

Conference Feedback Form

21st RSC / SCI Medicinal Chemistry symposium

Monday-Wednesday, 13th-15th September 2021 for virtual participants

Thank you for attending this meeting. We hope you found it both enjoyable and useful.
We would be grateful if you would take a few moments to complete this form.

53 forms received

1. Overall, how satisfied were you with this Conference? (Please mark as appropriate)

Not at all satisfied  Very satisfied
1 2 3 4 5 **4.33**

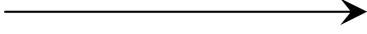
2. How would you rate the range and interest of speakers and presentations?

Not at all relevant  Very relevant
1 2 3 4 5 **4.55**

3. What was the value to you in terms of professional development and business relevance?

Not at all relevant  Very relevant
1 2 3 4 5 **4.30**

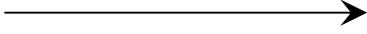
4. How would you rate the secretariat's administration of the meeting?

Poor  Excellent
1 2 3 4 5 **4.74**

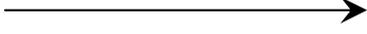
5. How would you rate the virtual conference on all three days?

Poor  Excellent
1 2 3 4 5 **3.81**

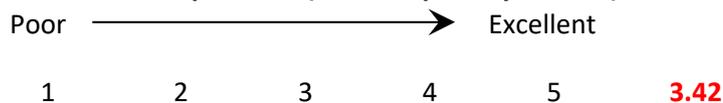
6. How would you rate the Q&A sessions?

Poor  Excellent
1 2 3 4 5 **3.87**

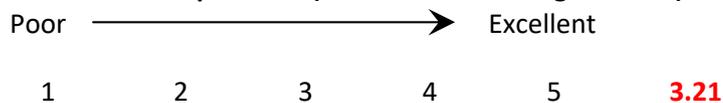
7. How would you rate the Posters and Exhibition networking sessions?

Poor  Excellent
1 2 3 4 5 **3.24**

9. How would you rate the Vimeo virtual platform (used for plenary session)?



10. How would you rate the Zoom virtual platform (used for networking sessions)?



11. How likely is it that you would wish to attend at a similar event model in the future?



12. Which specific topics would you like to see covered at future events?

- Advances in New Modalities – role of the chemist. RNA as a small molecule target.
- Allosteric modulation. Biophysical techniques. Advances in crystallography. Beyond rule of five, PROTACs etc
- Antibacterial med chem. More on covid and related anti-virals. New chemical modalities and MOA.
- Application of new synthetic methodologies/technologies in a Med Chem setting. Advanced beyond Ro5 case study (e.g. PROTACs/LYTACs/Molecular glues). Novel target to CS strategy (e.g. building PK/PD relationship).
- COVID - what happened? Properties-driven medchem stories
- First disclosures. Med Chem case studies. Novel drug discovery paradigms. DEL technology
- How new technologies and platforms impact to the MedChem programs
- I thought the balance of talks was very good, so a similar mix for future events would also be good.
- Maybe including a couple innovative modalities (LyTAC or other xxxTAC, lymphatic driven absorption, etc.) or technologies would be good to challenge attendees to think outside the box and their confident zone.
- More AI. Case studies / first reveals
- More infectious diseases.
- More neuroscience
- More on new modalities of small molecules, eg glues or degraders. Unusual classes of proteins being targeted, eg inflammasome?
- New therapeutic areas/less common ones/rare disease. Wider range of organisations as speakers if possible.
- PROTAC projects. AI successful case studies.
- Small molecule immune oncology would be interesting
- The broadness in covering many diseases/areas is the great thing – to hear about other things than what you work with yourself!
- GPCRs

13. Other comments

- Access to the posters before the breakout rooms would be good for the poster sessions because it was very hard to see the content on Zoom without the presenter walking you through it.

- As a virtual delegate the thing I found frustrating was when speaker was out of synchronisation with the slides. On occasion they pointer was also out of sync with the slides. It was always the case that the slides were ahead of the speaker. Many thanks to the whole team for trying a blended conference.
- Didn't have much luck joining the interactive poster sessions, but might have due to IT issues at my end.
- Fantastic effort to run a hybrid meeting. Some struggles with the technology around posters and networking, and not sure how effective those sessions were as part of a hybrid meeting of this size.
- Fantastic to have had an on-site component - wonderful. Need to get the tech as slick as it was for day 3 for future events - any learnings? Q&A was too short in some cases, and some glitches. Poster networking good, but not as effective as in-person. Delegate networking: ran one, was excellent
- For physical participants – really enjoyed being able to sit in a lecture theatre again, and to network with people face to face. However, as the majority of people and the poster sessions were online, I didn't really get to look at the posters (might have been nice if they were also up in a physical location, even if the presenters weren't there). I found it a little odd that some people who were there in person still chose to pre-record their presentations, would have been nice to encourage people to present in person where possible. Overall, I really enjoyed being back at an in-person conference, and would choose to attend in person rather than virtually at any similar event, although the couple of points above would make it feel more worthwhile for the extra money.
- Great efforts!
- I enjoyed participating in the conference, and I heard some really great talks. The quality of organization was also good, pre-event communication was clear. Also thank you for the opportunity to present some of our results. There were two drawbacks in participating online instead of in person. a) Even if I reserved these days in my calendar, I was in the office and emails, colleagues found me with work, and sometimes I had to share my attention between the talks and the tasks received. In person this wouldn't have happened. Of course this is not the fault of the conference. b) The quality of the online presentations was low. It stopped several times, and the audio and the video were often shifted. At Q&A several times I didn't understand the question due to the low (quality of) volume. September is generally a very busy period at the company, scheduling the event during summer would be better.
- I found the streaming to be a little flaky. Initially the presenter audio or Q&A audio was a bit hit & miss but this was resolved after the 1st day. However I found the live stream on either the main site or the Vimeo would hang in many of the talks, requiring a refresh of the browser and loss of 10-20 sec of feed. Great that the event was F2F again. I would be more inclined to attend in person in future, as I missed the F2F networking opportunities.
- I have seen other interfaces for virtual conference which were more user-friendly. Could access poster without having to speak to the owner, meaning you could make your opinion if you wanted more information on this particular subject before networking. The talks were of great quality! The Monday session had more glitches that seemed to get fixed by Tuesday so overall the virtual sessions worked well.
- I liked the contents of the symposium very much. I very much liked that we could attend the symposium online. For this reason there was no need for long travels/flights. The online platform was sub-optimal. Sound and video were not properly synchronized (i.e. the video image of somebody speaking did not correspond to the sound we were hearing).
- I thought the hybrid model worked really well, especially having the talks pre-recorded. I hope to attend in person next time!

- I thought the technology for the hybrid model worked really well. The Vimeo page cut out reasonably often but I just needed to refresh to get it straight back. Thanks for a great conference!
- I was a virtual participant. Sounds and slides were out of sync during all the talks, which meant you would miss things. The Q&A would then be out of sync with which was a bit frustrating. Had to frequently re-join the session and then the slides would be blurred at times. The level of talks was excellent and great to see more female speakers. Found it useful having links to the posters so I could read them at leisure and the handbook was great as usual. I didn't join the networking as found it hard to fit in actually having a lunch break and then being back online, as well as joining a virtual session within the break. Obviously in person you network while eating, reading posters etc. I know it's a huge effort to organise a virtual/in person conference which I think was successful and I think it opened it up for speakers from abroad who could record talks and then join virtually.
- I was deeply frustrated by this event – I'd been really looking forward to it, I'd never been before and considered it a great compliment to be offered a speaking slot. I have attended virtual meetings that I've hugely enjoyed (RDKit UGM last year) that was a similar size, and was pure online, had a great buzz, I met new people, good presentations and conversations, slick technology. The technology completely ruined the meeting for me, the online access buffered so much many of the talks became unwatchable. I'm assuming that the same happened for everyone outside the conference hall, so basically my opportunity to present was ruined. I think a strategic error was made in offering it as a blended meeting. I'm chair of governors at a high school, and am very aware that of all the options, blended is the hardest by a considerable extent. If the online only option had been taken, the budget for the physical location could have been put into making the online option acceptable it would also have forced the effort to have been put into making the online networking work – and it can. It's harsh feedback, but this morning my feeling is, I've wasted time and money and missed an opportunity. My instinctive reaction is "I want my money back" and that feels really bad because this is a globally recognised outstanding conference run by people I have a huge amount of time for and like and I don't like giving hard feedback. I'll aim to go back and watch key presentations again – but the reality is I'm so busy that the time I had carved out won't be available again, so I won't in all likelihood get to see those presentations. Again, assuming I'm average in that, most people who signed up won't get to see my presentation either. Once it's available online I'll post the link as widely as I can – but that's just trying to make the best of it. Next time either in person or online. Be very cautious about trying blended again, and get in touch with the RDKit team because they run a very good meeting.
- I was trying to access poster and exhibition via zoom on 2nd day and bit disappointed, as I could not able to get into session – almost waited 25min. I have thoroughly enjoyed the conference and will attend in future and highly recommend to colleague to attend in future.
- Inspiring!
- It is hard to present a poster in a Zoom room - maybe should have three slides instead for size/viewing. I only had two visits in the three sessions. The Tuesday technical problem caused a lot of confusion. • Compliments for organising committee!
- It was a pleasure to have you [Andrew W] as chairman of the session where I presented. I was very happy to participate in the congress. It was a success and the organization was excellent. Thanks to you and the whole organizers, the colleagues for discussions and presentations and also the IT people for their full support. I really enjoyed the discussions and the nice atmosphere.
- It was bold of you to attempt a hybrid conference which I applaud you for. Participating in person was delightful, but did make it very difficult to use the online networking facilities although I appreciate they were provided. IT glitches were frustrating, but seemed to have

been sorted by the final day. Thank you to all who were involved in the planning, admin and execution of the conference.

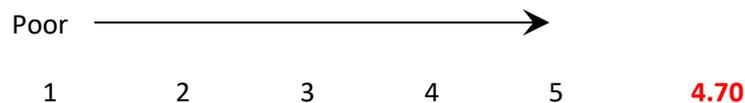
- It would have been good to have all the posters printed and displayed at Churchill for the physical participants to view - even without the presenters present. I did not attend any poster sessions as I was too busy chatting in the real world!
- Maggi did a sterling job of organising as always. Sad to hear it will be her last. I believe it is the best med chem conf available. Quality of talks second to none. Many thanks!
- Mix talks in person/virtual fine - in person better. Lack of in-person posters poor - didn't attend any. Lack of exhibitors in person poor.
- Nice to network in person
- Not enough physical participants in my humble opinion, although I understand why! I did not find the access to posters online easy as every time I went back to the list it requested the password again! Pre-recorded remote presentations worked well but must have been a big overhead to prepare. Suspect the cost of the infrastructure was high which pushed up cost of conference. Most online conferences I have been to have all talks available. People accept the fact that if it's online then you can screen-shot so may as well make slides available. I guess those remote could do that but not possible for physical attendees. I had to remember how to write and draw structures!! As a physical participant, I missed the exhibition booths and physical posters.
- Not sure the mix of virtual and physical worked well. Would like to ensure speakers are physically present and to have as many posters and presenters physically present as possible.
- One thing you liked: difficult to state just one but scientific content/ quality of speakers. One thing that grated: networking/posters – didn't seem to manage to get into the break-outs for some reason (most likely user related!). One thing that could be improved: volume rather quiet on some of the questions asked by the in-life audience. Any suggestions for next time? Keep up the high calibre of talks and it will be oversubscribed every time. Also liked the talk David Rees gave. At least one like that next year: reflections from a seasoned scientist- key highlights/ where they see drug discovery going in the future etc.
- Overall enjoyed the conference – really comprehensive with a nice breadth of topics. Unfortunately the Vimeo platform did not work particularly well for me at home or from work – Zoom networking seemed to be more stable. Was good to try the hybrid event but was still difficult to get the 'vibe' of an in-person conference. A lot of biology so maybe a bit more Med Chem would have been nice.
- Overall, an excellent meeting run under difficult circumstances. The topics and presentations were of great interest and the science cutting edge. I could spend a long time writing about the things that were very good, but will focus on where improvements can be made if there are future hybrid meetings. Firstly, the video coming out of the auditorium was flaky (in spite of what one of the chairs said). On multiple occasions each day, the feed on the main-stream would stop but jumping across onto Vimeo it was fine or vica-versa. I'd say I needed to do this about 6 times a day on average. Secondly, the audio and video were pretty much constantly out of sync. Whilst this may seem a minor point many, like me, find it distracting. Finally, I found it disappointing that many of the lectures were pre-recorded, with a couple of the speakers mentioning they had done it August, This is particularly a shame when the speaker is actually in the auditorium and wanders up to the podium to take questions. For one speaker, it was absolutely clear she was reading from a script in front of her which took away the natural aspect.
- Poster networking for physical participants was not great as online only. For the future, for virtual and in-person events, might be nice to have posters displayed, even if the presenters will not be present. Otherwise physical participants will probably prefer the networking with people instead of switching on their PC and checking the posters online.

- Really enjoyed the conference, the topics were my favourite out of all conferences I attended. I never had to ask "why?". Someone was doing something which is not the case at all conferences. Would have liked to hear from speakers from academia. Technical difficulties aside, meeting was well-organised. Technical difficulties were annoying, but my only criticism. Didn't like not having a physical poster: had to leave physical networking to present virtual poster. Event model wouldn't put me off attending, but not as good as a 100% physical conference.
- Short sponsors videos could be placed between talks when the audience is present (not during breaks when everyone is leaving anyway).
- Some issues with sounds, etc in auditorium but by last day all smooth and ran well (assume future events would be smoother from start). In-person catering costs a little expensive but food good.
- Thank you to the organisers and Maggi for a stellar job!
- Thanks again for such a lovely conference experience on Tuesday! The BMCS have shown real leadership in getting the scientific community back face-to-face. Please pass on my appreciation to the organising committee.
- Thanks for making this event possible. Very well organized.
- The live stream dropped out lots of times, I had to keep logging out and logging back in again. Quite often the sound was ~20-30s ahead of the visual stream. Whilst in the zoom room I couldn't hear anything. I felt the networking sessions were poorly attended.
- The organising committee did a fantastic job considering it was a hybrid event. The virtual platform seemed very poor compared to other med chem events I recently attended. It was very difficult to be both present in person and on the poster chat virtually at the same time.
- The technical quality of the virtual activities was mediocre, particularly on the first day. The preparation of the meeting was professional, and the scientific content was of very high quality.
- The video quality of the Vimeo stream was good, but the connection would drop too frequently – on average once per lecture. This meant that part of the talk would be missed while refreshing the browser and reconnecting. I don't usually have this issue when connecting. It is possible I was unlucky, but the feedback from the other attendees should let you know how common the connection issues were. The issues with the Zoom room on the first day, where the speakers could not be heard answering the questions, were unfortunate. After that, the question sessions worked quite well with questions from online being asked by the chair and in person by those in Cambridge. Assuming that the pandemic doesn't get worse again I would prefer to attend future conferences in person. The chance for talking to people face to face is a big advantage and with people on site they don't all disappear once the sessions have finished. I think having the virtual attendance is a good option for attendees from other countries who can't/don't want to travel, but only if the connection is more reliable.
- Unfortunately I don't think the poster session worked for the actual conference attendees on site. Understandably people wanted to discuss things over a coffee and not log online to look at the posters. Morning coffee before the start of the days' talks would have been good and would have allowed for more networking before the days presentations.
- Unsure why physical attendee speaker talks were presented as pre-recorded video: would have been great to have had them talk in person. Was great to have first F2F conference for nearly two years - thanks for all the hard work! Thanks for organising such a fantastic meeting - it was great to finally see colleagues and friends again in familiar surroundings!
- Vimeo hung a few times - not sure if it was a bandwidth question. Not sure how much the online and in-person attendees interacted. Small attendance numbers felt very intimate - good atmosphere.

- When cutting from the recorder presentations back to the auditorium the volume levels hanged quite drastically. I liked that you had asked presenters to pre-record their presentations: I think it helped with time keeping as there was maybe only 1 presentation that was longer than scheduled.
- Would have preferred to know how many presenters were able to join on-site as there were less than I expected. Well done to the team for having the confidence to get people back together after a difficult 18 months.
- Keep as broad a range of speakers as possible – not all big Pharma. Feed wasn't bad but it did drop out quite often and I don't think that was always my internet as colleagues connecting from different places had issues. Networking sessions worked quite well – good to allow plenty of time for these to allow interaction; would have been nice to view posters/abstracts prior to speaking so as not to enter 1 to 1 with the person and then need to leave. Overall quality great though and organisation excellent through Maggie.
- It would be ideal to record the sessions and allow viewing of the event to accommodate the different time zones. Most virtual conferences have given this flexibility over the past year.

Additional Feedback for Physical Participants only

14. How would you rate the conference venue?



15. What is your opinion of the catering?

