

Post Conference Report

**ISPE European Drug Utilisation Research Group
(EuroDURG) Conference 2020**

Medicines: Benefits and Burdens



Wednesday, 4th – Saturday, 7th March 2020

TIK Congress Centre, University of Szeged, Hungary

From

Prof Marion Bennie – Scientific Committee Chair

Ria Benkő – Local Organising Committee Chair



Table of Contents

Section 1 CONFERENCE PREPARATION AND PARTICIPANT STATISTICS	5
Organising Committees.....	5
Registration Statistics.....	6
Function Statistics	7
Delegate Badge and Bag	7
Exhibition/Sponsorship	8
Marketing/Promotion	8
Abstracts	8
Speakers	8
SECTION 2 - CONFERENCE PROGRAM	9
Programme Overview	11
EuroDURG Best Poster Awards 2020	12
Conference in Action.....	14
SECTION 3 - CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT EVALUATION	15
Educational Session feedback	16
General comments on the conference	17



Executive Summary

In March 2020, EuroDURG, the European chapter of ISPE special interest group for Drug Utilization Research, welcomed 175 delegates from 31 countries to our 3-day meeting entitled: Medicines: benefits and burdens, held in Szeged, Hungary at the University of Szeged. Our ambition was to challenge ourselves to consider the policy and practice response to current and evolving therapies in an ever increasing multimorbid patient population with multiple therapeutic treatments and consider how our research community can inform and drive improvements in the safe and effective use of medicines.

The conference speakers (39 invited speakers, 8 of whom delivered their presentations via Skype/WebEx) rose to the challenge. The conference was centred around four key plenary sessions. Firstly, the scale and complexity of multimorbidity and the subsequent challenge of polypharmacy presented from a clinician perspective – Attila Horváth-Sziklai, Director of the Hungarian Chamber of Pharmacist on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Community and Professor Bruce Guthrie from Edinburgh University and practicing GP. The second plenary session focused on the opportunities and challenges related to innovative medicines, with Dr Mariângela Batista Galvão Simão – Assistant Director General of the Access to Medicines and Health Products division at the WHO outlining the WHO approach to supporting access to innovative medicines; and Judith Bidló from the National Health Insurance Fund of Hungary speaking from an HTA perspective. Emerging capabilities to generate medicines intelligence data at scale was the subject of the third plenary; while Dr Miklós Szócska, Director of the Health Services Management Training Centre at Semmelweis University, outlined opportunities offered by Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence, Dr Nastasja Kingod from the Steno Diabetes Centre in Copenhagen presented insights into how data shared by patients on social media can be used to learn about medicines use. Our final plenary focused importantly on antimicrobial resistance and burden with Dr Dominique Monnet – Head of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and HAI Programme at ECDC – and Dr Esmita Charani, Lead Pharmacist, Health Protection Research Unit for HAI and Antimicrobial Resistance at Imperial College London presenting state-of-the-art AMR data intelligence; and design and implementation strategies for effective interventions to combat AMR.

Our plenary sessions were complimented by an extensive programme of introductory and advanced education sessions, led by international experts, to kick off the conference on Wednesday afternoon followed by a mix of interspersed parallel sessions, workshops and mini-symposia focused on DUR methods, clinical topics, health policy and patients. Our delegates were active throughout, with 54 oral abstract presentations across the sessions and a further 135 posters, all of whom were part of a themed poster walk over 2 days to stimulate discussion on the wealth of research ongoing within the community.

The scientific programme was accompanied by a EuroDURG social programme to promote networking, old and new, across the 3 days. We started with a Welcome Reception, hosted by the University of Szeged, in the Rector's Office, accompanied by stunning piano music provided by a gifted



pharmacy student, Anna Rónaszéki. Our EuroDURG party dinner was hosted at the Tisza River Café located on the beautiful riverside and included music from the band Black Five.

The conference evaluation questionnaire was completed by 77 of the participants. Of these, 66% worked in academia, 21% in health care and the remaining in various other areas including health authorities or insurances. About 39% had been to previous EuroDURG meetings. Respondents were very positive about the conference. Using a scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent), the overall scientific content, networking opportunities, practical arrangements, and the social programme were rated as 5, and relevance to work as 4. Finally, 84.4% of respondents wrote they would attend another EuroDURG meeting.

The evolving COVID-19 situation at this time presented significant challenge to the final organisation of the conference. We saw our registrations drop from 205 to 175 attendees in the seven days preceding the conference due to the rapidly changing situation. However, with the local team we were able to respond rapidly to accommodate all our key invited speakers unable to travel (n=8), to join individual sessions virtually via skype, supported by the local university team and professional conference organisation. Helpful lessons have been learnt which will inform planning and resourcing for future EuroDURG conferences.

Marion Bennie
Chair, Scientific Committee
Chair, EuroDURG



Ria Benkő
Chair, Local Organising Committee



Section 1 CONFERENCE PREPARATION AND PARTICIPANT STATISTICS

Organising Committees

The Scientific Committee, established in May 2019, comprised of individuals from the EuroDURG Executive Board, WHO Geneva and key recognised leaders in pharmacy and drug use from the conference host country, Hungary. An Advisory Board was convened to support development of the scientific programme and promote the conference internationally.

The Local Organising Committee comprised individuals from the Scientific Committee, the host (the University of Szeged) and the conference organiser Régió-10 Ltd. Due to the global make-up of the committee, the core team met both in person and via telephone over the 12 months prior to the conference. Two face to face planning meetings took place, the first in Hungary where the team travelled across the country to select then view the conference and social event spaces, the second in Belgium to complete the abstract review progress and finalise the logistics of the event.

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE	SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE	ADVISORY BOARD
Ria Benkő (Chair) Marion Bennie Gabriella Bodó Péter Doró Monique Elseviers Zsófia Engi Githa Fungie Galistiani Mária Matuz Tanja Mueller Krisztina Schváb Gyöngyvér Soós	Marion Bennie, Scotland (Chair) Anna Birna Almarsdottir, Denmark Ria Benkő, Hungary Judit Bidló, Hungary Monique Elseviers, Belgium Brian Godman, UK / Sweden Balazs Hango, Hungary Suzanne Rose Hill, Switzerland Ramune Jacobsen, Denmark Tanja Mueller, Scotland (Secretary) Paraskevi Voula Papaioannidou, Greece Elisabetta Poluzzi, Italy Gabriel Sanfélix-Gimeno, Spain Gisbert W. Selke, Germany Gyöngyvér Soós, , Hungary Doug Steinke, UK Katja Taxis, The Netherlands Sabine Vogler, Austria Björn Wettermark, Sweden	Central/Eastern Europe Irina Cazacu Jolanta Gulbinovic Katarina Gvozdanović Ivana Ivanova Nikica Mirosevic Skvrce Martin Wawruch Eva Zimcikova Africa Johanita Burger South America Claudia Osorio de Castro Luciane Lu Lopez Australia Frank May Lisa Pont Asia Jason C. Hsu USA Veronika Wirtz North America Carlotta Lunghi Ingrid Sketris Middle East Saleh Aljadeeah



EURODURG 2020 CONFERENCE
EUROPEAN DRUG UTILISATION
RESEARCH GROUP CONFERENCE
March 4–7, 2020 Szeged, Hungary



ispe International Society
for Pharmacoepidemiology



Registration Statistics

There were originally 205 registrations for the conference from 33 countries. However, given the evolving travel restrictions and coronavirus epidemic situation at this time a total of 175 delegates joined us in Hungary (161 registered delegates and 14 volunteers/local Hungarian session chairs) from 31 countries. A total of 8 of our invited speakers also joined the conference virtually for their sessions. Furthermore we were able to also accommodate via skype a small number of oral abstract presenters from Italy.





Function Statistics

Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception took place in the Rector's Office of the University of Szeged on Wednesday, 4th March at 6:00 pm. All conference delegates were invited to join for welcome drinks & finger food. Zoltán Kónya, Scientific Vice Rector of the University of Szeged and Sándor Nagy, Vice Mayor of Szeged gave a welcoming speech in the beautiful main building of the University. Delegates enjoyed stunning piano music played by Anna Rónaszéki, exceptional pharmacy student and gifted pianist.

EuroDURG Party

The Networking Dinner took place on Friday, 6th March at the Tisza River Café at the exquisite riverside, one of the main attractions of Szeged, the beautiful River Tisza. The dinner provided a great opportunity to relax and get to know fellow conference delegates. Delegates enjoyed a welcome drink on arrival and a delicious self-service buffet. Delegates also enjoyed listening and dancing to the amazing band Black Five, playing hits through all the decades.

Delegate Badge and Bag

A cotton bag containing a copy of the conference programme, flyers, a pen, traditional Hungarian sweets and wooden coasters with a traditional Hungarian design, map and Szeged tourist material were handed out to all delegates at registration. Delegates also had badges to wear throughout the duration of the conference.





Exhibition/Sponsorship

There were exhibitors from: the WHO Collaboration Centres; NuPhaC (Nurse and Pharmaceutical Care network); and the European Inventory of Biologics/Biosimilars Databases (EU-INBIOBASE). The exhibition consisted of a table top and chairs in the foyer area where all catering breaks and lunch were served. This allowed total exposure for each exhibitor, and the length of the breaks also allowed ample time for delegates to visit each stand. EuroDURG also had a table to provide information on the Glasgow Declaration initiative.

Marketing/Promotion

Numerous communications were sent out throughout the year, including:

- Announcement of EuroDURG 2020 in the EuroDURG bulletin, February 2019
- Conference flyers distributed at EuroDURG Summer School in Stockholm, June 2019
- Invitation email, August 2019
- Conference flyers distributed at ISPE Conference in Prague, August 2019
- Abstract Submission open, September 19th 2019
- Abstract Submission Deadline extended, October 3rd 2019
- Abstract notification, November 2019
- Registration open & Programme at a glance available, December 2019
- EuroDURG Season's Greetings & Early bird registration deadline, January 2020

Electronic communications were distributed via the established EuroDURG network and the Conference website was updated regularly.

Abstracts

A total of 213 abstracts originating from 38 countries were received via the conference website managed by the Régió-10 Ltd team. A full review process was undertaken by the EuroDURG Scientific Committee, supported by an extended cohort of reviewers. Overall, 135 posters were accepted and poster sessions took place in the afternoons of Thursday 5th and Friday 6th March. A further 54 abstracts were accepted as oral presentations. A small proportion of posters and oral abstracts were not presented due to cancellations.

Speakers

There were 39 invited speakers. The budget allowed for up to 2 nights' accommodation and travel costs for up to €230 in total per person. Some speakers were funded by their own organisations.



SECTION 2 - CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The conference was centred around four key plenary sessions. To start off the conference, Attila Horváth-Sziklai, Director of the Hungarian Chamber of Pharmacists, presented current challenges and policy responses to multimorbidity on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Community, followed by Professor Bruce Guthrie from Edinburgh University addressing developments on how to approach the management of polypharmacy in clinical practice. The second plenary session focused on the opportunities and challenges related to innovative medicines, with Dr Mariângela Batista Galvão Simão – Assistant Director General of the Access to Medicines and Health Products division at the World Health Organisation in Geneva (joining virtually) – outlining the WHO approach to supporting access to innovative medicines; and Judith Bidló from the National Health Insurance Fund of Hungary speaking about this highly relevant topic from an HTA perspective. Emerging capabilities to generate medicines intelligence data at scale was the subject of the third plenary; while Dr Miklós Szócska, Director of the Health Services Management Training Centre at Semmelweis University, outlined opportunities offered by Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence, Dr Nastasja Kingod from the Steno Diabetes Centre in Copenhagen presented insights into how data shared by patients on social media can be used to learn about medicines use. And last but not least, Dr Dominique Monnet – Head of the Antimicrobial Resistance and HAI Programme at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control – and Dr Esmita Charani, Senior Lead Pharmacist at the Health Protection Research Unit for HAI and Antimicrobial Resistance at Imperial College London, both joining virtually, provided state-of-the-art data on antimicrobial use, antimicrobial resistance, and its consequences; and guidance for how to design and implement effective interventions to improve and change care in order to combat antibacterial resistance, respectively. The Programme at a Glance is detailed overleaf. The full conference programme book and abstract book are available through the EuroDURG conference website (<https://www.eurodurg2020.com/>).

Our plenary sessions were complimented by an extensive programme of introductory and advanced education sessions, led by international experts, to kick off the conference on Wednesday afternoon followed by a mix of interspersed parallel sessions, workshops and mini-symposia focused on DUR methods, clinical topics, health policy and patients. Our delegates were active throughout, with 54 oral abstract presentations across the sessions and a further 135 posters, all of whom were part of a themed poster walk (Adherence; Antimicrobials; Cancer / Biologicals; Mental Health; Drug / Health Policy; Elderly; Safety; Interventions / Implementation; and Patient Voice) over 2 days to stimulate discussion on the wealth of research ongoing within the community.

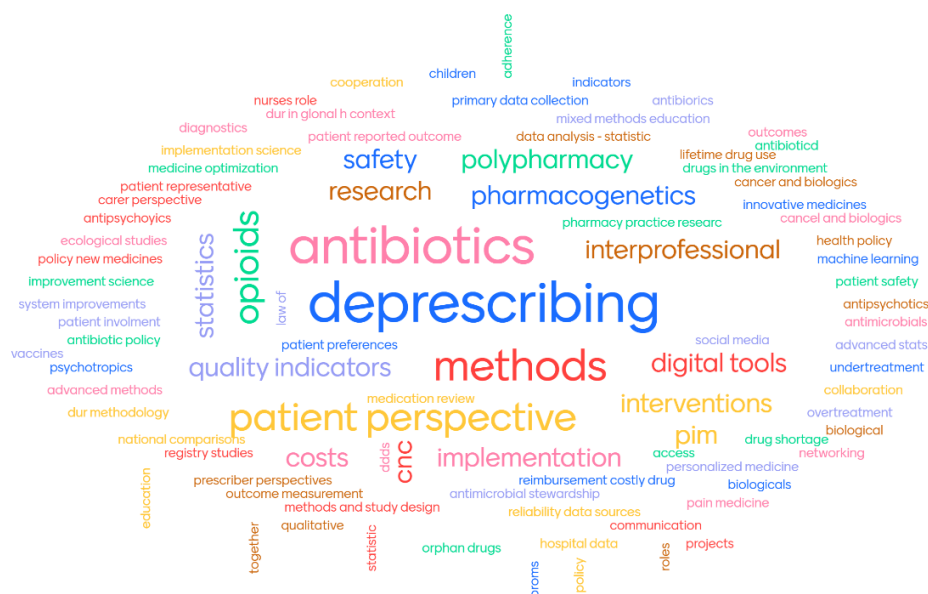
Each poster presentation comprised of 3 minutes followed by 2 minutes of discussion. The chair and co-chair for each poster walk rated the posters based on scientific content, the quality of the poster and the way the results were presented and defended. A best poster was chosen separately for both the Thursday and Friday poster sessions based on these rankings; the winners received complimentary registration for the next International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology and Therapeutic Risk Management.



EuroDURG
ispe International Society
 for Pharmacoepidemiology



At the conclusion of the conference delegates were asked: “What are the topics you would like to discuss at the next conference”. A digital application, accessible through delegates’ phones, generated an instant Word Cloud at the meeting (see below).





EURODURG 2020 CONFERENCE
EUROPEAN DRUG UTILISATION
RESEARCH GROUP CONFERENCE
March 4–7, 2020 Szeged, Hungary



Programme Overview

	WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH			THURSDAY 5 MARCH			FRIDAY 6 MARCH			SATURDAY 7 MARCH		
				SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM PART I			SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM PART III			SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM PART V		
09.00-10.30				WELCOME PLENARY 1: Multi-morbidity and the evolving challenge of polypharmacy Congress Hall			F-TS5 Cancer & biologicals Lecture Hall	F-TS6 Elderly & polypharmacy Congress Hall	F-TS7 Implement. intervention Lecture Room II	S-TS12 Rerewarding field research Lecture Hall	S-TS13 Pregnancy& paediatrics Lecture Room II	S-TS14 Deprescribing Congress Hall
10.30-11.00				Coffee break			Coffee break			Coffee break		
11.00-12.30				T-TS1 DUR & safety Lecture Room II	T-SY1 Cross-national comparison Lecture Hall	T-TS2 Medication adherence Congress Hall	F-SY2 Policies on deprescribing Lecture Hall	F-TS8 Antimicrobial stewardship interventions Congress Hall	F-TS9 Evolving data streams Lecture Room II	PLENARY 4: Combating antibacterial resistance – a One Health approach CLOSING REMARKS Congress Hall		
12.30-13.30				Lunch			Lunch Early-Career Researcher event - Lecture Hall			<div>Legend</div> <div>ES: educational session</div> <div>SY: symposium</div> <div>TS: thematic session including a key lecture (30 mins) and 4 oral abstract presentations (4x15 mins)</div> <div>WS: workshop</div>		
	EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS			SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM PART II			SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM PART IV					
13.30-14.30				PLENARY 2: Innovative medicines – opportunities and challenges Congress Hall			PLENARY 3: Emerging capabilities to generate medicines intelligence data at scale Congress Hall					
14.30-15.30	W-ES1 Statistics Basic level Seminar Room III	W-ES2 Methods: Basic level Lecture Room I	W-ES3 Adherence (applied) Lecture Room II	POSTER SESSION 1			POSTER SESSION 2					
15.30-16.00	Coffee break			Coffee break			Coffee break					
16.00-17.30	W-ES4 Statistics: Advanced level Seminar Room III	W-ES5 Methods: Advanced level Lecture Room I	W-ES6 Policy application of DUR Lecture Room II	T-WS1 Medicines use in old age Lecture Hall	T-TS3 Challenges for drug and health policy Congress Hall	T-TS4 Psycho-tropic drug use Lecture Room II	F-WS2 Introduction of new medicines Lecture Hall	F-TS10 Opioids Congress Hall	F-TS11 CVD and diabetes Lecture Room II			
	Welcome Reception 18:00 Rector's Office			EuroDURG General Assembly (17:30-18:30)			EuroDURG party with buffet 19:30 Tisza River café					



EuroDURG Best Poster Awards 2020

Poster Nominations

THURSDAY POSTER WALK

AD7 Caroline Walsh – Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Ireland

AB9 Réka Bordás – Department of Clinical Pharmacy, University of Szeged, Hungary

MH4 Ana Araujo – Institute for Evidence Based Health, University of Lisbon, Portugal

CD6 Zuzana Mačková – Hospital Pharmacy, Lúčna, Slovakia

DH9 Tatiana Luz – Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Brazil

EL1 Monika Pury Oktora – Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University of Groningen, Netherlands

SF8 Carla Sans – Clinical Pharmacology Service, Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Spain

FRIDAY POSTER WALK

AB13 Verica Ivanovska – World Health Organization, Switzerland

DH20 Carlos E. Durán – Clinical Pharmacology, Ghent University, Belgium

EL22 Stijn Crutzen – Department of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Groningen, Netherlands

EL30 Luciane Cruz Lopes – University of Sorocaba, UNISO, Brazil

II6 Noura Bawab – Center for Primary Care and Public Health (Unisanté), Switzerland

PV3 Elyne De Baetselier – Centre for Research and Innovation in Care, University of Antwerp, Belgium

SF12 Ana Tomas – Department of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

Poster prize (Free registration at ISPE conference)

THURSDAY

Réka Bordás – Department of Clinical Pharmacy, University of Szeged, Hungary

with her poster: *Antibiotic consumption among the elderly in primary care in Hungary and Sweden*

FRIDAY

Elyne De Baetselier – Centre for Research and Innovation in Care, University of Antwerp, Belgium

with her poster: *EUPRON – Nurses' practices in interprofessional pharmaceutical care in Europe.*

A cross-sectional survey in 17 countries



EURODURG 2020 CONFERENCE
EUROPEAN DRUG UTILISATION
RESEARCH GROUP CONFERENCE
March 4–7, 2020 Szeged, Hungary



Poster price nominations



Conference in Action

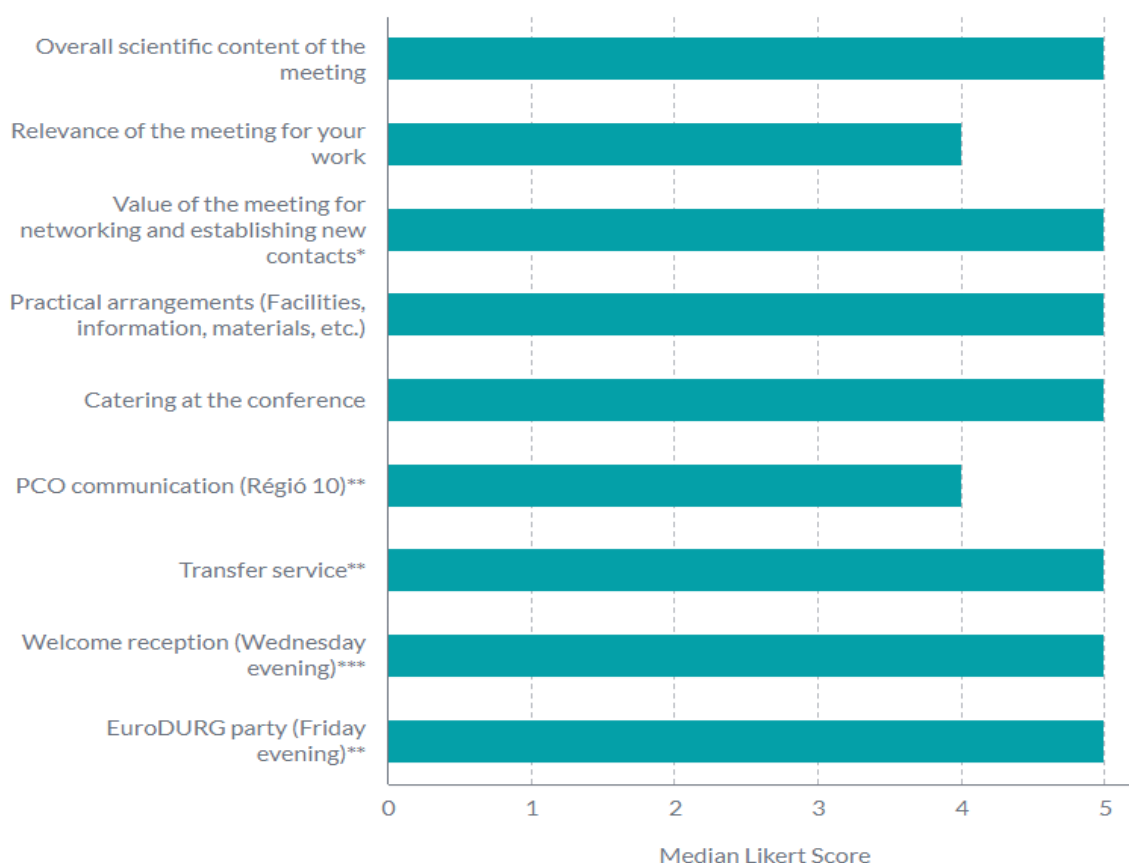


SECTION 3 - CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

The conference evaluation questionnaire was completed by 77 of the participants. Of these, 66% worked in academia, 21% in health care and the remaining in various other areas including health authorities or insurances. About 39% had been to previous EuroDURG meetings, with 43% having attended ISPE meetings previously. Respondents were very positive about the conference. Using a scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent), the overall scientific content, networking opportunities, practical arrangements, and the social programme were rated as 5, and relevance to work as 4 (figure 1). Finally, 84.4% of respondents wrote they would attend another EuroDURG meeting.

Figure 1: EuroDURG 2020 Survey Response – Overall Conference Rating

How do you rate the following from 1 (Very Poor) to 5 (Excellent)? (n=77)



*No Response =1

**No Response = 2

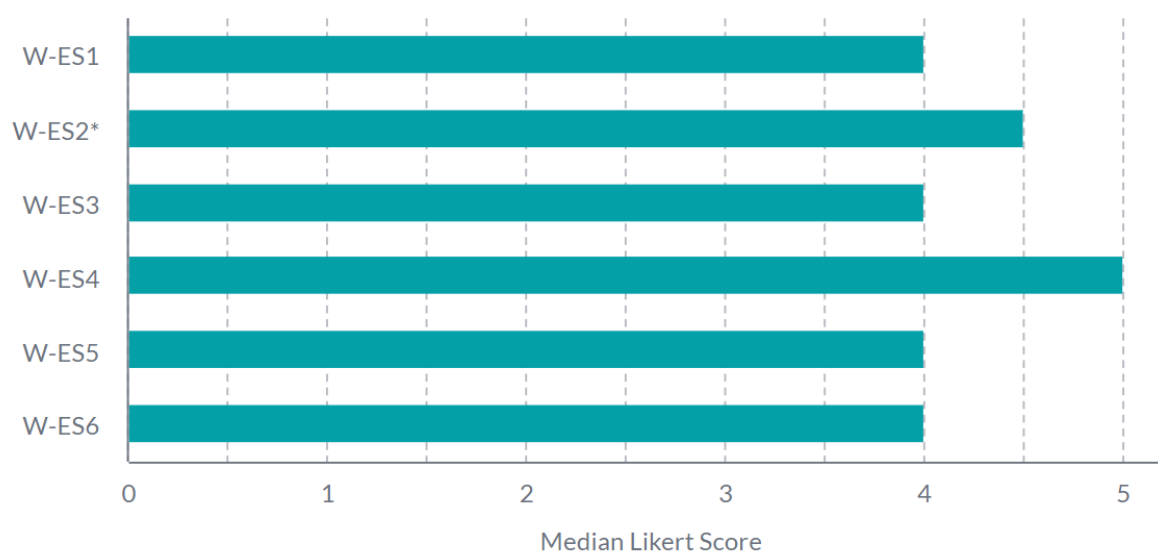
***No Response = 3

Educational Session feedback

Of the 77 participants who completed the survey, 50 attended one of the first Wednesday Educational Sessions and 55 attended one of the second Wednesday Educational Sessions. The median scores for the Educational session are shown in Figure 2. All were received very positively.

Figure 2: EuroDURG 2020 Survey Response –Education Sessions

How do you rate the Educational Sessions from 1 (Very Poor) to 5 (Excellent)?



Additional comments given were generally positive. Some recommendations were provided around allowing for delegates to sufficiently prepare for choosing and attending a session, and for the time allocated to the Educational Sessions to be longer.

"You may give some tips [on] what will be discussed or some materials in advance for studying."

"The session descriptions could have been a bit more detailed to make it easier to know what to expect."

"Make it longer, maybe the whole day, because the topics are very extensive."

"Very good and had a good variety for new researchers to more experienced."

"The session I attended was good, and I enjoyed the interactive components."



General comments on the conference

The main overall strengths of the conference were: the size; the networking opportunities; the welcoming and friendly atmosphere; the quality and variety of the workshops, educational sessions and presentations; the expertise of speakers; and the high standard of organisation.

"[The] experiences of speakers who talk about direct practical questions and their clinical experiences, excellent workshops with useful outcomes for clinical practice."

"The main strength was it being a European / International congress, to establish contacts with different working groups that work in a variety of different topics and settings."

"I came for a reason to the conference, yet gained so many extraordinary experiences and knowledge that I didn't expect to get. Excellent atmosphere, organization and conference content altogether."

"The conference is big enough to be interesting but still small enough to be very friendly and easy to network with colleagues from around Europe and beyond."

"The session themes are generally relevant to current practice and my interests. So much so that it is often a difficult choice as to which sessions to actually attend."

The main challenges or areas to improve on focused around: reformatting the poster walks to be more informal and less structured; the overall length of the conference; timing of certain sessions and lack of breaks in between; and the location of the conference venue and subsequent travel to and from the city (although the city itself was praised by many).

"[Poster walk] was just a lot of small presentations, instead of people standing next to their poster and you being able to walk around and talk with them."

"The Early Career Researcher's lunch event [could be] brought earlier in the time table as this would have helped me settle in quicker and make friends a little more easier."

"Although Szeged provided a great venue ... the travel took a bit of time, particularly coming in later at night waiting for the last shuttle."

"Little time in between some sessions to move from A to B. "

"I wonder if it is possible to condense over 3 days instead of 4."