

# EVALUATION OF A PHARMACY STUDENTS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Janis Vella Szijj, Francesca Wirth, Nicolette Sammut Bartolo, Maresca Attard Pizzuto, Louise Grech, Anthony Serracino-Inglott, Lilian M. Azzopardi

Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Malta, Msida, Malta

email: janis.vella@um.edu.mt

## INTRODUCTION

The Annual Pharmacy Symposium organised by the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Malta brings together undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic staff, stakeholders and collaborators to discuss outcomes of student research projects as oral and poster presentations.

The aim of this evaluation was to understand student perception of the pharmacy symposium.

## METHOD

A self-administered questionnaire was distributed to all students attending the symposium at the end of the one week symposium.

Students were asked to rate on a 5-point Likert scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree' whether the symposium made them more aware of other research projects and whether participation in the symposium helped them understand research methodologies and terminologies.

Students were asked whether attendance to the symposium facilitated contact with stakeholders and whether their appreciation of presentation skills improved.

Students were asked to rate their learning and social experience (from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest).

## RESULTS

The questionnaire was distributed to 120 students and 85 students completed the evaluation.

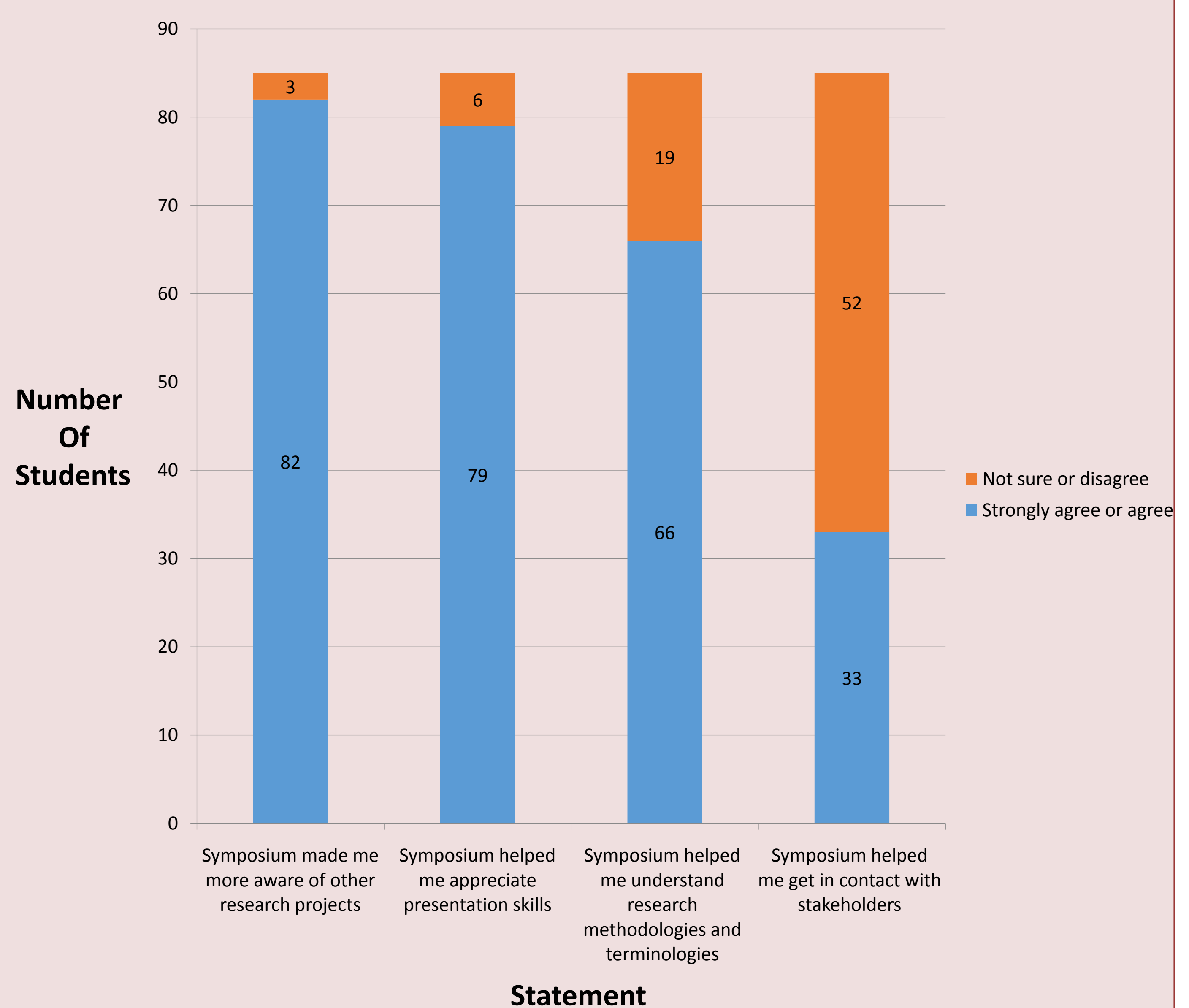
27 students were male and 58 students were female.

The ages of the students ranged from 18 to 26 years.

78 participants were undergraduate students.

The majority of students gave positive feedback (score 4 or 5) on the symposium as a good learning (n=50) and good social experience (n=57) (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Student responses (N=85)



## CONCLUSION

The Pharmacy Symposium was evaluated positively by the students indicating that the research symposium is a suitable platform that is supporting students to appreciate research skills and demonstrate dissemination competencies.