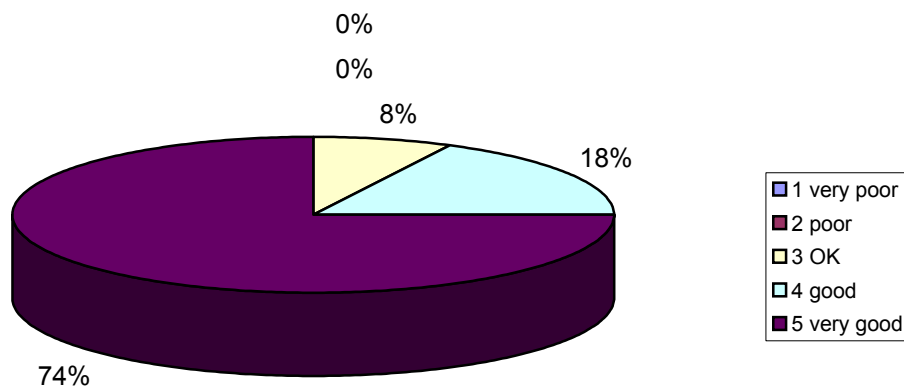
- I have no suggestions. The course was very well prepared.
- Study design too confusing and too long.
- Examples of EBLM in practice and real life implementation examples.

### 3. COURSE HANDBOOK

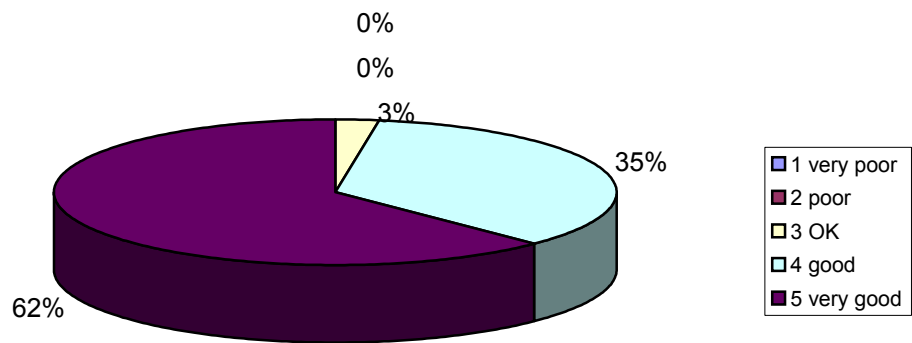
#### 3.1. Quantity of handbook materials



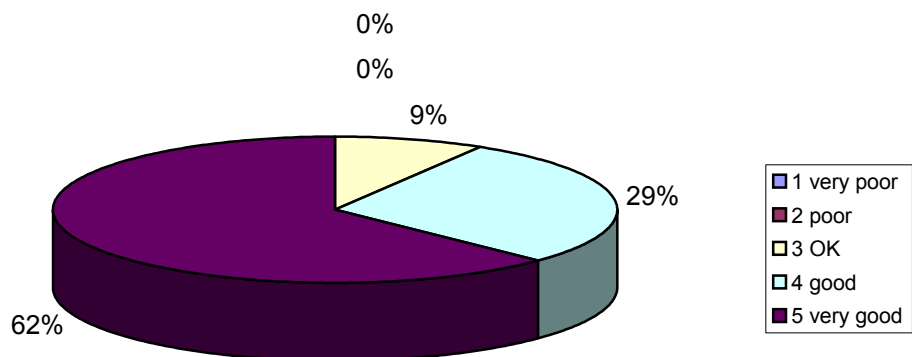
#### 3.2. Quality of handbook materials



### 3.3. Content of handbook materials



### 3.4. I will make use of the course materials in my own teaching programmes



**Further comments:**

- Some lectures were already outdated. That confuses people.
- Some of the lecturers used poor colour combinations in their presentations. Making the information hard to see on-screen and impossible to read in the handout.
- Lecturers should take care, that printouts are readable. E.g. statistic lessons often used such strange colours, that they were not printed in the course handbook.
- You guys did a great job for us all! Thank you and keep working!
- Very well organized and very useful course.

