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<i>Date</i>	November 2015

15th International AMD & Retina Congress

Barcelona/Spain, 22-24 October 2015

Dear Sirs

The following report provides feedbacks on the scientific programme, and the organisation of the congress held in Barcelona. Its aim is to provide guidance for improving the scientific programme design of future congresses.

The main findings are:

- **Scientific Programme:** This year, the Scientific Committee started the congress on Thursday with a live surgery session held at the IMO, and followed by a rapid-fire presentations session. 181 **abstracts** were submitted and 150 presented during the congress and published in the supplement of the journal *Ophthalmic Research*.
NEW FORMATS: New style formats such as the ESASO Style Roundtable Discussion (Referendum Table), a bottom-up approach addressed questions by the delegates and stimulated active participation and scientific debates.
- **Delegates:** 665 delegates, mainly Europeans (86%), from 50 countries participated. 65% of the delegates completed the Satisfaction Survey.
- **Industry Innovation Session:** Four major pharmaceutical companies provided insights in their clinical development and presented their pipeline innovations and investigational agents, in particular new molecules in development and on-going clinical trials in ophthalmology.

Consequently, the overall satisfaction factor reflects the high quality of the congress and thus 83% of the respondents want to attend the congress in 2016.

Best regards

Gabriella Skala



Introduction

This report provides feedback from delegates who completed the satisfaction survey. It serves as a tool to gather feedback on the quality of the congress, the scientific programme, the venue and facilities. This satisfaction survey was accessible to all delegates until 22 November 2015.

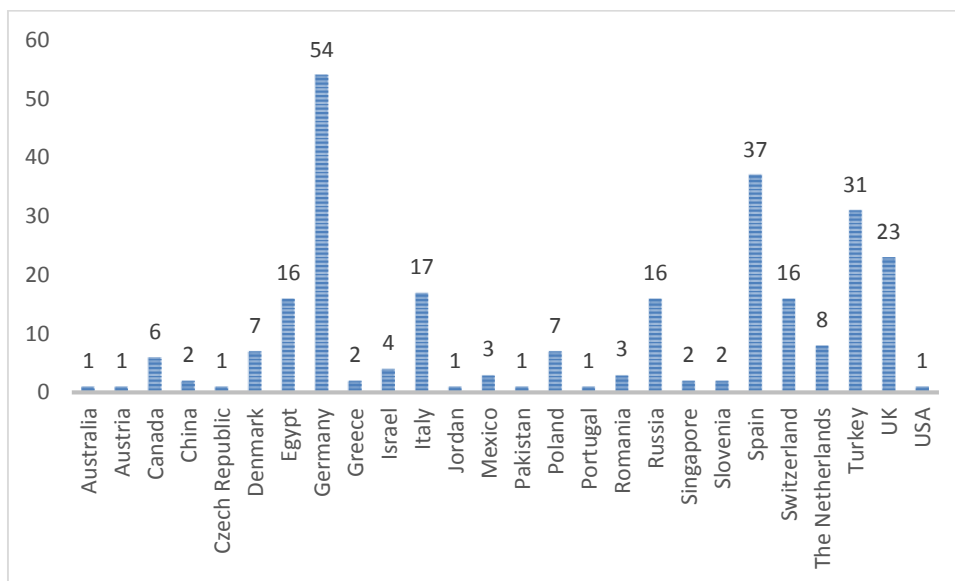
Sections 1-5 of this report detail the results of the questions covered by the survey.

1. Demographics (countries of origin, function, age)
2. Scientific programme 2015
3. Abstract Submission
4. Scientific programme 2016
5. Organisation, congress venue and accommodation
6. Communication
7. Overall satisfaction with the congress
8. Promotion
9. Sponsoring / Grant Givers

All delegates who completed the survey received a CME certificate of attendance.

