

# EVALUATION OF VIRTUAL PHARMACY STUDENTS' RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

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## INTRODUCTION

The Annual Pharmacy Symposium organised by the Department of Pharmacy, University of Malta brings together academic staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students, collaborators and stakeholders to discuss outcomes of student research projects as oral and poster presentations. The 2021 Pharmacy Symposium was held online for the first time via the Zoom platform due to restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## AIMS

To evaluate student perception about the remote modality used for the Annual Pharmacy Symposium

## METHOD

A self-administered questionnaire was distributed to students who attended the symposium at the end of the four-day symposium.

Students were asked to rate on a 5-point Likert scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree' with regards to remote environment used and appreciation of the transmission of scientific information in the presentations.

## RESULTS

- Out of 370 students who attended the symposium, 19% (n=72) completed the questionnaire.
- Forty-four students were female and the age of the students ranged from 18 to 51 years.
- The majority of students (n=46) were undergraduate students.
- The majority of students gave positive feedback (score 4 or 5) about the symposium (Table 1).
- Forty students enjoyed visiting the virtual poster gallery and 38 found the gallery easy to access.

Table 1: Frequency of respondents who gave positive feedback (score 4 or 5) about the symposium (N=72)

Statement	Number of students
Virtual symposium was well organised	71
Platform used was appropriate	69
Quality of research presented was of high standard	66
Presentations were understandable and stimulating	57
Duration of oral sessions was appropriate	55

## CONCLUSION

The virtual pharmacy research symposium was positively evaluated by students indicating that it is a suitable forum to support students in developing competencies in research dissemination and to appreciate ongoing research by other students. The 2022 Pharmacy Symposium was developed as a HyFlex modality.