

# Evaluation of an Innovative Teaching Method: Buzz Sessions

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

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

email: maresca.attard-pizzuto@um.edu.mt

## INTRODUCTION

During the Annual Pharmacy Research Symposium students following an undergraduate or postgraduate degree course in pharmacy and pharmaceutical technology present their research projects. Stakeholders and collaborators participate to discuss the research activity. Learning outcomes of the Symposium are description of research methodologies, reflection on data handling and experiencing dissemination of results. This year, an innovative aspect was the introduction of Buzz sessions which are short reflective sessions intended to stimulate discussion.

## AIMS

- To organise buzz sessions during the Symposium as a method to stimulate a critical reflective analysis of research methodologies and data handling
- To evaluate student perception of the Buzz sessions

## METHOD

- Three Buzz sessions were held during the one-week symposium.
- In each session, students formed groups and were invited to discuss and respond to three multiple choice questions on research presented.
- Results were submitted through Mentimeter, an application which was used to sustain the interactivity, and the winning group was presented with a memento.
- A questionnaire was distributed at the end of the third session to evaluate, on a 5-point Likert scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree', if Buzz sessions were well-organised, stimulating, enjoyable, challenging, helped students reflect on research methodologies and results presented and if use of Mentimeter enriched session interactivity.

## RESULTS

- Seventy-nine out of 180 students completed the evaluation.
- Fifty-five students were female and 24 were male.
- The age of the students ranged between 18 and 26 years.
- Statements which students agreed mostly upon were that Buzz sessions were enjoyable (n=69), use of the Mentimeter application facilitated the sessions (n=68) and that sessions were stimulating (n=64) (Figure 1).
- Sixty-seven students would like Buzz sessions to be held again in future Pharmacy symposia.

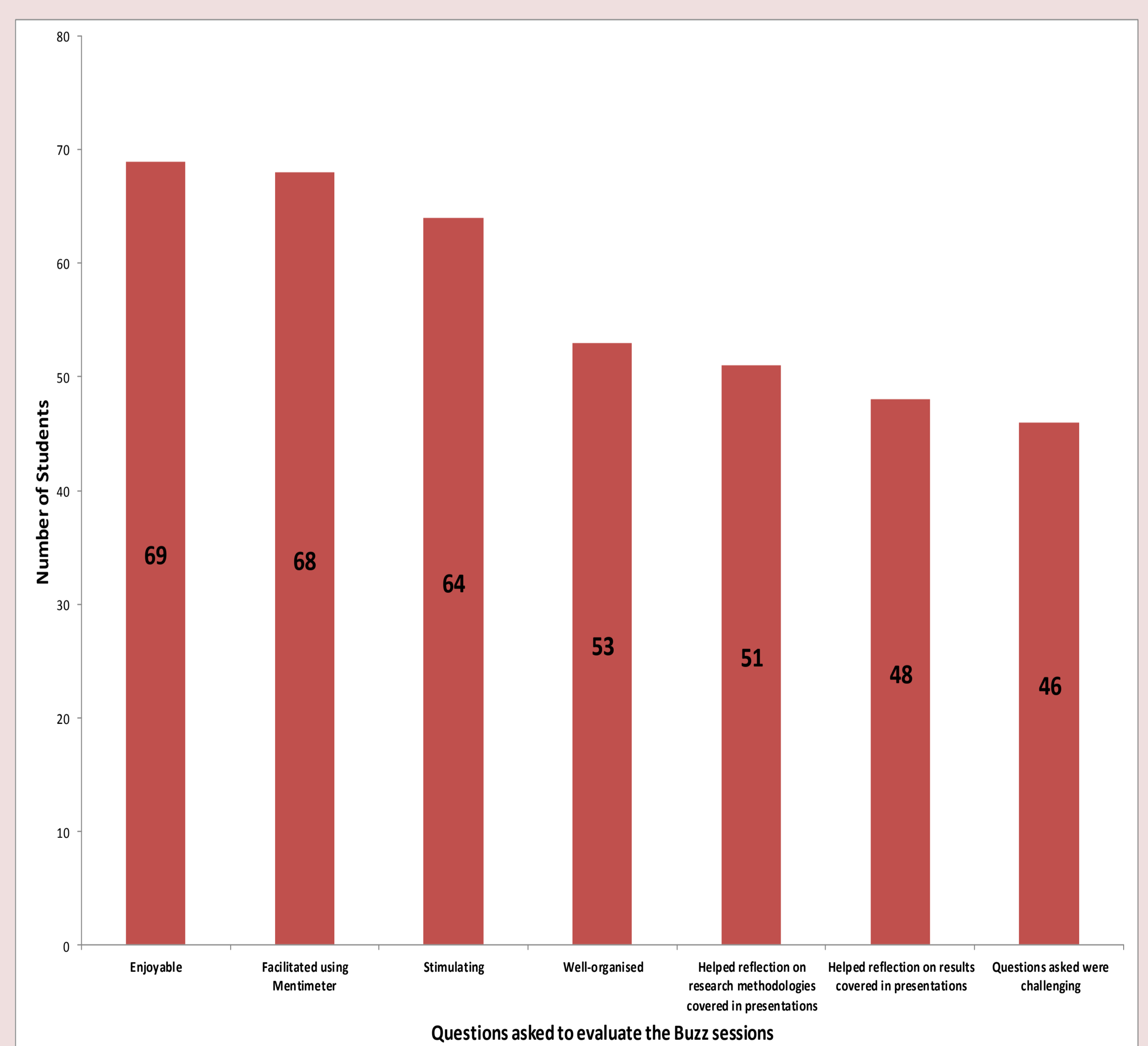


Figure 1: Number of students who agreed or strongly agreed with statements related to the evaluation of Buzz sessions (N=79)

## CONCLUSION

Students evaluated Buzz sessions positively and would like them to be held in future learning activities.