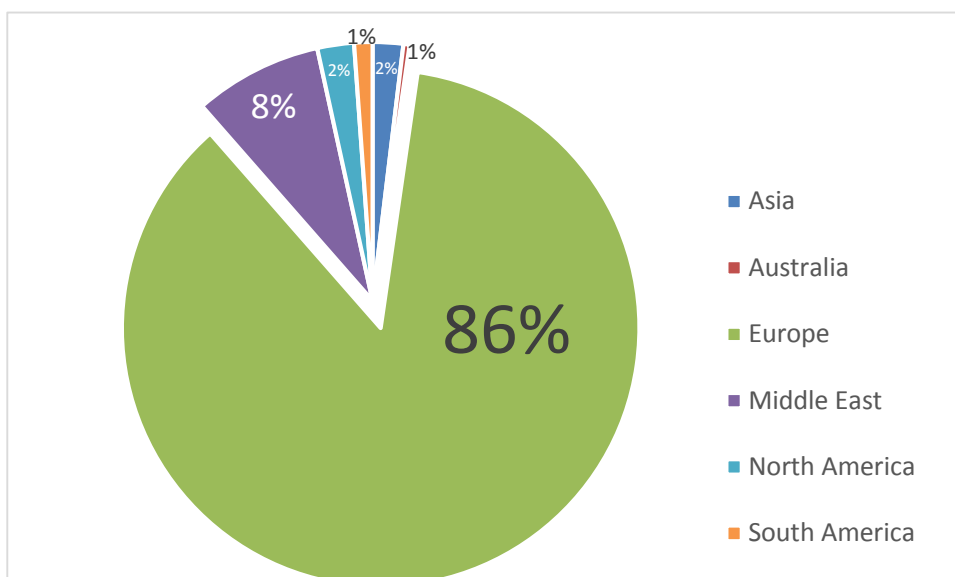
1. Demographics of delegates

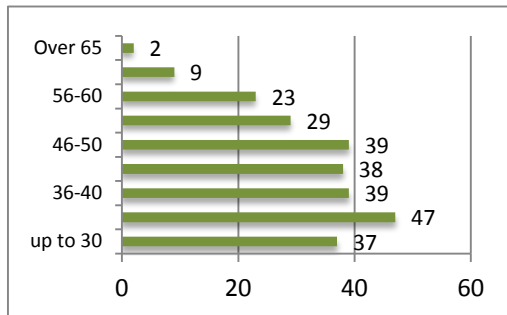
In total **665 delegates from 50 countries** participated in the congress, of which 399 or 65% responded to the CME survey. The following chart shows an overview of the respondents by country.



Delegates and speakers by continent

The congress is truly a European meeting with 86% of the delegates coming from Europe. The completion of the survey remains to be a pre-condition for the receipt of the Certificate of Attendance.



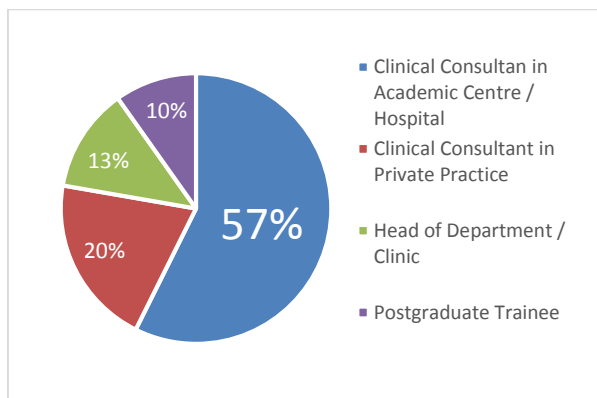


Age scale of respondents

This year, the largest group of respondents were young ophthalmologists between 30-35 years. However, there is a fair value between them and experienced ophthalmologists. This is mainly due to the educational focus and interactive sessions that lead to high quality discussion and professional development.

Current functions of the delegates

The respondents of the satisfaction survey hold currently the following functions.





2. Scientific Programme

The survey gathered feedback on the quality and value of the scientific programme.

The Scientific Committee was chaired by Prof. Francesco Bandello. The members of the Scientific Committee were Prof. Neil M. Bressler (USA) and Prof. José María Ruiz Moreno, President of the Spanish Ophthalmic Society, and José García-Arumí, (both Spain). The Scientific Committee Coordinators were: Dr. Bruno Falcomatà (Italy), and Dr. Maurizio Battaglia-Parodi (Italy). They have engaged 34 distinguished global leaders to guarantee a state-of-the-art scientific programme.

The scientific programme was as an interactive, fast and discussion-based scientific programme that consisted of the following sessions and ceremonies:

Session Formats

- **20** scientific presentations
- **4-6** live surgeries (NEW format)
- **8** Retinamour clinical case presentations
- **9** keypad case presentations
- **2** ESASO-Style Roundtable Discussions (NEW format)
- **2** ESASO-Style Debates
- **5** ESASO MasterClasses
- **8** Rapid-fire presentations
- **2** Lectio Magistralis keynote presentations

Awards

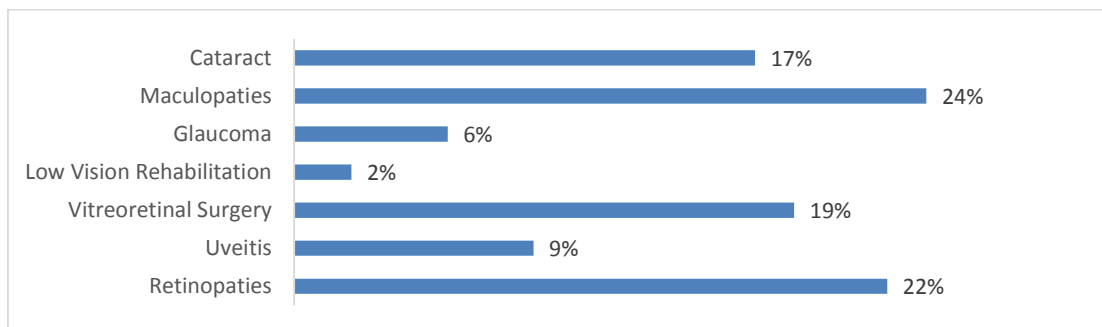
- **6th** ESASO Graduation Ceremony
- **3** ESASO Poster Awards
- **3** Young Ophthalmologist Awards
- **5** XOVA Awards

Industry Sesion

- **1** Industry Innovation Session (NEW format)

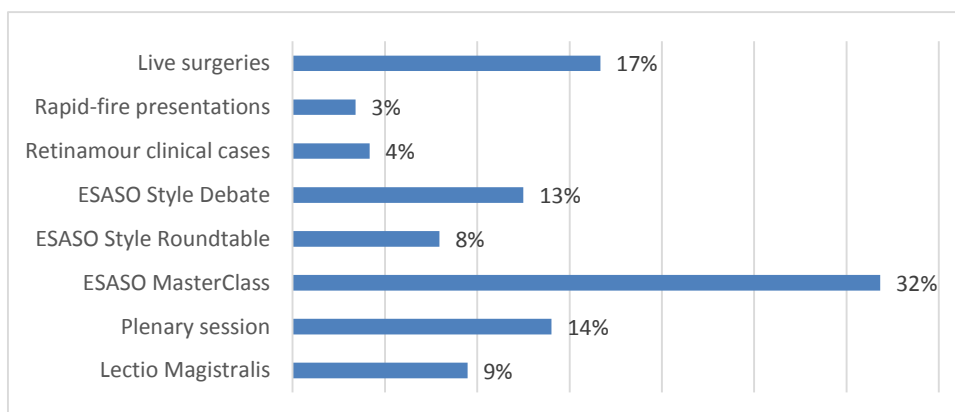
Topics of interest 2015

The following topics of interest were offered to the respondents of the survey: Cataract, Maculopathies, Glaucoma, Low Vision Rehabilitation, Vitreoretinal Surgery, Uveitis, and Retinopathies. Multiple answers were possible.