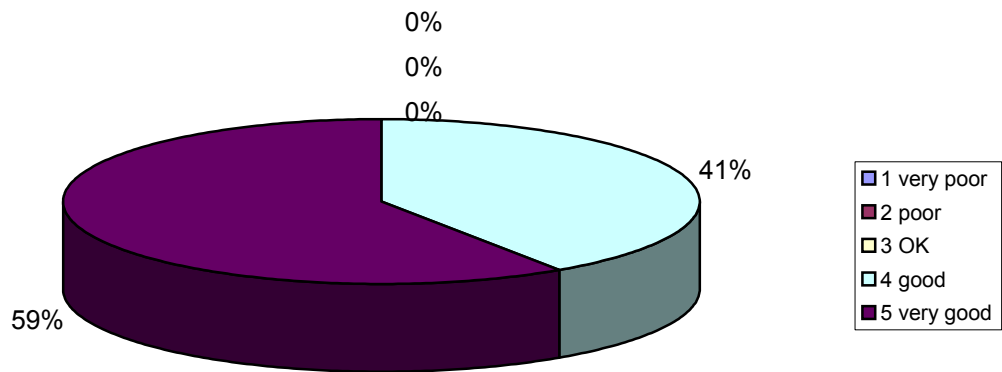
**Suggestions to improve future course materials:**

- No lecture handouts in book, if necessary provide those at beginning of lecture (most recent version)
- The font is small and some slides are very difficult to read (but the CD will solve the problem)
- Difficult to find your way around in the material. Perhaps complete content list and consecutive numbering of all pages.
- More material to read in advance.
- It is very useful if all the presentations are in the course handbook - not all were present (of Sandberg were not)
- Everything is very good. But maybe it would be better if the pages of each day were different color, or there were separations between days and the exercise pages - It would be good if the ISBN had been reserved for the course-handbook.
- Very helpful.
- Congratulations.
- Make the handbook less thick.

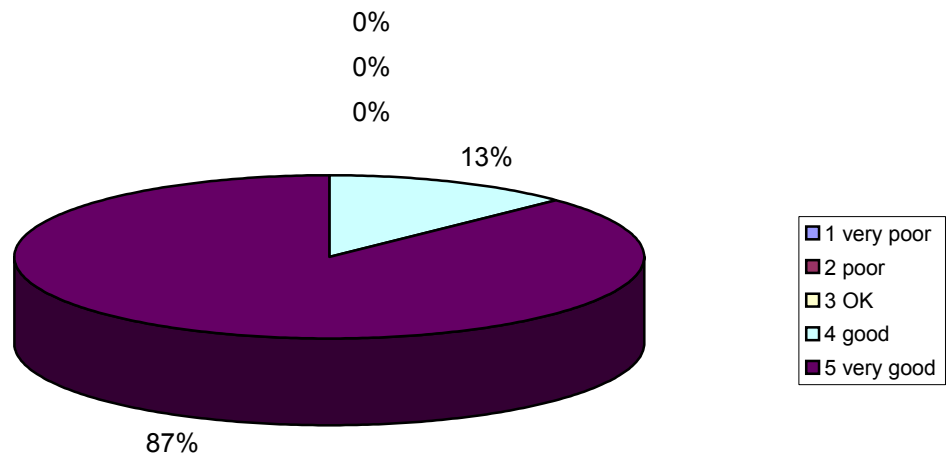


## 4. ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

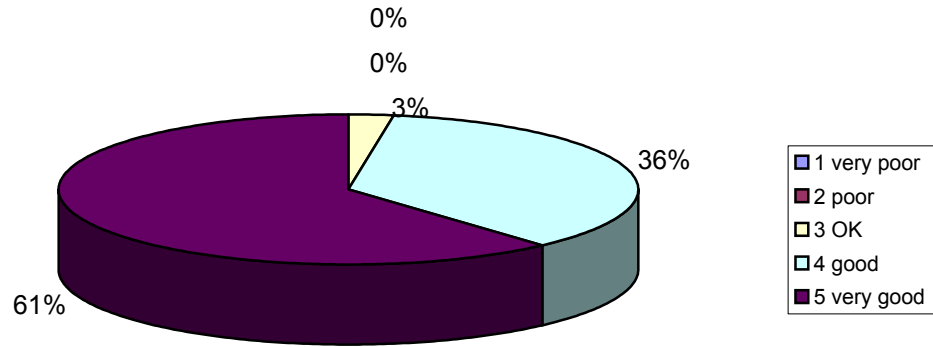
### 4.1. The overall quality of pre-course organisation



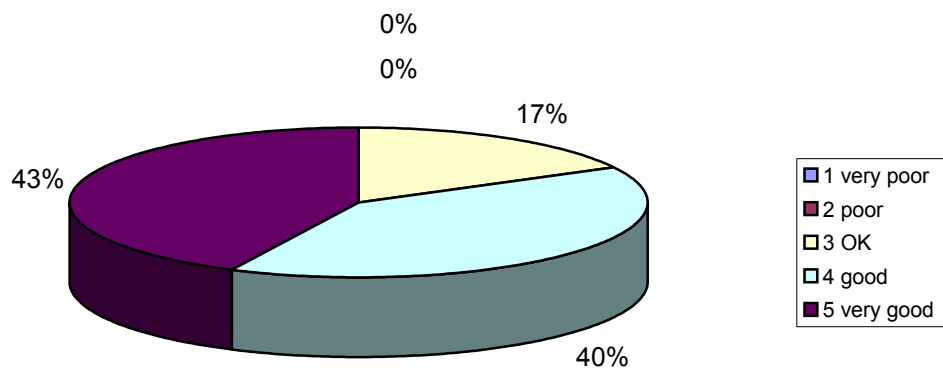
### 4.2. The quality of organisation at the course venue



#### 4.3. The quality of venue



#### 4.4. The quality of transport



**Further comments:**

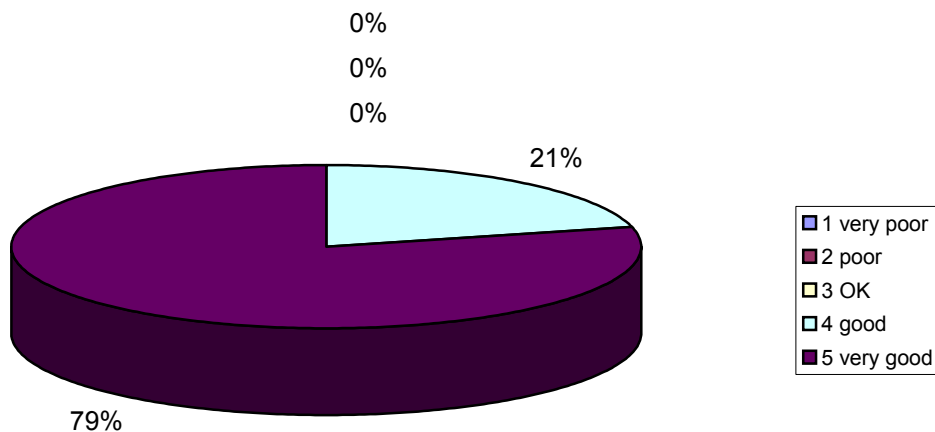
- Problems with payment - calling the office was impossible because nobody spoke English!!?
- Beyond expectation
- Group workshop in the room caused too much noise.
- Quality of transport: walking - very suitable
- excellent
- Quality of Hotel: Reception service not so good.
- Wine tasting: perfect. Dinner: good fun but a bit strange
- It can not be better!
- ??? What does the question mean
- Too much food!
- I only attended one night.
- I was not present.
- Best I have ever had.
- Do not feed too much people: it is not healthy! :)
- Excellent!
- Great!
- Congratulations, I would like to thank to Rita, and all organisers, facilitators and speakers, indeed.
- Hospitality of organizer much appreciated. Well organised interns of program selection, logistics, etc.
- Congratulations to the organisers of the course!
- It was very good that the number of participants was limited to an "overseeable" number.

**Suggestions to improve the organisation of future courses:**

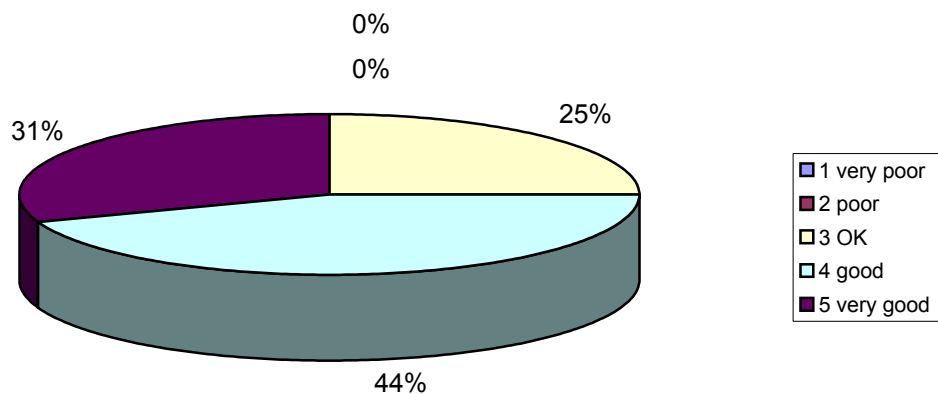
- It was just perfect... maybe a couple of hours free (just for one evening) to do some shopping (you know... for kids back home!)
- Keep the standards up.
- Groups should work in separate rooms. The room for lectures should be set with chairs in rows.
- Plenary sessions are valuable, but could not hear majority of comments.
- Do not increase the participants No.!

## 5. OVERALL RATING OF THE COURSE

### 5.1. How do you rate the course overall?



### 5.2. My knowledge about the topics of the course after taking it



**Comments:**

- Five stars course!
- Objectives were achieved.
- (My former knowledge) Is improved a lot
- I feel more confident in what I already know. I got new information and I see which kind of additional training I need.
- Great amount of inspiration.

**What were the main strengths of the course?**

- Quality of teachers, quality of handbook, workshops.
- Small group sessions, Jon Deeks!
- The appropriate mixture of lectures and interactive work in small groups.
- Good content, well thought-out, high-quality speakers
- Personal discussion
- Laudness of speakers
- Good teachers (facilitators) good programme (social as well)
- Very good talks + very good exercises in the small working groups/having the experts in the field.
- Searching for the evidence, learning new methods of data presentation and reading of published literature.
- Practice/keeping time.
- Extensive exposure to various unknown topics.
- English information about EBM and less about EBLM
- High scientific level
- Commitment, well organized, prominent and inspiring speakers, facilitators, etc.
- Interactive format.
- Key leaders in the field were selected to present
- Clear presentations. Accessible course material. Good interactive sessions. Well balanced programme.
- All speakers and facilitators are experts on their fields. Course and overall conditions are very comfortable.
- Interactive, teamwork.
- Interactivity
- The lecturers = great! And a very good choice of topics.
- Quality of speakers, Organisation, Workshops.
- Workshops except one. Statistical exercises/lectures also.
- High quality of speakers, working group activities, small group of participants.
- Day 3: all, especially "statistical exercise.."
- Lot of competences here. This may make the teachings maybe a little too "deep". Not a big problem though.
- In general to clear me up about EBLM and especially about the statistical techniques.

**What were the main weaknesses of the course?**

- Lack of fresh air
- What would you change in the course?
- Work in small groups is very dependent on the chairpersons "personality" and some groups may work better than other.
- The days were too busy; the plenary feedback was squeezed in half an hour at the end of the day when everybody was exhausted and so not very profitable - It was a pity since I think that that session is quite important. Suggestion: less busy days adding perhaps another day to the course.

- The Agree instrument is weak.
- In some exercises it was difficult to understand e.g. cases without having an M.D.
- Group presentations were not well presented.
- Short sessions to everly (?)
- Tight schedule, with little spare time in daytime.
- I couldn't find anything to write here.
- Too much program-no time.
- The cases were not so simple to practice without any disagreement between the small group members and facilitators. So I remain uncertain in some questions.
- Time (some too short)
- No real weaknesses
- Day 2: Small work group "searching for the evidence" Omit this, everybody can do by him/herself
- Less about EBLM

**What would you change in the course?**

- Less time computer searching.
- Nothing. It would be nice to have a new edition of the course every two years, changing location, (to involve more people and not to overstress Rita) and a second level course so to offer permanent training and spread the EBLM everywhere (well...)
- Add an extra day - course program could end at 3 O'clock PM, 2 days - give time breathe in between.
- S. practical literature search
- You should take into account that among participants are not only medical doctors but also pure clinical chemists with no medical background.
- I am sure that the content will be revised in the light of evidence.
- Nothing.
- Give microphone to the presenters.

**Would you recommend the course to any of your colleagues?**

- It is worthy to note that many of the attendees were from "emerging" countries. I'm wondering why people from France, Germany, UK were not willing to attend.
- Absolutely.
- Yes, strongly.
- Thank you very much to Dr. Horvath and her staff. This was a much needed and well done course.

## POST COURSE COMMENTS

„The course was just excellent and I cannot think of a single thing to change. The material presented, the quality of the presenters, the format and pace was really good. If I had to pick one thing that made the course special it would be the close interaction with all the presenters and facilitators. There was ample opportunity to interact with them during the day and evening. I also enjoyed the variety of participants which attended and I was able to get a better feel of what it is like to practice clinical chemistry in other places. I met some great people I hope to keep in touch with too..... Although I did not have much time for sightseeing I liked what I did see. The desserts were wonderful especially with the Hungarian wine speciality Tokaji!!

Cynthia Balion "Group 2"

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„...back at my lab after a few days of vacation, I'd like to thank you (and your collaborators) for the days we spent in Budapest. The meeting was such a success! Everything was perfectly organized, the teachers outstanding and the topic extremely interesting. I'm very happy to have had the opportunity to attend the course (and to visit your splendid capital) and I hope I'll be able to transfer what I learnt into my every day practice. Why not to think of an "advanced" course in EBLM?

My best regards: Maria Stella Graziani „

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„...As you may know, I have my "spies" around to tell me that your course was a great success. On behalf of the EMD and IFCC, I would like to congratulate on this. Of course, I am very grateful to you for organizing this and I do hope that you will extend my thanks to everyone who helped in one way or another to make this meeting happen. Knowing the IFCC, I can imagine that the question will be put forward to repeat this course. EBLM is an important issue for IFCC and the EB for sure would like to see it become a regularly returning event. Maybe you can think this over and maybe we can discuss how to realize this. Anyway, thank you again. I hope to see you soon. All the best, Gerard Sanders”

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„...I would like to congratulate and thank you and all speakers and facilitators for the excellent course and social activities. I would like to write you since returning home. But because of educational activities of my faculty, I couldn't find time. As I told you in Orlando, we have an EBM Committee at our Medical Faculty. This Committee was established in the context of postgraduate education for medical specialist education. The members of C. are from the departments of Epidemiology, Clinical Chemistry, Nuclear Medicine, Microbiology, Pathology, and thorax diseases. I will show the EBLM documents from the course in the meeting which is organized on Wednesday, and I think we will arrange a learning meeting for the committee members by means of these documents. Thank you again. Best wishes: Diler Aslan”

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„...I wish to thank you again for the wonderful time we all had in Budapest, in my opinion the course was very well planned and organized, and I do wish it was just the first in many. Hope you had some time to relax before other commitments..... Bye: Dunja Rogic”

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„...Congratulations on organising such an excellent Course. It was very valuable to have such close contact with "niche" experts over the course of several days and I enjoyed making new contacts around the world. I took my understanding of areas such as systematic reviewing and guideline appraisal to a higher level. I would be pleased to assist the C-EBLM in whatever way I can from such a distance. I would also be comfortable in serving as a facilitator or presenter on a future course. If I had any preferred niche area, it would be in the "Outcomes" area (as addressed currently by Chris Price). Naturally, if circumstances permit, I would aspire in due course to a higher level of Membership of the Committee.

John Whitfield and I will be writing a report for our Region (as part of the "cascade" process) and will send you a copy when ready.

My only regret is in not seeing more of Budapest. I had to get back to NZ quickly, given that I will be spending next week in Sydney at the AACB Conference. With Thanks and Best Wishes: Chris Florkowski”

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„Dear Rita, When I got back to work, your email thanking the course lecturers and facilitators was waiting. This was very nice, but really the thanks should be going in the other direction. You organised a very good course, every detail was attended to, the social occasions were excellent, it was a pleasure to visit Budapest, and you made me (and I'm sure all of us) feel very welcome in Hungary. So, very many thanks to you, too.

Best wishes: John”

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„...Without question the best educational experience I have had in the last 15 years. Great material, great faculty, superbly put together. The small group sessions were very helpful. My only suggestion would be to have this event repeated so more people could benefit. I did not get much sightseeing opportunities but the international character of the participants made the whole event very enjoyable.”

John Krahn PhD, FCACB, FACB  
Head, Clinical Biochemistry  
Associate Professor  
St. Boniface General Hospital  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada