



MDU



South-West Surgery Conference



Feedback - April 2025

South-West Surgery Conference

The South-West Surgical Conference aimed to inspire aspiring medical students within the South-West region to pursue a career in surgery.

The morning consisted of inspiring talks delivered by established surgeons within the South-West, specialising in Neurosurgery, Oncoplastic Surgery, Orthopaedics, and General Surgery.

In the afternoon, participants will engage in hands-on workshops in small groups, designed to build confidence in core surgical skills, such as suturing and an exciting dynamic hip screw workshop

The society aimed to help students gain a better understanding of the post-graduate training process through a comprehensive portfolio-building session. These sessions will be delivered by experts in their respective fields, providing an opportunity for interactive and educational learning experiences.

Course Information

Course Date:	5th April 2025
Venue:	Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital TILD Building, Exeter
Attendance:	36 Delegates
Aimed at:	Medical Students of All Years
Conference Fee:	£8.00



Programme

0845 - 0930 Registration and Welcome

0930 - 1000 'A Career in General Surgery' by Mr Ben Rossi

1030 - 1100 'A Career in Neurosurgery' by Mr James Palmer

1100 - 1120

Break

1120 - 1150 'A Career in Breast Surgery' by Ms Louise Merker

1150 - 1220 'A Career in Trauma and Orthopaedics' by Ms Sophie Donoghue

1230 - 1400

Lunch and Abstract Presentations

1400 - 1630 Alternating Workshops:

- o Suturing and Knot-tying
- o Dynamic Hip Screw
- o Bowel Anastomosis
- o Portfolio Building

1630 - 1700 Closing Remarks

Faculty

Mr Benjamin Rossi, MBChB

Consultant General Surgeon
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter

Professor James Palmer, MBBS

Consultant Neurosurgeon
University Hospital Plymouth, Plymouth

Ms Louise Merker, MBChB

Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon
Torbay Hospital, Torquay

Ms Sophie Donoghue, MBChB

Specialist Registrar (ST4), Trauma & Orthopaedics
Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro

Organisers

Miss Aisha Ilott

Facilities Officer

Miss Amelia Bassneft

Workshop Coordinator

Miss Helena Bellmann

Co-Lead

Miss Isra Ahmed

Finance Coordinator

Miss Maia Ramasamy

Outreach Coordinator

Miss Megan Campbell

Speaker Coordinator

Mr Christopher Wort

Speaker Coordinator

Mr Henry Wood

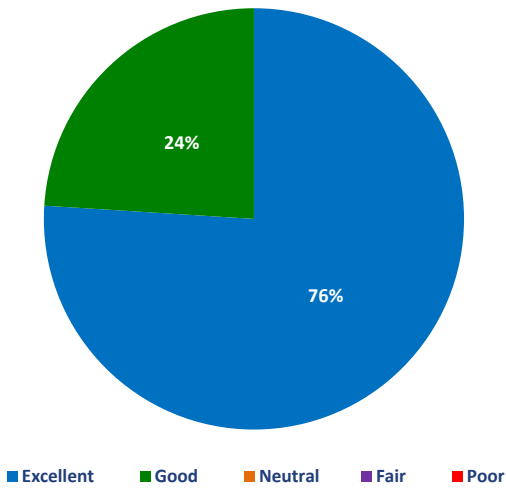
Co-Lead

Mr William Sullivan

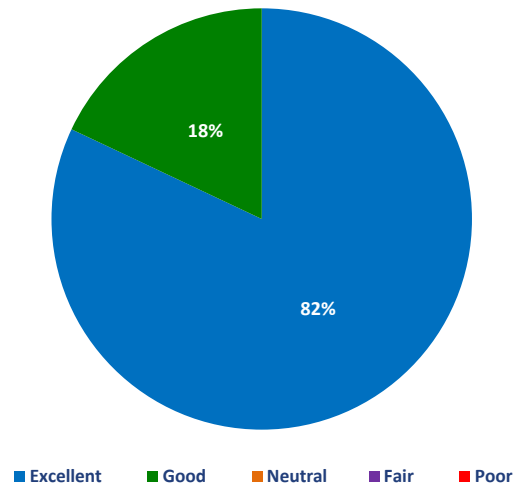
Workshop Coordinator

Overall Feedback

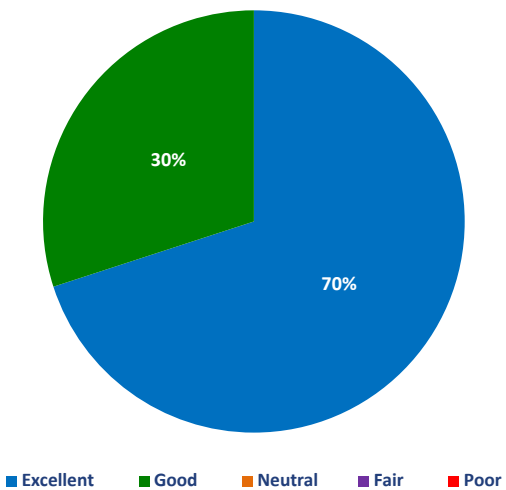
How was the content of the conference?



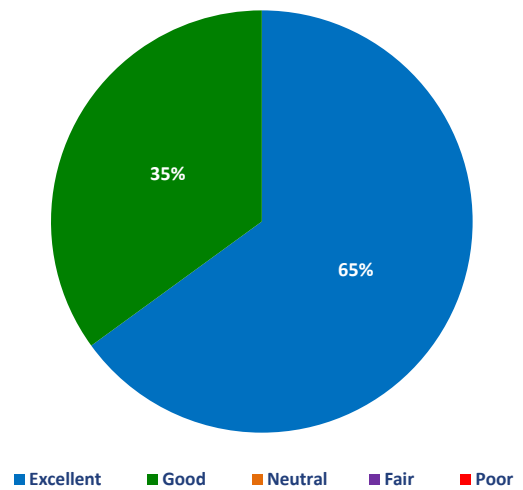
How would you rate the general academic standard of the speakers?



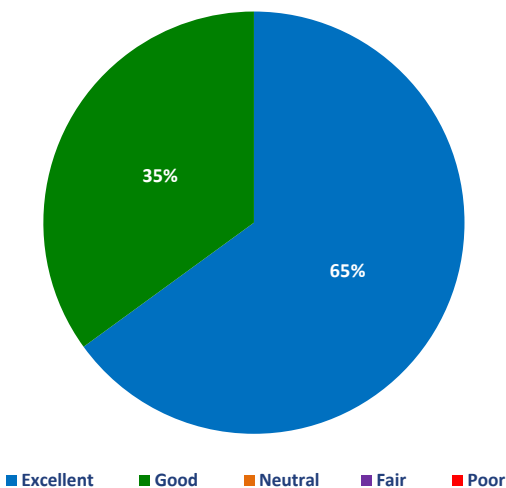
'A Career in General Surgery' by Mr Ben Rossi



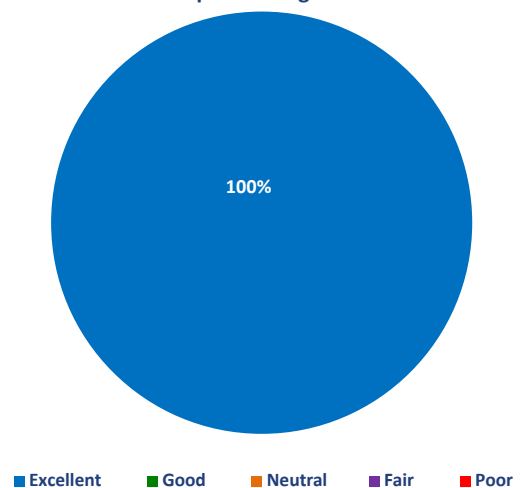
'A Career in Neurosurgery' by Mr James Palmer



'A Career in Breast Surgery' by Ms Louise Merker

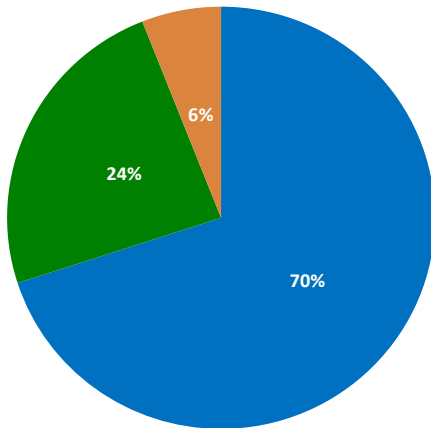


'A Career in Trauma and Orthopaedics' by Ms Sophie Donoghue



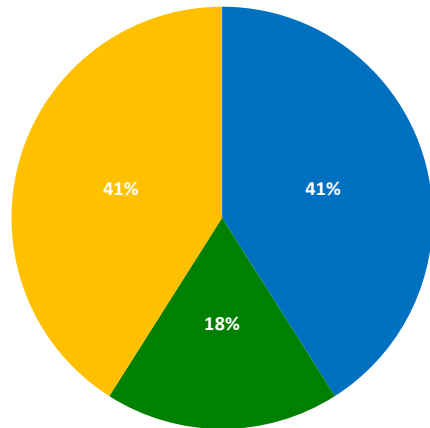
Overall Feedback

Workshops: Suturing and Knot-tying



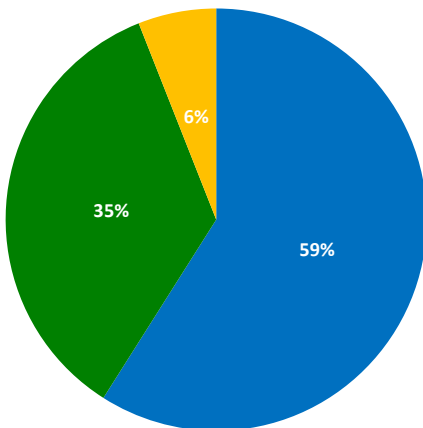
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor ■ Not Applicable

Workshops: Dynamic Hip Screw



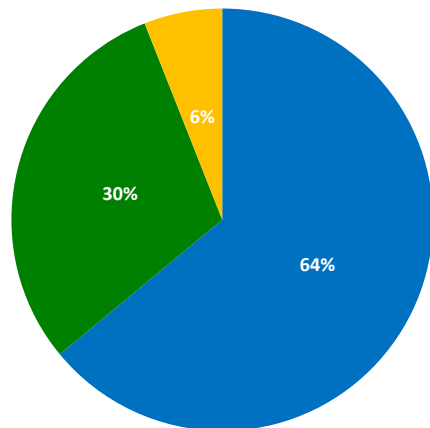
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor ■ Not Applicable

Workshops: Bowel Anastomosis



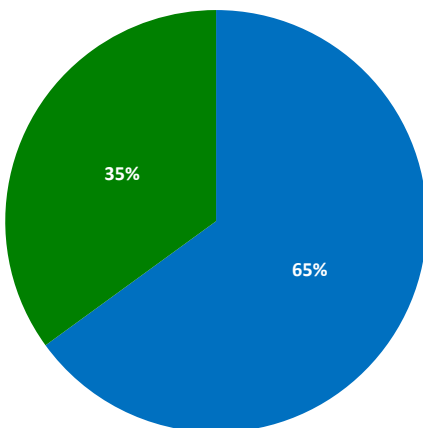
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor ■ Not Applicable

Workshops: Portfolio Building



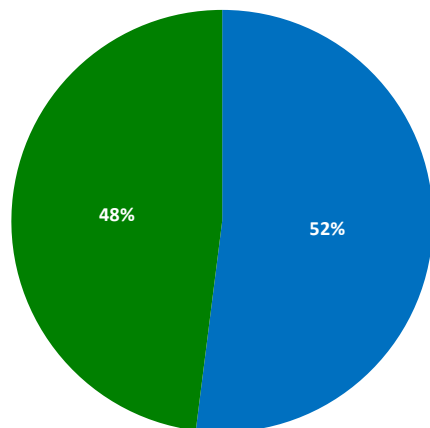
■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor ■ NA

How were the facilities and venue?



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Neutral ■ Fair ■ Poor

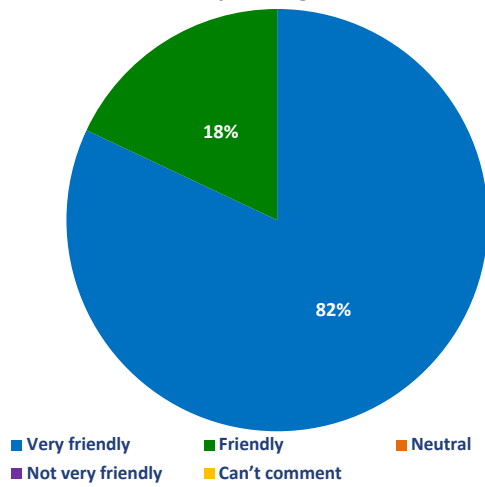
How were the refreshments and lunch?



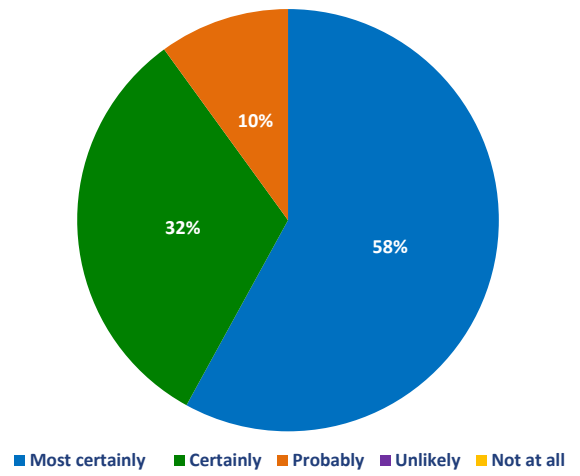
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Overall Feedback

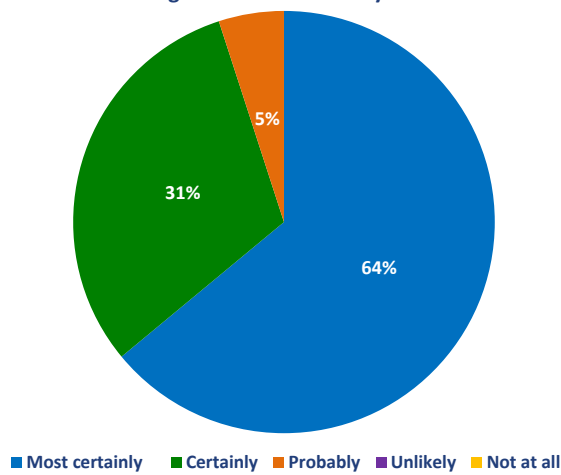
How was the general friendliness of the faculty and organisers?



Would you recommend this conference to a friend?



Do you think that this conference provided good value for money?



Individual Comments

I'm a first year medical student with a strong interest in surgery and found this conference incredibly inspiring. The speakers were of a high quality which is a credit to the organisation of the event. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

SB
University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

Great, it was very good.

YV

Really impressive and informative.

AG
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

It was very interactive with very interesting talks. I really enjoyed the workshops which involved suturing as I was able to build on my previous suturing skills. I also appreciated the portfolio building talk as it gave me an insight on how to build and what to involve in my portfolio.

HR
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Super enjoyable, really interesting and fascinating and great to gain further exposure.

GF
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Very informative, interesting and relevant.

TL
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

I gained more insights into surgery as a career, very relevant and I enjoyed very much.

GW
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

It was a good conference with great guest speakers and workshops to boot. It was thoroughly enjoyable and I learned plenty.

GW
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Great conference that was very interesting helping to guide my decision for choosing a speciality and learning about building a well grounded portfolio.

OD
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK



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Courses (a selection):

Undergraduate:

- Final Year Medicine and Surgical Revision Courses
- Training the Clinical Anatomy Trainer
- Clinical Anatomy as Applied to Trauma and Emergency Medicine
- Surgical Anatomy of Important Operative Procedures
- Future Surgeons: Key Skills (RCSEd delivered)
- Structured Introduction to Surgical Skills

Postgraduate:

- MRCS Part A
- MRCEM Part A
- MRCS Part B OSCE
- DOHNS: Intensive Revision & OSCE
- Intercollegiate Basic Surgical Skills (RCSEd delivered)
- MRCP PACES Part 2
- FRCS (General Surgery) Exit Exam
- Cadaveric Ultrasound-Guided Musculoskeletal Intervention Course
- Ultrasound-Assisted Botulinum Toxin Injection for Neuromuscular Disorders
- Live Advanced Laparoscopic Colorectal Course



Forthcoming key events:

- International Medical Summer School
- International Academic and Research Conference
- World University Anatomy Challenge

Publications



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Online Revision Resources

DoctorExams consists of 1000s of questions with detailed explanations in MCQ, EMQ, SBA and SAQ formats. Questions are written by the Doctors Academy group of experienced clinicians and clinical academics, with mock exams and feedback on performance included to aid a candidate's focused revision of topics. Based on past exams, these questions are carefully crafted to suit the requirements of undergraduate students & postgraduate trainees undertaking relevant speciality exams.

Resources for:

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- Dental Students
- International Entrance Exams
- MRCS Exams
- General Surgery Exams
- Plastic Surgery Exams
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