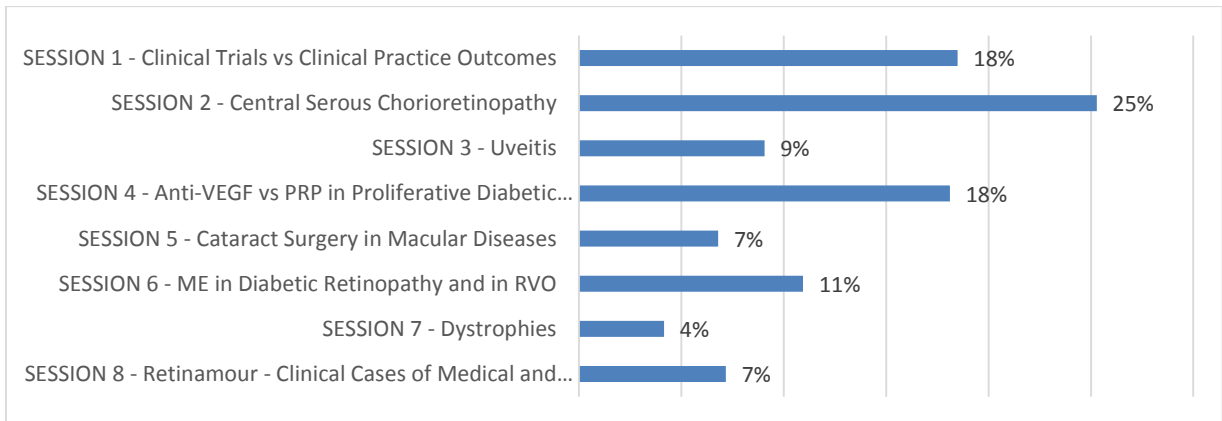
Favourite session formats

The favourite session formats were as usual the ESASO MasterClasses and the newly introduced live surgery sessions.



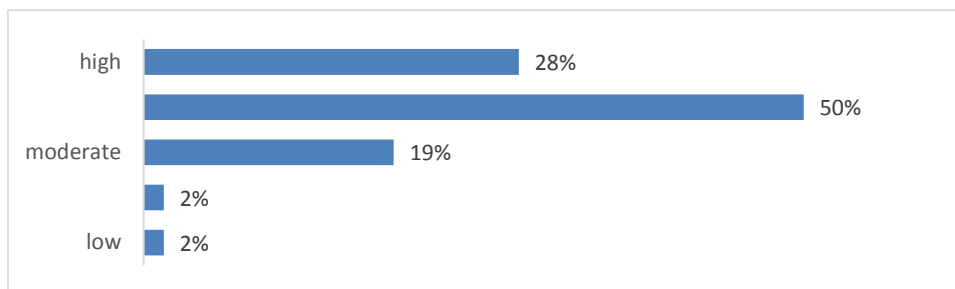
Favourite sessions

The Scientific Programme aimed to actively engage the audience to lead lively discussions and actively involve participants. These interactive format styles can only be executed by very experienced speakers who can present and interact directly and spontaneously on any kind of questions that arise from the audience. The following table shows the respondents' favourite sessions:



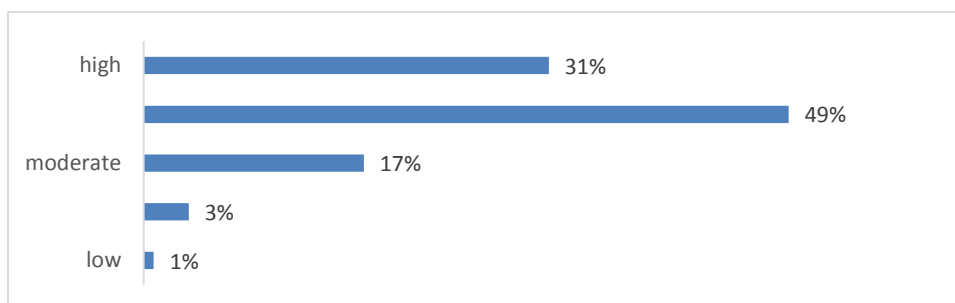
Critical Discussions

78% of the respondents ranked the ability of the presenters to stimulate critical discussions as high.



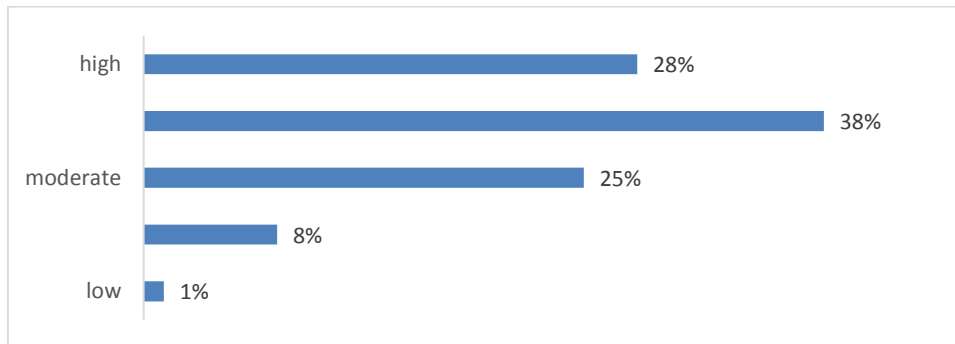
Impression of the overall scientific programme

Among the respondents, 80% praised the organisational and logical quality of the programme as high.



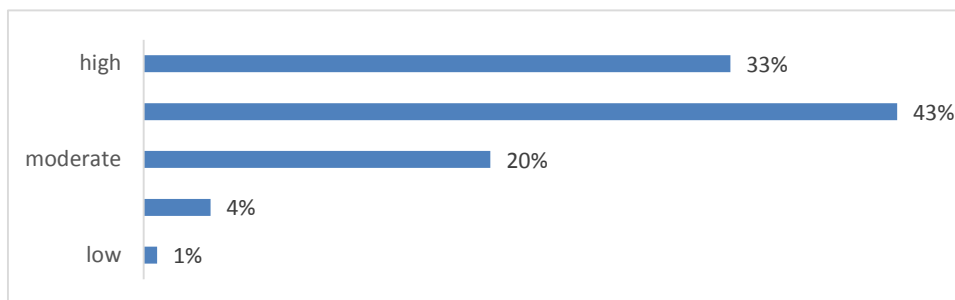
Interaction with the audience

66% of respondents ranked the interaction between the audience and the faculty as high.



Relevance to Clinical Practice

ESASO introduced several new style formats where the audience can interact with the panel directly leading to vivid discussions on stage and within the audience (e.g. challenging the faculty on stage with questions, and/or keypad voting). These interactive formats require a high-level expert/top KOL to moderate and interact on stage with his colleagues. On contrary, delegates gain invaluable insights into the decision making process of leading faculty. 76% regard the scientific programme and the formats to be relevant to their daily clinical practice and/or research.



Audio Visual Equipment

ESASO has used a full white backdrop screen during the presentations providing a direct view of the presenter and the presentation itself. A voting system was used during both days to evaluate the opinion of the audience and also to intensify discussions.

eCongress/taped video content

All congress sessions were taped for learning purposes and the content will be accessible online. The link to access the eCongress will be emailed to the all readers of the eFOCUS (the ESASO newsletter), in total over 20,500 professionals worldwide.

3. Abstract Submissions 2015

ESASO held the Rapid-Fire Presentations again on Thursday. The congress organisation offered the opportunity to delegates to submit their abstracts. The abstract committee, chaired by Maurizio Battaglia-Parodi and Bruno Falcomatà, together with its members José María Ruiz-Moreno, José García-Arumi, and Michaela Goldstein reviewed in total 188 abstracts. 150 abstracts were chosen as posters to be presented.

(Regular) Abstract Submission

All accepted abstracts were presented at the multifunctional area at the congress centre in form of posters.

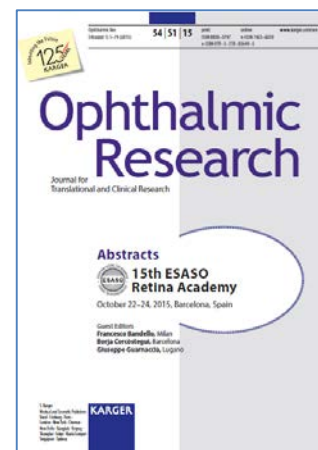
Young Ophthalmologists - Abstracts

In parallel to the abstract submissions, the ESASO Academy has awarded a special award for ophthalmologists and scientists working in the field of ophthalmology in Spain. Young professionals under the age of 40 could submit abstracts and to compete with their colleagues. This annual award was offered to three young Spanish ophthalmologists who will be guests of the scientific committee and will be invited to attend the upcoming congress in Estoril in 2016.

Ophthalmic Research Supplement (abstract book)

In total over 150 accepted abstracts were published in the Ophthalmic Research, the official ESASO journal, on the 15th ESASO Retina Academy congress.

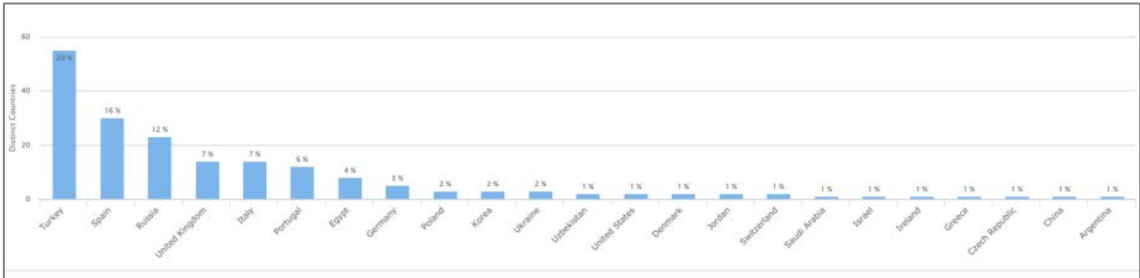
The free online abstract book of the 15th ESASO Retina Congress can be access online at <http://www.karger.com/Article/Abstract/440896>.



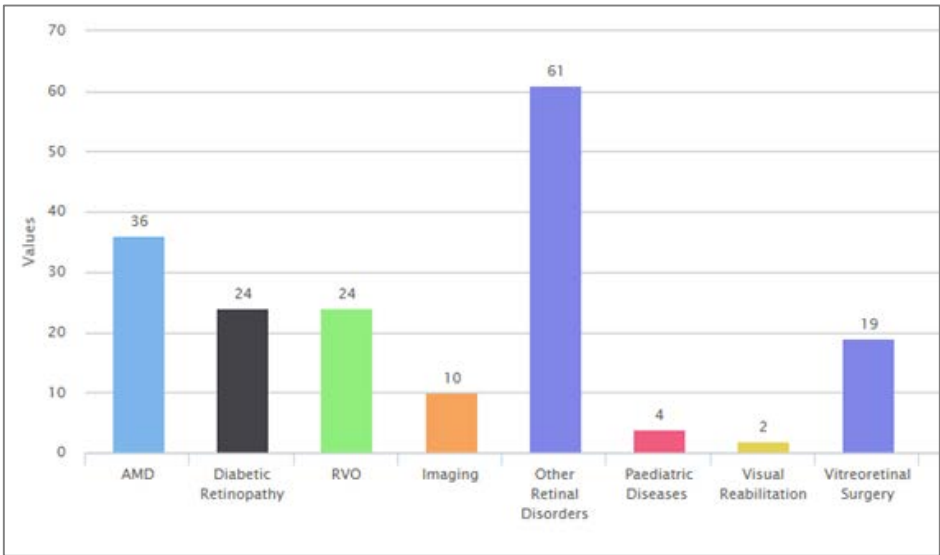


Abstract Submissions by Countries

The huge response from ophthalmological researchers throughout the world underscores the success of the strategy perused by the ESASO Scientific Council to stimulate scientific debate and leading-edge research of the highest calibre. A summary of the submissions is provided in the graphs below:



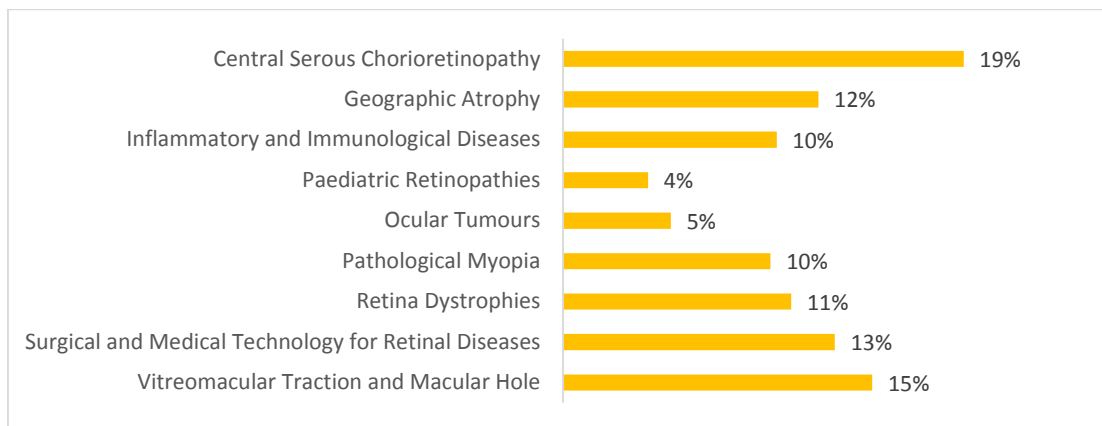
The abstract categories





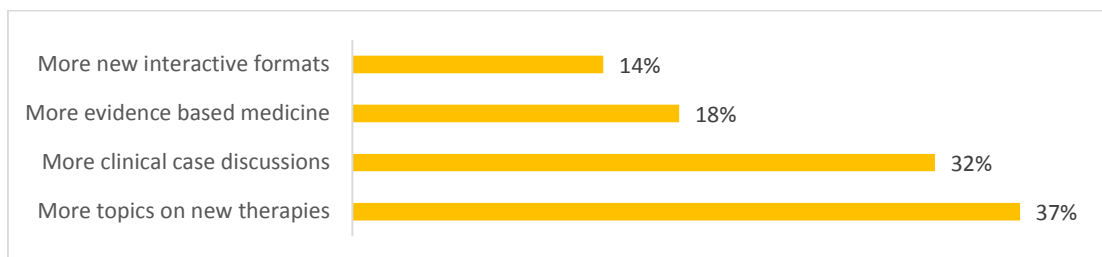
4. Potential topics for the Scientific Programme 2016

The organisers wanted to understand if there were additional topics that the respondents felt deserved interest in the Scientific Programme. The CSC with 19% followed by the Vitreomacular Traction with 15% scored highest. Multiple answers were possible.



Wishes to expand style formats for 2016

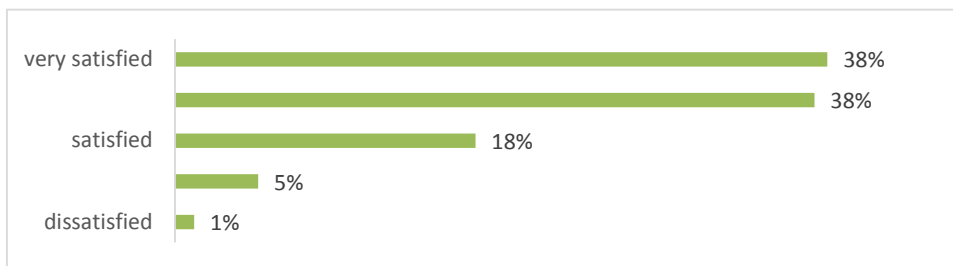
Major expectations on style formats of the upcoming congress are clinical discussions and topics on new therapies.



5. Congress Venue, Organisation and Accommodation

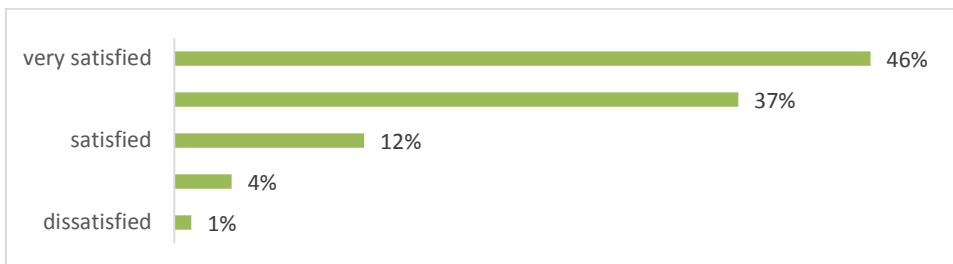
Congress Venue and Surroundings

76% of the delegates liked the congress venue and its surroundings.



Congress Organisation

83% of the respondents were very satisfied with the organisation of the congress.



Accommodation

The delegates were accommodated in six hotels. The transportation to and from the conference centre was handled by busses, smoothly and efficiently. Some of these hotels were located within walking distance to the conference centre.



6. Promotion of the congress

The congress was promoted on various occasions with booth presence during 2015.

- 20-22 Feb 2015 ESCRS Winter Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey
- 6 March 2015 Retina Expo Congress, Rome, Italy
- 26-29 March 2015 COfPhy, Sorrento, Italy
- 11-13 June 2015 Société Française d'Ophtalmologie (SFO), Paris, France
- 20-23 May 2015 13th SOI International Congress, Milan, Italy
- 11-13 June 2015 Intl. Congress of German Ophthalmic Surgeons (DOC),
Leipzig, Germany
- 23-26 May 2015 SOI International Congress, Milan, Italy
- 5-9 Sept 2015 XXXIII ESCRS Congress 2015
- 17-20 Sept 2015 15th Euretina Congress, Nice, France
- 25-28 Nov 2015 95th SOI National Congress, Rome, Italy (for Estoril 2016)

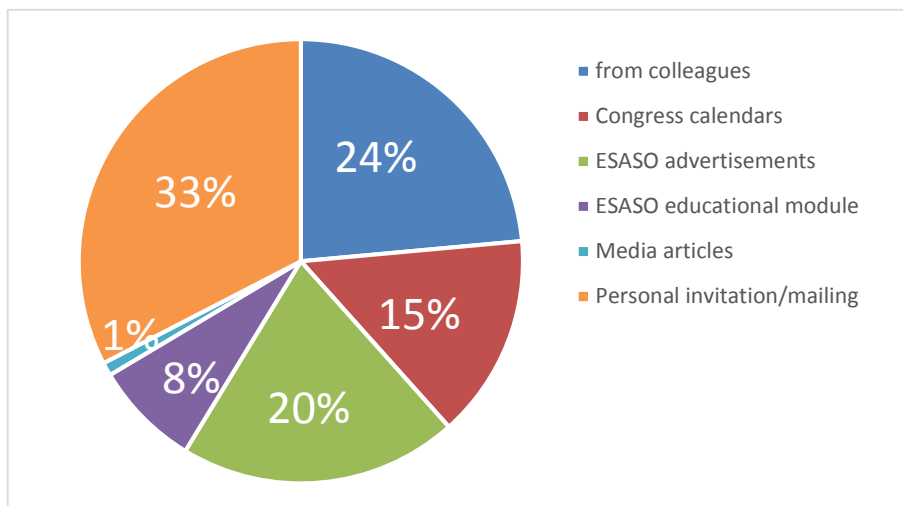
And also with active online and offline communication activities

- eFOCUS, by-monthly newsletter (21,500 readers) by ESASO
- EuroTimes, three articles (29,000 readers), Eye Doctor (ditto, 8,000 readers) and the Ophthalmologica and Ophthalmic Report, each 8,000 readers
- Periodical, personal updated newsletters to various countries
- Delegates' newsletters (pre/post) congress
- Satisfaction Survey on-site

7. Congress communications

ESASO used the following communication channels to promote the congress:

- Personal invitation/ mailing
- By colleagues
- ESASO educational modules
- Media articles/editorials
- ESASO advertisements
- Congress calendars

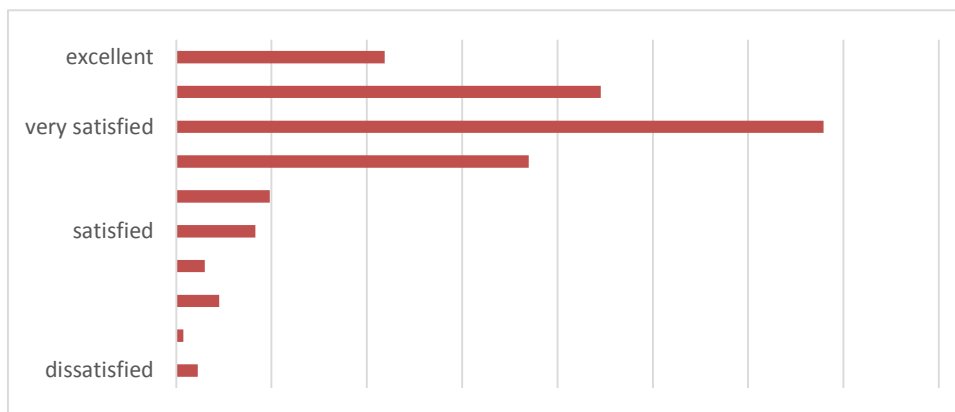


Two thirds of the delegates receive information about the congress through various activities and only 33% were reached by personal mails/invitations. This is satisfying, as this reflects various initiatives that ESASO takes to reach the ophthalmic community.



8. Conclusions / overall satisfaction of the congress

83% of the delegates intend to attend the next congress in June 2016 in Estoril, Portugal. Both the high satisfaction rate and the large increases in the contributions and personal participation metrics demonstrate that the ESASO Scientific Committee's commitment to creating an interactive, cutting-edge scientific learning environment is producing clear and measurable results.



9. Sponsors / Grant Givers

The following sponsors and grant givers supported the congress organisation this year:

The 15th ESASO Retina Academy 2015 gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Sponsors:

